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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. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., 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 11:50 a.m.

FLORIDA BEACH RENOURISHMENT

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of critical importance to my community, to Florida's 13th Congressional District of Pinellas County, Florida, but also to coastal communities around the country—the issue of beach renourishment.

There is an urgency that I want to express today on behalf of communities like Treasure Island, Florida. The Federal Government has invested in beach renourishment for the past 50 years,

and it has done so alongside State and local municipalities and State and local governments, who have also made a priority in investing in beach renourishment.

This year alone, State and local governments will likely invest nearly \$100 million in beach renourishment projects, and it is for good reason. Beach renourishment addresses a very critical issue of pre-storm mitigation, it protects communities from flooding, it protects communities from losses to property, from losses to critical infrastructure, and it ultimately reduces disaster assistance when such assistance is needed.

Beach renourishment also protects our environment, it protects against damage to habitats critical to environments, it encourages stronger environments, cleaner environments; and, perhaps most importantly, beach renourishment programs invested in by State and local governments and our Federal Government contribute to jobs and economic growth in communities across the country.

We have industries that exist in communities in my district, like Clearwater Beach and St. Pete Beach, and in communities across the country whose jobs and economic growth and local economy rely on international visitors and visitors from around the country.

In Florida alone, we will more than double visits to our beaches as compared to visits to all U.S. national parks combined. It takes jobs and employees to support those visitors, and it is critical to our local economy that we continue the investment in beach renourishment projects.

So I rise today with a sense of urgency. When this House, this body, considered the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, it passed a responsible bill, but one that did not include continued authorization for important beach renourishment projects. That legislation is now in

conference, and I am here today to ask my colleagues that we not let this provision slip by. We must reauthorize these programs.

So I would urge the conferees on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act to strongly consider bringing back language that reauthorizes programs, or at least allows for the reauthorization of programs, that are soon to expire. I ask my colleagues to be receptive to that language should it come back.

I would like to thank today my chairman on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for allowing me to work with him in the very few weeks that I have been here on this issue that is of critical importance to my district, but also to districts around the country.

HONORING THE FLYING TIGERS

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the American volunteer group known as the Flying Tigers for their heroic service to the United States of America during World War II. The Flying Tigers consisted of ex-personnel from the Navy, Marines, and the Army Air Corps. Operating out of China, they trained in secret, and shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor began a series of heroic battles against the Japanese aircraft squadrons.

Working together with the Chinese and the Royal Air Force, the Flying Tigers drove back attacks on the port of Rangoon in Burma, and became celebrated for their tactical victories.

On July 4, 1942, the Flying Tigers were absorbed into the 23rd Fighter Group, and their distinctive shark-faced planes remain among the most recognizable of any aircraft from World War II.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the members of the Flying Tigers for their brave service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING JODY BRUCE AND
JOSH HOFFMAN

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

Mr. CRAMER. The author Henry Miller wrote: "The ordinary man is involved in action, the hero acts, an immense difference."

Mr. Speaker, having grown up the son of a rural electric lineman, I am more than a little familiar with the not so ordinary actions of these rather ordinary people.

They do a job most of us won't or can't do, often putting themselves in danger's way as they carry out their duties in all kinds of weather conditions. They earn a paycheck for their work for sure, but their contribution to the quality of life of rural America is to the benefit of millions of people.

But today, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary efforts of two rural electric linemen from North Dakota who stepped beyond being involved in the action to act.

Jody Bruce from Minot, who works for Verendrye Electric Cooperative, and Josh Hoffman from Carrington, who works for Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, left the comfort zone of middle America to facilitate the advent of safe, reliable, and affordable electricity in a community in Haiti.

Their service and sacrifice will improve the lives of many people because electricity is a critical element to improve quality of life, health care, education, clean water, and other vital services.

Volunteering their time and expertise, they both spent 2 weeks in the town of Caracol, providing safety training and mentoring for local linemen. They also assisted with installing power for residents located next to an industrial park. When fully functional, this facility will have the capacity to employ 30,000 people.

