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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. FLEISCHMANN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 9, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
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 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL HAROLD

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of my pleasures in public service is the opportunity to work with some extraordinarily motivated and talented staff. Nowhere in my career has it been more evident than here on Capitol Hill.

The joy of working with smart, dedicated, committed young people, often under very difficult, even chaotic, situations, who are here because they

make a difference, brightens every day I work here.

There are inevitably bittersweet moments when it is time for some trusted members of your team to move on to other careers, graduate school, or move to follow their families. Today in my office we are celebrating one such moment.

Michael Harold has been in our office for over 7 years in positions of increasing responsibility until ultimately becoming our Legislative Director.

He is preparing to leave for graduate school. Long before he assumed the management of our legislative operations, Michael had made significant impacts far beyond my office. One specific area that he carved out was international water and sanitation.

Thanks to Michael's heroic efforts on the Paul Simon Water for the World Act and dealing with funding for related programs, literally millions of lives will be saved.

Another key achievement has been Mr. Harold's personal commitment to the Special Immigrant Visa Program to protect those Iraqis and Afghans who put their lives on the line to help American personnel as drivers, interpreters and guides under the most difficult of circumstances.

Michael understood and fought for their protection to avoid leaving those who are relying on us to the tender mercies of the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Now, one would think that that would be a relatively simple issue. They risked their lives to help us. We made a commitment to protect them. But it became hopelessly confused and complex, with frayed nerves, long hours, and frustration.

Now, unlike his work on international water and sanitation, which was massive, long term, and dealt with millions of people he would never meet, this was intensely personal.

There were a few thousand people, having been confronted with the most

personal and searing examples, often on a one-on-one basis. But whether it was saving millions with water policies or saving thousands with Special Immigrant Visas, Michael was relentless. He managed key efforts on public broadcasting and started our Neuroscience Caucus. I could go on and on.

He was resolute, focused, and determined. He built a network of partners at the staff level with legislative leadership, with the committee staff, and other member offices in both the House and the Senate.

It was a textbook example of how progress on often overlooked sets of issues have profound consequences for the United States' credibility, our moral standing, and for future generations around the world.

Michael and his wife Brynne are pursuing new academic and career opportunities in Boston that will make them more effective in the long run, but also enable the ability to share their attitude and experience and effectiveness, the results of his model, that so much of the public will never see that takes place behind the scenes.

While Members are obviously essential to the process, it is absolutely critical that men and women like Michael Harold make it happen.

It has been amazingly satisfying for me to watch Michael progress professionally, to marry, start a family, all the while advancing some of the most consequential actions in Congress.

Everyone who works with Michael Harold knows what he has done and appreciates all his special efforts to make the world and Capitol Hill a better place.

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

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

□ 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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