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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 20, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on a crisis that affects communities across our Nation. That crisis is that of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Native American and Alaska Native women throughout the country face a murder rate 10 times that of the national average, with 84 percent experi-

encing some kind of violence in their lifetime.

In my home State of Washington, Native Americans make up about 2 percent of the population, but a recent report by the Washington State Patrol shows that indigenous women account for 7 percent of the State's reported missing women.

My congressional district in Central Washington sits at the epicenter of this crisis. In the past 5 years alone, seven women have been murdered or have gone missing on or near the Yakama Nation reservation.

These women are not just statistics in a database. They are mothers, daughters, sisters, neighbors, and friends. There are those who are missing, like 25-year-old Aillia Minthorn, or Lala as her friends called her, who was last seen in Toppenish and has been missing since May 5; 31-year-old Rosenda Strong, who was last seen in Wapato on October 2 of last year; 34-year-old Freda Gun, who went missing in Kennewick in 2016; and 18-year-old Rosalita Longee, who was last seen in Wapato in 2015.

Then there are the unsolved murders, including 23-year-old Linda Dave, whose remains were found in Toppenish in February of 2017; 31-year-old Minnie Andy, who was assaulted by an unknown assailant in Wapato, and later died of her injuries in July of 2017; and 23-year-old Destiny Lloyd, who was reported missing on Christmas Day 2017, only to be found days later, murdered, on the side of the road.

To reiterate, Madam Speaker, these are just seven cases from the last 5 years. There are currently 71 open cases like this in Washington State; 31 of them occurring on or near the Yakama Nation reservation.

The local community has been working to tackle this crisis. Tribal and community leaders have held multiple rallies and community forums to raise awareness and demand action.

The diligent reporting of the Yakima Herald-Republic has highlighted the community response and activism on the ground, creating an online hub to list open cases involving missing and murdered Yakama Nation women and providing resources for the community to report disappearances.

Recently passed State laws, spearheaded by State Representative Gina Mosbrucker in Olympia, have enhanced data collection and improved communication between Tribal leaders and various State agencies.

I absolutely applaud these efforts, and I am inspired by the progress being made at the local and State level; however, this is a national problem that requires a national response. That is why I, along with my colleagues, Representatives TORRES and HAALAND, introduced Savanna's Act.

Our legislation aims to address and bring awareness to the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women at the Federal level by improving coordination between Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies. The bill would develop guidelines and best practices for Tribes and law enforcement agencies across the country to enhance the reporting and record-keeping of crimes against indigenous women and improve communication between law enforcement and families of victims.

Now, this bill may sound familiar. Last Congress, the Senate unanimously passed a version of Savanna's Act that stalled in the House. Representatives TORRES, HAALAND, and I worked with Tribes, advocacy groups, law enforcement, and Senators MURKOWSKI and CORTEZ MASTO to improve the legislation and introduce a bill that can—and should—be signed into law.

The bill is named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a 22-year-old member of the Spirit Lake Tribe, pregnant with her first child, who was murdered in August of 2017. Her murder

□ 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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brought long-overdue national attention to missing and murdered indigenous women.

After meeting with local families of victims, State and local law enforcement, and regional Tribes, it has become clear to me that central Washington has a unique perspective on this crisis.

The stories about these women are heartbreaking. It is with these stories and mine that I have urged both House Judiciary and Natural Resources Committees to hold a field hearing on the Yakama Nation reservation to learn firsthand how this crisis is plaguing our communities.

I am pleased to have gained the support of local Tribes and the YWCA in Yakima in calling for a field hearing, and I am eager to have committee members hear their stories as well.

Thankfully, justice was served upon Savanna's murderers. We owe the same justice for the many murdered, missing, indigenous women.

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND CONSTITUENT GERALDINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the story of one of my constituents, Geraldine, as a reminder that the work that we do here on the floor impacts people's lives.

Geraldine received assistance from the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which is also known as SCSEP.

We provided \$464 million to SCSEP in the minibus package that we passed yesterday, H.R. 2740. The bill included fiscal year 2020 funding for critical programs at the Department of Labor that help Americans like Geraldine find jobs and gain new skills in their journey to become reemployed, programs like Job Corps, Registered Apprenticeship, YouthBuild, and, of course, SCSEP.

