

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, June 27, 2000

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 27, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG WALDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT JAMES CAMERON, MARINE CORPS WAR HERO

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was in New Orleans as the city was preparing to celebrate the 56th anniversary of D-Day and the opening of the national D-Day museum. The event brought together thousands of World War II veterans and attracted even more to pay tribute to the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who risked and far too often gave their lives to protect the freedoms that you and I enjoy every day. These brave Americans make up what is called "the greatest generation." Many of them are our parents and grandparents, husbands and wives, who endured through often unthinkable circumstances to build the United States of America into what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Webster once said, "God grants liberty to those who love it and are always willing and prepared to defend it." Unfortunately, the

cost of our liberty has not come easy. Throughout our Nation's history, brave men and women have sacrificed their lives in order to defend and protect the principles this Nation was founded upon. Together, they have ensured the strength of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to represent a district with a strong military presence, both active and retired. The Third District of North Carolina is home to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Air Station Cherry Point and New River, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and the Elizabeth City Coast Guard Station. In addition, Eastern North Carolina is home to 77,000 retired veterans and nearly 13,000 retired military. While each individual can provide a unique perspective and account of their service, I would like to take time today to pay tribute to a gentleman whose service during World War II is worthy of recognition.

Technical Sergeant James Cameron, Jr., was a navigator-bombardier during the Second World War. His remarkable military record both in combat and in peace represents that of many citizens who answered their call to duty and accepted the highest responsibility to preserve peace and freedom both here and abroad. Although regrettably 25 years after his death, Tech Sergeant Cameron was finally rewarded for his service. Earlier this year at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps in Jacksonville, North Carolina, Tech Sergeant Cameron's wife was part of a ceremony to honor her late husband's valiant service to this country. On behalf of her husband, Ms. Cameron received eight air medals. He is also eligible for two Distinguished Flying Crosses which are forthcoming. Technical Sergeant Cameron has also been awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the Air Medal with two gold stars and one silver star.

Mr. Speaker, James Cameron enlisted in the Marine Corps in November of 1942 at the age of 22. After attending the Navy Air Training Center in Jacksonville, Florida and the navigation-bombardier school at Quantico, he joined the 423rd bombing squadron at Cherry Point. He had served his country at war in the Southwest Pacific region from February 1944 to March 1945. His B-25 crew flew more than 50 combat missions, bombing targets in New Britain and New Ireland.

In 1944, his crew was on a crack bomber mission that was raiding Japa-

nese positions when they were caught in the midst of heavy crossfire and were shot down. To survive, the crew was forced to spend 10 hours on a life raft, averting enemy fire, before finally being rescued. Before this mission, Tech Sergeant Cameron and four combat air crewmen helped rescue a downed flyer in the sea off Green Island. Mr. Cameron helped secure a five-man raft and carried it down a 75-foot cliff in order to rescue the pilot. For his brave assistance, he received the Navy and Marine Corps medal for heroism.

On October 2, 1945, Technical Sergeant Cameron was honorably discharged from the Marines. His dedication to his country can only be matched by his dedication to his family. James Cameron married his wife Elizabeth on September 27, 1941. Together they have three sons, James, Bruce and Doug.

After leaving the service, Mr. Cameron served as a mounted policeman in New York City where he helped to train horses and taught other officers to ride horses. He retired from the police force at the rank of sergeant.

Mr. Speaker, Technical Sergeant Cameron died on September 15, 1975 after a long battle with cancer. But today we celebrate and honor his life and his dedication to preserve peace and freedom for all Americans.

In closing, I want to share a quote from one of the Founding Fathers of this country, Gouverneur Morris, who once said, "I anticipate the day when to command respect in the most remotest regions it will be sufficient to say, 'I am an American.'"

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Tech Sergeant Cameron and all United States veterans for their heroic courage in the name of freedom. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are free but it is because of the sacrifice made by many men and women to defend the freedom of this country.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress with a keen interest in having the Federal Government be a better partner in promoting livable communities, things that we can do with the private sector, with business,

□ 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.