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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CARLOS CURBELO 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 6, 2015, 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.

TEXANS IN THE FORGOTTEN WAR: KOREA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an armistice was signed 62 years ago today to signify the official end of the Korean war. It was July 27, 1953.

This first conflict of the cold war occurred when communist North Korea invaded South Korea 3 years earlier.

The defense of South Korea was supposedly a U.N. action, but as history shows, the United States, unprepared for this war, took the brunt of the

fighting, along with the South Koreans.

In the end, the war resulted in a cease-fire until both sides could "find a peaceful settlement." No settlement has ever occurred.

This war has been referred to as "the forgotten war." It is barely mentioned in our textbooks. Over 50,000 Americans were killed; 1,700 of them were from Texas.

Thirteen Texans went above and beyond the call of duty in Korea. They received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their valor. Ten of them were killed in combat.

Major George Andrew Davis, Jr., United States Air Force. While flying his F-86 Sabrejet, he and his wingman attacked 12 MIGs to protect a squadron of U.S. bombers.

After shooting down two MIGs, he continued the fight until he was killed. His actions resulted in the U.S. bombers successfully completing their mission.

Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen, United States Marine Corps, was killed 2 days before the cease-fire. He turned an overwhelming enemy attack into a disorderly retreat while supervising the defense of his position, the treatment, and evacuation of the wounded.

Private First Class Jack G. Hanson, United States Army. While covering the withdrawal of his fellow soldiers, Hanson, alone, manned his machinegun to stop the enemy attack. He was later found surrounded by 22 of the enemy dead. His machinegun and pistol were empty and his hand clutched his machine.

Hospital Corpsman John E. Kilmer, United States Navy. In helping defend a vital hill position during an assault, he braved enemy fire to aid the wounded and was killed while shielding a wounded marine with his own body.

Corporal Benito Martinez. Electing to remain at his post during an attack, he inflicted numerous casualties

against an enemy onslaught and refused to be rescued because of the danger involved to his other fellow troops. His stand enabled troops to attack and regain the terrain. He was in the United States Army.

First Lieutenant Frank N. Mitchell, United States Marine Corps, led a hand-to-hand struggle to repel the enemy, led a party to search for the wounded, and singlehandedly covered the withdrawal of his men before being fatally shot.

Private First Class Whitt L. Moreland, United States Marine Corps. During an attempt to neutralize an enemy bunker, he covered an oncoming grenade with his own body. His self-sacrifice saved the lives of his fellow Marines.

Second Lieutenant George H. O'Brien, Jr., United States Marine Corps. While wounded during an attack against a hostile enemy, he refused to be evacuated and continued in the assault. He set up a defense, aided the wounded, and covered the withdrawal so no one was left behind.

Corporal Charles F. Pendleton, United States Army. He was mortally wounded by a mortar burst while heroically manning a machinegun and carbine during multiple waves of enemy attacks.

First Lieutenant James L. Stone, United States Army, led his troops in a last-ditch stand of a vital outpost. He exposed himself to enemy fire to direct his platoon. When the final overwhelming assault swept over their position, a mortally wounded Lieutenant Stone urged his men to continue the fight.

Master Sergeant Travis E. Watkins, United States Army, led 30 men of his unit when surrounded by the enemy. Through his leadership, a small force of those 30 men destroyed nearly 500 of the enemy before abandoning their position. A paralyzed Sergeant Watkins refused his evacuation, as his condition would slow down his comrades.

□ 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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Corporal Victor Espinoza, United States Army. During an attack, he singlehandedly destroyed an enemy machinegun, mortar position, two bunkers, and tunnel, taking a heavy toll on the enemy, with at least 14 dead and 11 others wounded.

Master Sergeant Mike C. Pena, United States Army. After ordering his men to fall back during a fierce attack, he manned a machinegun to cover their withdrawal. He singlehandedly held back the enemy until the next morning, when his position was overrun and he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, 62 years later, on this day, we remember the sacrifices of these Texas Medal of Honor recipients and other Americans in the forgotten war.

The Korean War Memorial down the street appropriately depicts 38 uniformed Americans moving silently in the brutal cold and rough terrain in some forgotten place, in a forgotten war, in Korea. Mr. Speaker, let us forget this unforgettable war no more.

And that is just the way it is.

CHAPLAIN CORPS' 240TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 240th birthday of the military Chaplain Corps.

During the early days of the Revolutionary War that led to our great Nation's independence, General George Washington called for the establishment of the Chaplain Corps to minister to the men who braved harsh conditions and incredible odds to fight for the freedom of their families and their Nation.

