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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 31, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM GRIFFIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, 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 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

ALFALIT: EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS THROUGH LITERACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an amazing organization headquartered in my south Florida district, Alfalit International.

Alfalit is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides education for the world's poorest people. Alfalit offers many programs—basic education, preschool, nutrition, microcredit, and community development—but its core

mission is to eliminate the human suffering caused by illiteracy. Alfalit is active in 24 countries, in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and in Portugal. As you would see from these posters here, Mr. Speaker, these are the volunteers and the many participants in Alfalit literacy programs throughout the world.

Since its founding in 1961, 7 million individuals have had their lives transformed by Alfalit because it also provides comprehensive health programs that focus on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and cholera prevention. This year marks its 50th year of service to the world's most vulnerable population, 50 years of empowering individuals through literacy. It is an impressive achievement, and yet Alfalit knows that there is still much more to be done.

Worldwide, 774 million adults lack the ability to read and write. Think of that staggering number—774 million adults. That is one in five adults throughout the world who are illiterate, with two-thirds of them being women. In addition, 75 million children have never had the opportunity to go to school, and many attend infrequently or they decide to drop out.

As a former Florida certified teacher, I know the importance of a quality education. It is one of the best ways to ensure that a child will have a stable and productive future. Literacy helps bring communities together, and it helps prevent violence and poverty. Last year, Alfalit had over 120,000 students enrolled in its programs, students like the ones that we see here in these posters.

Alfalit is always striving to reach more people, and that is why it has started an adult and youth education program in Liberia. They have opened facilities in 10 of Liberia's 15 counties, quite an impressive achievement. Liberia's President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has become involved with Alfalit's pro-

gram. Program participants in Liberia say that Alfalit has taken them from darkness to light. They say that before, they could not read a simple street sign or know what a danger sign meant. But now they truly see everything.

The Women in Peace Building of Liberia have been active participants in the program that Alfalit offers them. It is a group of Christian women activists that formed during the Liberian civil war. They come together to pray and discuss issues of concern for their fellow Liberians. Alfalit has provided them with the know-how and with the confidence to continue their work.

After 50 years of service and dedication, Alfalit has built a legacy that is truly impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Alfalit for all that it has done to fight illiteracy and ignorance throughout our world. Let's hear it for Alfalit and 50 years more of service.

THE MCGOVERN-JONES AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, like most of my colleagues, I had the opportunity to speak to a number of veteran groups on Memorial Day in my district. As always, I was very humbled when I stand before those who have fought for this Nation and the families whose loved ones did not come back from wars.

I would like the House to know that when I talked about the McGovern-Jones amendment to get our troops out of Afghanistan, the statement received very strong applause, showing the very strong support of the veterans of the Third District for getting our troops home from Afghanistan. After my comments, I had many of these veterans come up individually who wanted to

□ 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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