Geraldine is a perfect example of why this funding is so important. She is a mother and a grandmother and the main provider for her granddaughter and two grandchildren.

When the financial crisis of 2008 hit, she lost her job, a devastating moment for her family's only source of income. She quietly retired, but like far too many Americans, she did not have enough savings to stop working.

Her family needed her, and she needed to find work, a task made difficult with her age, existing skill set, and, now, gap in employment. Fortunately, Geraldine was able to take advantage of SCSEP through Easterseals in New Jersey.

Created by the Older Americans Act of 1965, the Senior Community Service Employment Program has helped low income, unemployed seniors learn new,

in-demand skills and reenter the workforce for more than 50 years. Participants enrolled in SCSEP receive a subsidized minimum wage for work at a nonprofit agency while learning skills to help them reenter the workforce.

But SCSEP does more than just skills training. Its greatest success is helping seniors regain their sense of confidence and self-fulfillment. Some programs have services that help seniors get glasses or even pay rent and utility bills.

Geraldine shared this with me, that SCSEP was instrumental in helping her regain her sense of purpose. She was so successful in her program, that she was offered a position at Easterseals to support new participants in the program through their own journeys to reemployment, people who were previously in the same position as she.

Increasingly, seniors like Geraldine have become the primary caretakers for their grandchildren. This is especially true for places that have been ravaged by the opioid crisis.

That is why it is so important that we support more programs at SCSEP at the Department of Labor. There are countless seniors out there with nowhere to turn. SCSEP is one of the answers that gets them back to work.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I want to share with you one last anecdote from Geraldine.

She shared with me her story about a boy in her community who didn't want to throw away broken crayons. In defiance of his dad, this little boy said even broken crayons still color just as brightly as ever. Geraldine says that she sees herself in broken crayons and knows that her colors shine just as brightly as any others.

We must ensure that critical programs like SCSEP are fully funded as grandparents across America are increasingly becoming the primary breadwinners in their families.

I am proud that my colleagues and I voted to pass H.R. 2740 yesterday, and as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, I am committed to advocating for more programs that support our seniors.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Tuesday morning, I had the honor of being in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at the State capitol to speak about my bill, Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at the State legislature hosted a panel to discuss my legislation that would increase milk options in school lunchrooms across the country.

Later that morning, we gathered in the capitol rotunda with State law-

makers and representatives of the dairy industry, dairy farm families from throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to rally in support of putting whole milk back in our schools.

Madam Speaker, dairy products like milk contain 9 essential nutrients that can help reduce your risk of high blood pressure, osteoporosis, and certain cancers. It is helpful with weight management. And whether it is protein to help build and repair muscle tissue of active bodies or Vitamin A to help maintain healthy skin, dairy products are a natural nutrient powerhouse.

I was especially glad to participate in these events, because June is National Dairy Month.

Proudly, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is one of the largest milk-producing States in the Nation, and this annual tradition celebrates the contributions the dairy industry and dairy farm families have made to the world. It is my hope that, through this legislation, we will be able to allow students to select the type of milk that they love best, including flavored and whole milk.

This legislation is in response to changes made in 2010 to the School Lunch Program. That year, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act amended the nutrition standards and mandated that flavored milk must be fat-free.

This law, along with the lowest participation in the program, led to an alarming decline in milk consumption in schools since 2010. Declining milk consumption in schools not only impacts students where they don't get the nutrition that they need, but also the dairy farm families in rural communities across the Nation.

In addition to the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, I recently introduced another bill with Congressman JOE COURTNEY to expand milk options for students and reverse the decline of milk consumption in schools. The School Milk Nutrition Act of 2019 reaffirms and codifies a recent regulation from the USDA by providing schools with the option to serve lowfat milk with flavor, and it requires that milk offered is consistent with the most recent dietary guidelines for Americans.

In November of 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced regulatory changes for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, including a provision that provides schools with the option to serve lowfat 1 percent flavored milk.

□ 0915

I urge my colleagues to sign on to these bills during National Dairy Month and allow our students the option of consuming the type of milk that they love with the nutrition that they need.

I thank the Pennsylvania lawmakers and members of the dairy industry who stood together in Harrisburg on Tuesday in support of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.