On July 29, 1775, the Continental Congress responded to that call. The initial Army Chaplain Corps would later expand to every branch of America's armed services.

The very existence of the Chaplain Corps and its persistence over the last 240 years says much about our Nation's view of the fighting force.

From the beginning, America has understood that our warfighters are not only soldiers, but whole human beings whose hearts and souls need just as much care as their bodies.

Chaplains have served in all of America's conflicts and major wars and engagements, from the colonial era to the battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq. Hundreds of chaplains have laid down their lives for our Nation.

Chaplains are not simply people of faith who decide to minister in the military. Chaplains are professionals who have had extensive religious education as well as experience walking with people through the challenges of life.

Candidates for chaplain must receive an ecclesiastical endorsement from their faith group that testifies to his or

her spiritual, moral, intellectual, and emotional preparedness to serve as a chaplain. They must possess a graduate degree in theological or religious studies.

Furthermore, each potential chaplain must demonstrate their commitment to a free exercise of religion by all military personnel while, at the same time, adhering to all military standards of conduct and physical training.

In a very real sense, chaplains serve on the front lines in the battle to ensure religious liberty in our pluralistic society.

Chaplains are there for those of faith and for those of no faith. Chaplains are there for the people who serve us.

In war and peace, chaplains provide our servicemembers and their families with prayer, counsel, guidance, sacraments, and sometimes just simply a shoulder to cry on.

The Chaplain Corps and its vital role in the United States Armed Forces is a matter near and dear to my heart for, since 2002, I have had the privilege of serving the United States Air Force Reserve as a military chaplain.

I volunteered to serve the men and women of the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a chaplain because I believe the calling of all is to serve how we can in the best way we can. The freedoms of our country have asked no less of us.

Chaplains have the honor of serving every member of the Armed Forces who might cross their path. We see the military from a very unique perspective.

We hear young enlisted soldiers and seasoned officers ask similar questions of faith and family. They speak of all-too-familiar family challenges and the struggles that they, too, go through.

As members of the military ourselves, chaplains certainly are not blind to rank. But given our focus on the unseen, our care for the soul, we do have a tendency to see more of what binds our fighting force together as fellow sojourners in this life than anything that might separate them.

You see, our challenges take us from the very war rooms and the very inner circles of commanders preparing for battle to the very newest who serve just on a guard.

As I did in Iraq back in 2008, it was my privilege to see some of our best and brightest serving at night in the middle of a land far away from home. One in particular sticks out.

When she came, I first met her. She was there, arriving late.

When she got there, I was sort of wondering: Why did you come late from your unit?

She said: Well, sir, I had a little bit of a delay.

And I said: Well, what was that?

I was just curious.

She said: Well, just a few months ago, I had my little baby girl.

And I thought for just a moment.

She said: But I was wanting to be here because I have trained and I didn't want to let my fellow members down.

So for the rest of that time, I was there with her. Over those next few months, we explored and I saw through pictures the life of a mother separated from her young child, but watching the experiences of growth as she not only served her country, but she served as a mom.

It has been a tremendous blessing to see and to honor the commitment of our fellow chaplains, chaplains who go when they are told to go. They commit themselves to serving when others are in need.

And those are the kinds of stories that the Chaplain Corps' birthday celebrates for me. It is seeing men and women who take their faith seriously, but also take the Constitution seriously when religious liberties are protected. Those are things worth standing up for. It is truly a blessing.

The men and women who have poured their lives into the servicemembers and their families over the last 240 years have made a profound impact on our military and our entire Nation.

It is with that thought in mind that I wish every member of the Chaplain Corps the very best on this special occasion.

Chaplains, wherever you are today, as one who serves with you, you serve a vital role. Keep it up. Keep protecting our Constitution, and keep taking care of the Nation, who sends their best young men and young women to protect us for the very privilege of sitting in this Chamber, speaking today, and being a part of it.

May the Chaplain Corps continue to provide a strong spiritual, moral, and ethical compass for the United States Army and Armed Forces for many centuries to come. And as one who serves, may I just say, bless them all in peace as they go about their work.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize leaders of Miami-Dade County Public Schools for attending a recent meeting at the White House to discuss school discipline.

The purpose of the discussion was to determine alternatives to common school disciplinary measures to keep students focused on learning.

Exclusionary discipline has become far too common, often exacerbating the problems for students who struggle in school. This leads kids down a path where they fall behind other students and sometimes end up in the juvenile justice system.

A change in school discipline procedures is long overdue. Rather than promoting an atmosphere of compounding punishments, we need to help our students get back on a positive track and help them succeed while also maintaining the safety of their classmates and teachers.