Jody and Josh are the only linemen from North Dakota to ever participate in such a project in Haiti, a country where only about 13 percent of the people have reliable access to electricity.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation has been working on a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded program to bring electricity to the town of Caracol and nearby areas.

Today, more than 1,200 consumers in the town have access to reliable electricity. Some homes now have antennas for their TVs. In fact, some businesses are springing up, things like Internet cafes that have been established, and water treatment plants are in full operation.

While we often take for granted such basic amenities as safe, reliable elec-

tricity in this country, we ought to say a prayer for the men and women who ensure that the lights are always on for us and the families who wait for them at home.

In the case of Jody Bruce and Josh Hoffman, well, they deserve a ticker-tape parade. They, Mr. Speaker, are international heroes.

GRANT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATEHOOD IN THE UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I began this series of remarks yesterday as the District prepares for Emancipation Day on April 16, when Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia before the national Emancipation Proclamation.

I began with the status of all the citizens of the District of Columbia today with "Taxation Without Representation," the slogan the Founders of our Nation and the Framers of our Constitution used to start the revolution that created the United States of America itself. With those taxes should come statehood.

But if there is any issue with greater command than taxation without representation for statehood for the District of Columbia, it is surely fighting and dying for one's country without representation, securing the vote for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, only to come home with no vote of your own in the Congress that sent you to war, or not coming home at all.

D.C. residents fought and died in the war that created the United States of America itself, and have served in every war since, often suffering casualties well beyond those of fellow Americans, casualties that mounted in each of the major wars of the 20th century: World War I, more casualties than three States; World War II, more casualties than four States; the Korean war, by then more casualties than eight States; and the Vietnam war, more casualties than 10 States of the Union.

Not only have thousands fought and died without the vote, many served with unusual distinction and many in the segregated Armed Forces, although African Americans in the District were outnumbered by Whites until recent years. Yet the District produced the first African American Army general, Benjamin O. Davis; the first African American Air Force general, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a graduate of West Point and commander of the Tuskegee Airmen; Wesley Davis, the first African American Naval Academy graduate; Charles Vernon Bush, the first African American Air Force Academy graduate, and the roster continues today—today the first Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Manson Brown, and the first female African American aviator, D.C. National Guard First Lieutenant Demetria Elosiebo.

Our country continues to deny District of Columbia citizens their basic rights at home.

Today, we ask that Congress draw the line on service in the Armed Forces. In the name of those who have fought or died in the Nation's wars, grant the citizens of the District of Columbia equal rights with other Americans. Grant the District of Columbia statehood in the Union.

A LETTER TO THE TURKISH
PEOPLE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. An open letter to the Turkish people:

Today, I write to you on an issue of great importance to both our nations. It is on a subject that many of you, especially the younger generation, may know little about because it concerns a chapter of world history that your government has expended enormous efforts to conceal.

Turkey has been at the center of human civilization from Neolithic times to the present, and your arts, culture, and science have enriched the world. But interwoven with all of Turkey's remarkable achievements is a dark chapter that too many of today's Turks know little or nothing about.

Were you aware that your grandparents and great-grandparents had many Armenian neighbors and friends—that 20 percent of the population of today's Istanbul was Armenian? Did you know that the Armenians were well integrated into Turkish society as celebrated intellectuals, artists, craftsmen, and community leaders? Have you ever wondered what happened to the Armenians? Have you ever asked your parents and grandparents how such a large, industrious, and prosperous people largely vanished from your midst? Do you know why your government goes to such lengths to conceal this part of your history?

Let me tell you a part of their story. The rest you must find out for yourselves.

Ninety-nine years ago this month, in the dying years of the Ottoman Empire, the Young Turk government launched a campaign of deportation, expropriation, starvation, and murder against the empire's Armenian citizens.

□ 1015

Much of the Armenian population was forcibly removed to Syria, where many succumbed during brutal forced marches through the desert heat. Hundreds of thousands were massacred by Ottoman gendarmes, soldiers, and even their own neighbors.

By the time the slaughter ended in 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been killed in what is now universally acknowledged as the first genocide of the 20th century. The survivors scattered throughout the Middle East and the