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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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.

ELK COUNTY FLOODING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in May, the citizens of Ridgway, Elk County, Pennsylvania, experienced a devastating flood. I rise today to express my sincere appreciation to the first responders, the borough employees, and the Ridgway citizens who came to the aid of their neighbors.

On Friday, May 23, following the flood and upon my return from Wash-

ington to the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I was in Ridgway for a briefing by borough manager, Colonel Kim Zimmerman. Our mission was to analyze the scope of the damage, coordinate all levels of government, and determine the best and most efficient path forward to bring relief to those in need.

The colonel, his staff, and the fire department did an outstanding job considering that the Clarion River rose from the normal 3 feet level to greater than 21 feet in a few hours. Despite record flooding, there was no loss of life and no injuries. This fact is remarkable given that 100 citizens had to be evacuated by boat and a total of 500, including land evacuation.

I returned to Ridgway the next day to walk the streets to talk with residents and offer my support to the residents and businesses dealing with losses and damages caused by this devastating flooding.

During my 2 days on the scene, I witnessed heroes in action: fire department volunteers who had been on the job almost 48 hours with little or no sleep; borough employees who refused to be sent home after multiple shifts; neighbors who took time from their own cleanups to assist their neighbors; and church organizations that traveled from surrounding counties to help the community begin to put the pieces back together.

Mr. Speaker, the actions that I observed those days in Ridgway is one of the many reasons that I am proud to call this area my home, and I am proud to represent the Pennsylvania Fifth District.

I want to thank Governor Tom Corbett for his immediate presence and the work of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, along with the visit by Lieutenant Governor Cawley.

Now, based on the joint county, municipal, and State recommendations,

Governor Corbett made a disaster declaration on May 29 and also requested loan and grant assistance from the Small Business Administration. Fortunately, the disaster designation was granted, and I offer the commitment from my offices and staff to assist businesses and homeowners who have been affected the resources to assist with their claims.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over and over again, House Republicans complain about Federal spending, especially when it comes to our Nation's premier antihunger safety net program, a program known as SNAP. They say the program is too big, that it is bloated and it is full of fraud, waste, and abuse. These claims are patently false and have been dispelled over and over again. But there is something else missing from the House Republicans' attacks on SNAP—a plan to responsibly shrink the program.

Now, of course, House Republicans have many irresponsible plans to reduce SNAP spending. They want to make it harder and more costly for States to administer the program. They want to prevent people who have served their time in prison from being able to receive SNAP benefits. And they want to prevent those struggling with drug addiction from being able to receive SNAP benefits. In other words, they want to deny food to hungry people.

Not one of these ideas is thoughtful or responsible. But, Mr. Speaker, there is a way to reduce SNAP spending in a responsible way that doesn't take food away from hungry people. It is simple, it is noncontroversial, and it makes a lot of sense. Mr. Speaker, the best way

□ 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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