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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE 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 3, 2013, 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 11:50 a.m.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a short time after the Supreme Court ruled that the Defense of Marriage Act violated the Constitution of the United States, an immigration judge in New York stopped the deportation of a man who was legally married to an American citizen.

According to press reports, the bonds of marriage that tied Sean, an American citizen, to Steven, a native of Colombia, were invisible in the eyes of

the law before 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time yesterday; but after the Supreme Court announcement, the bonds of marriage that drew these two individuals together in love and in the sight of God all of a sudden became visible to the United States Government. They materialized before our eyes, allowing a spouse of a U.S. citizen to live peacefully in the United States with his spouse as our immigration laws intended. What a difference a day makes.

Well, actually, this step towards justice took a great deal longer than a day. I'm proud that the Supreme Court finally caught up to Sean and Steven. I'm glad that the law of the land finally caught up to the American people, who generally feel that marriage equality, like other forms of equality, is a good thing. I'm glad the Supreme Court caught up to the 21st century, and I'm glad the Supreme Court caught up to me. In fact, what does a 21st century Congressman do on such occasions? I tweeted. And what did I tweet? "I told you so."

It was right here on this spot, on July 11, 1996, that the House of Representatives passed DOMA. I came to this well and walked up to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, Barney Frank, who controlled the time on the Democratic side, and I asked him if I could speak on the bill. I had a great deal of respect for the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I have a great deal of respect for him today, now that he's happily retired and happily married. But on that particular day, he said to me, Luis, I have no time for people who are against the bill. Shoo. Go away.

Who knows, maybe it was a mild case of profiling. He saw a Latino Catholic from the Midwest and said he can't be a friend. I assured the gentleman that as a Chicago alderman, as a Congressman—you know something, just as a man—I was against discrimination,

and unfairness wherever and whenever I saw it and that I had fought in Chicago to pass a groundbreaking ordinance on LGBT equality in the 1980s. The gentleman from Massachusetts smiled, welcomed me to the team, and yielded me 3½ minutes.

I went back to check the RECORD to see what I had said on that night, and you know what? The 2013 me agrees wholeheartedly with the 1996 me. I pointed out that the supporters of DOMA were wrapping themselves up in family values when, in fact, they were preventing families from being recognized as families.

I don't know many Americans—regardless of their political party, race, religion, or sexual orientation—who don't believe that family values are vitally important. But I also don't know many Americans who want a couple of hundred politicians in Washington to impose their values on everyone else's families.

Let me tell you about some very basic values I think we're talking about when we stand up against this bill: the values of people who love each other; people who share each other's lives; people who care about their future and the future of those around them; people who want to make a commitment that is legal and official and is important to them. To me, that sounds like family values.

I am proud to have spoken up; I am proud to have voted against that bill; and I am proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with Barney Frank and other heroes who said "no" and today say "I told you so."

Now we need to take another vital step right away. The immigration judge that stopped Steven's deportation because of his legal marriage to an American citizen was absolutely right, but we need to make sure our immigration law reflects the post-DOMA reality across the board. If the Obama administration needs to write regulations to make sure our immigration laws match the Constitution of our Nation, then they better get to work. We can't afford delay.

□ 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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Same-sex couples form families. Our immigration laws are supposed to honor families. So, Mr. President, please make it clear, from your office on down that family unity means all families. We've waited long enough.

The Highest Court in the land helped us take another step against discrimination. Now we must make sure that the administration of the law catches up with the letter and the spirit of the law. All families, like Steven and Sean, must be recognized as families for the purposes of our immigration law.

What a difference a day makes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING MAX FLEISCHMANN, JR., A GREAT AMERICAN FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my father, Max Fleischmann, Jr.

My dad passed away last Saturday. We buried him Monday in the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and I wanted to talk to America today about a very special man.

My dad was born in Astoria, New York, on December 29, 1925. He grew up during the Great Depression. His stories were legend. He talked to me about dime movies and penny candy, about radio, about what it was like to grow up in the Great Depression when his father had to take in other families to live with them. This generation was coined, later, as the Greatest Generation, and now I know why.

He would have folks come and visit the house. A fellow by the name of Moe Howard and his wife, Helen, would come by and sing and play the piano. Moe Howard was playing with a little-known group then called The Three Stooges. He would have a lady by the name of Gladys Weiss come and visit their home. Her late brother was a magician, an escape artist who had been deceased, called Harry Houdini. These stories were tremendous. He talked to me about his first Coca-Cola at the 1939 World's Fair and what it was like to drink that.

