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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 7, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF 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 7, 2014, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING RETIRED STATE SENATORS ALLEN PAUL AND JOHNNY NUGENT

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of two extraordinary Indiana State legislators: Senators Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent. These two close friends have served the State of Indiana for decades.

I want to personally thank them for all of their hard work and recognize them for their many accomplishments.

First, let me tell you a little bit about Senator Allen Paul. Allen volun-

teered for the U.S. Army in 1967 and is a decorated Vietnam veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star for saving a man's life and also earned a Combat Infantry Badge and four Air Medals.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Allen was elected to the State senate in 1986, where he was a tireless advocate for military members and their families. He passed important legislation to help veterans receive a college degree and supported legislation to offer in-state tuition for veterans.

Senator Paul has the distinction of being the first legislator from eastern Indiana to serve in a leadership position within his caucus. During his 28-year tenure in the senate, he served as majority whip, chairman of the Insurance Committee and chair of the Financial Institutions Committee. His political savvy and institutional knowledge will certainly be missed by his colleagues in the State legislature.

Senator Paul's dear friend Senator Johnny Nugent has also decided to retire after more than 30 years in office. He too is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

At the age of 26, Johnny was elected Dearborn County commissioner, the youngest commissioner ever elected in Indiana. As a State senator, Johnny Nugent held numerous leadership positions, including majority floor leader, chair of the Agricultural and Small Business Committee and ranking member of the Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.

Senator Nugent has been a tireless defender of the Second Amendment and served two terms on the NRA's board of directors. During his tenure in the senate, he successfully sponsored Indiana's "Castle Doctrine," as well as the Nation's first lifetime concealed-carry permit.

Senator Nugent is also known for his involvement in his local community. He is a member of the Dearborn County

Chamber of Commerce and the southeastern Indiana Shrine Club. He also served on the Dearborn County Hospital board of trustees.

Both Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent serve as shining examples of what it means to be a public servant. I ask the entire Sixth Congressional District to join me in recognizing these two outstanding Hoosier legislators.

I have no doubt these great men will bring the same commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm that they have had during their service to their constituents and their communities, and apply that in the next chapter of their lives.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on two core principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion, both of which are contained in the First Amendment of the Constitution. No one in America is arrested for criticizing elected officials, including the President. No one in America is imprisoned for going to a mosque on a Friday, a synagogue on a Saturday, or a church on a Sunday.

The fact that we as Americans can express ourselves so freely and choose to worship whenever and wherever we want are at the heart of America's greatness. That is why I am so troubled by the recent events surrounding the high-tech entrepreneur and Mozilla co-founder, Brendan Eich, who, despite his unquestioned professional credentials, was forced to resign because of a \$1,000 personal donation he made in 2008 in support of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative in support of traditional marriage.

Regardless of your views on marriage, any American who values the

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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