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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FARR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM FARR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

TIME TO CHARGE ASSANGE NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) for 2 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, since WikiLeaks has begun releasing American top secret information that it obtained illegally, there has been a debate about how our Nation should respond to this. I believe that the actions of WikiLeaks provide material support to our terrorist enemies, so it should be treated as a terrorist organization. Others have argued that WikiLeaks is simply a media organization and, therefore, it is protected under the First Amendment.

Well, consider for a moment the most recent statements by Julian Assange,

the founder of WikiLeaks, which I believe show exactly what he is—a terrorist. Assange has spread across the world an encrypted document which he claims has even more vital national secrets that he is going to release. Assange calls this file his “insurance” file, and he has threatened to release this information if he is captured or if he is charged with any violation of law. Those, Mr. Speaker, are not the actions of a journalist. Those are the actions of a terrorist.

Even President Clinton recently said that lives will be lost because of the release of this information. But still, Mr. Speaker, we still have not heard anything on this issue from our current Commander in Chief, President Obama. The silence from President Obama, our Commander in Chief, is absolutely baffling.

HONORING LOUISVILLE'S MAYOR JERRY ABRAMSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, there was a time, and it wasn't too long ago, that the gorgeous waterfront park in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, was a junkyard. It was a time, just 25 years ago, that if you found yourself in our now thriving downtown after dark, you were most likely either working late or lost. This was a time, believe it or not, that Louisville Slugger was in Indiana.

You can't make this stuff up.

No, these days, it's hard to picture Louisville before 1985, hard to believe how much has changed in the last quarter century, hard to imagine Louisville without Mayor Jerry Abramson. Yet on January 3, 2011, that's exactly what we'll be when we say goodbye, with gratitude, to the man for whom the title “Mayor for Life” proved just a little too optimistic.

Don't get me wrong, with our diverse and storied neighborhoods, along with our hardworking community-oriented families, the Derby City—hometown of the Louisville Lip, Muhammad Ali—has long been a source of pride. Still, few could have dreamed that it could be the world-class 21st century city it has become.

Mayor Jerry dared not only to dream, he led the charge that made that dream reality. In five terms as mayor, Jerry was a driving force in expanding and modernizing our airport and transforming Louisville into an international shipping hub by luring UPS and 23,000 jobs to our community. His team's investments in our community have encouraged some of our Nation's largest companies—Ford, GE, Humana—to invest as well, creating thousands more quality jobs for our residents. But during his tenure, Louisville has also become a city of entrepreneurship, the Possibility City, a vibrant, attractive place for startups to grow into thriving businesses.

The once antagonistic relationship between the River City and the rest of Kentucky now is limited to sporting events, under his stewardship. In all other facets, a partnership has grown, from Pikeville to Paducah, in which Jerry's Louisville works with Frankfort and 119 other counties for the betterment of the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

But what will truly be the legacy of Mayor Jerry? How about a revitalized downtown, which has been transformed into a vibrant and modern destination while remarkably retaining its historic character and preserving its architectural treasures; or in our park system, which has grown and flourished like never before, earning us the distinction, city of parks. It could be his commitment to Louisville's low-income families. After all, in the last 15 years, his administration has revolutionized the Federal HOPE VI program with

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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