He was an incredible man. He had one good eye. He stood 5 feet, 2½ inches. He took 7 years to graduate from high school because he quit high school to join World War II.

When he showed up to serve in the United States Army, they said, Young man, you can go home. You're what we call 4-F. You've got one good eye. You've got poor skin. You're short. You can go home. He said, No, I want to serve; I want to serve.

And serve he did. They let him serve. And he went to the China-Burma-India theater. He didn't even know a war was going on in that part of the world because his brother was serving in the

South Pacific and he had cousins serving in Europe. But he was 18 years old, and he went on a ship and on a plane and on a train and ended up in Burma. Over 2½ years later, he returned home and he went and finished high school.

My dad was a hardworking man, a company man. He always showed up and gave 100 percent wherever he worked. But he had a lot of hard work and he had a lot of hard luck. Sometimes these companies would go out of business that he worked at.

He did not have a formal education. An education was something that stood out to him.

□ 1010

And the reason I say that is in honoring him today I wanted to talk about the importance of education. I was the first person to get to go to college in my family. He married my mother in 1961. I was born in 1962. But tragically, when I was 9 years old, an only child, my mother got cancer and passed away a few years later. She lost that tragic battle. There were times he had no health insurance, there were times he didn't have a job. He would go all over the country—New York, Philadelphia, Chicago.

But one thing he insisted on. He said: "My son is going to get an education." That was so important. And I did. He put 20 bucks away a week so that I could have an education. I got to go to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

But we didn't know that was not going to be the end of the story. Because when I finished up at Illinois he said: "What are you going to do?" He said: "You're bright, you have an education, but what are you going to do?" So he said: "Go to law school." He helped me through law school and paid for law school too. He got to see me get a college education and get a law degree.

He had a lot of hard luck, but he always worked hard and he made a great decision. He retired to Chattanooga, Tennessee. When he retired to Chattanooga, my wife and I started a law firm. In that law firm, we succeeded as a small business. He saw me scrimp and save and work hard 6 and 7 days a week. He always said: "Work hard, make sure your kids get a good education." He did that.

He was a big part in the life of my three sons, Chuckie, Jamie, and Jeffrey. They're 24, 22, and 16 now. They honored him this week with me at the National Cemetery. What a man. He loved this country, he served this country, he never forgot the Greatest Generation who gave so much for this country, and he was a good guy. He was honest to the core.

He got to live to see me elected to this great House. Sometimes we get ratings 6 percent, 10 percent, 11 percent. He loved to watch this House. He really liked it when I got to sit in the Chair. He would call all the relatives: "My son is presiding over the House

today." But ladies and gentlemen, we have a great country, a wonderful country. He knew that. Only in America could you do something like this—come from last to first.

So I just wanted to say today: Thank you to my dad. Staff Sergeant Max Fleischmann, Jr., you did well. God bless you.

SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HOYER. I know that I—before I get to my remarks—join all the House in saying thank you to your father and to the Greatest Generation, who not only fought the terrorists of their time but came home and built the greatest economy the world has ever seen and gave us all opportunities of our generation. I'm older than you are, but of our generation. So I thank you for your comments. I know that your father is extraordinarily proud of you and extraordinarily proud of the remarks you just made showing how proud you are of him.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the majority party is set to recess this House for a week, leaving in place their economy-stifling and irrational policy of sequester.

We talked about the Greatest Generation. I fear that this generation is going to be the greediest generation, who are not going to leave our children the great economy that was left to us but will leave an economy that is limping because of the policies that we pursued and the debt that we have incurred.

When sequester took effect 17 weeks ago, it was the culmination of an effort by the extreme wing of the majority party to impose severe and senseless cuts across the Federal Government without regard for the real consequences to our economy, our national security, and our most vulnerable citizens.

Let me review just some of its many consequences.

Head Start and title I:

We will lose between 70,000 and 130,000 seats in Head Start for some of the most vulnerable children in America; 10,000 teachers' jobs will be at risk in title I to teach some of our most vulnerable children.

Social Security Administration:

Furloughs will cause delays in processing retirement and disability claims.

Nutrition for vulnerable populations:

Four million fewer Meals on Wheels for our seniors who rely on them for a daily nutritional meal.

Housing:

125,000 housing vouchers, perhaps more, will be eliminated for people who need housing.

Unemployment insurance:

Emergency unemployment insurance past 26 weeks will be cut 11 percent for people who cannot find a job, in part