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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 23, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MADELEINE DEAN 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

HOPE REMAINS FOR PEACE

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

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, today we will be taking up a resolution to denounce the BDS movement, the boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel.

This region is not unfamiliar to me, as I have been there twice, in both Israel and Palestine. I do not support the BDS movement.

When I was last in Palestine, I asked multiple people with whom I met if

they supported the movement, and the response was that they did not, as they were afraid of the economic effect on Palestine, where many are already struggling.

However, I also do not support the resolution today, as it goes too far, in my opinion, in telling people what they can or should think or say about the situation in Israel.

Israel the country and the Israeli people are good friends of the United States. They are a strong democracy and a close ally of our country. I have supported the Iron Dome as a way to deescalate the tensions that occur when a rocket is sent into Israel from inside Gaza, for example. It is better to take out that missile before there is any damage or death rather than returning a volley of rockets back in response, injuring or killing people of both countries.

But I also think it is okay to be critical of the Netanyahu administration, or government, and their policies.

Look, if a dear friend does something that jeopardizes themselves or their family's lives or livelihoods, I have a moral obligation to say something because I respect my friend. It should be no different with our response to Israel. People have a right to be concerned about a number of actions by the Israeli Government.

We have a right to question how continuing to create illegal settlements into the West Bank will make it harder to broker a two-state solution, the best path forward toward peace in the region, given the additional difficulty of the land swaps.

We have a right to question why it is okay to take Palestinian children, or any child, into a military court for detention by Israel.

We have a right to ask if sectioning off 2 million people in Gaza, with over a million people needing food assistance and 95 percent not having access to clean water, will ever lead to peace,

or why not allowing Members of Congress to go into Gaza from Israel is smart. What don't they want us to see by not allowing us in?

We have a right to ask how demolishing Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem or the West Bank or crops in Gaza serves to further peace in the region.

We have a right to ask why it makes sense to have a major highway with a giant wall in the middle of it with one side for Palestinians and the other for Israelis, as it looks like something we have judged poorly previously in history.

We have a right to ask if a bullet directed at a child is an equivalent response to a thrown rock.

I am not saying that Hamas, the organization that has been recognized by the United States as a terrorist organization, is innocent or pure—anything but. But, obviously, not all Palestinians are Hamas by any stretch of the imagination.

If we really want peace in the region, where we will never have to send young men and women from our country to risk their lives, then we need a government in Israel that respects human rights more and works more aggressively towards peace.

I was told a resolution advocating for a two-state solution would be up today as well, a resolution I support; but apparently it is not, and that is a mistake. Instead, only this resolution opposing BDS is up.

And while I do not support BDS, I cannot support this resolution as worded. My hope is that we will have real peace in the region someday, that we will have a two-state solution where both Israelis and Palestinians will live in peace, both internally and with each other. But this resolution won't do that.

Madam Speaker, I just wish real efforts toward peace were what we were debating today.

□ 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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HONORING HENRY LOZANO

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, on July 19, surrounded by loved ones, the city of Los Angeles lost a giant. His name was Henry Lozano.

Madam Speaker, I simply don't have enough time to recount all of Henry's achievements or the profound impact he had on our district and on the Golden State. His list of accomplishments is pretty impressive.

He was a Korean war veteran, serving as a Marine corporal in the 1950s; a fierce workers' advocate as a labor leader for UAW Local 509; chief of staff to Congressman Ed Roybal; an adviser to Xavier Becerra, the current attorney general of California and the former Congressman for the district I now represent.

Congressman Ed Roybal was the first Latino elected to Congress from California since the 1800s, a founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Oftentimes, I say I stand on the shoulders of giants, and people think I am referring just to the elected officials who came before me; but, more often than not, it is the people who surround those elected leaders, like Henry Lozano, the ones who are their advisers, their confidantes, the people who try to keep them true to their word and to their core and to their principles.

Henry was that type of individual. He cared deeply about the Latino community and empowering them in a time where we oftentimes felt marginalized. He came up during the seventies and the eighties and the nineties.

I did not work with Henry directly, but I got to know him. Back in 2004, at the Democratic National Convention, I was introduced to Henry by a mutual friend, and he said that Henry was a legend within the Latino community on the east side of Los Angeles. He said he was the one who helped, really, mentor countless elected officials and wannabe elected officials like myself.

I befriended Henry, and Henry gave me quite a bit of advice. Most importantly, he wanted to make sure that I would remain truthful and remain committed to the community that I would one day represent.

I got to visit him just before he passed in the hospital. He looked pretty good to me. We talked, and the first thing he asked me about is what did I think. I thought he was referring to the Presidential election, but, in the end, it was really about a local city council race.

He said that politics is always local, and you should always think about the people first.

Henry will be missed. He had a profound impact on a lot of folks, and I am one of them. So I hope that we will keep his memory alive.

HONORING BARBARA TORRES

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I have sad news to report regarding someone

else we lost on the east side of Los Angeles.

She was a labor union leader, an activist, and a daughter of East Los Angeles. Her name was Barbara Torres.

Barbara passed away at the young age of 39, but she left a life of meaning. She was always around, even though she didn't have a car. She gave so much to people who had so little, even though she didn't have much herself.

She fought against the biggest opponents, even though she was small in stature. She would often be the first one into a fight because she always had one saying: "If we fight, we win." That really sums up Barbara Torres.

She was the champion of the little guy and the underdog, because she was the little guy and the underdog. She understood that the system can sometimes be against the people who need the most help, but she was always there and never gave up faith.

She valued her community, but we also valued her in return.

Yesterday, we put Barbara Torres to rest. At her funeral service was the mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, myself, Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson, State Senator Maria Elena Durazo, as well as Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer and the head of the California Democratic Party, Rusty Hicks.

For somebody who did not have a title in the end, who was not of wealth or means but was just somebody who showed up every single day for every fight, she left an impact. She will definitely be missed because we know that she made California, Los Angeles, and this country a better place to live.

PRESERVE FREE SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I stand before you as the granddaughter of a Palestinian grandmother, my sity, who yearns to experience equality, human dignity, and freedom. I stand before you, the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, parents who experienced being stripped of their human rights, the right to freedom of travel and equal treatment. So I can't stand by and watch this attack on our freedom of speech and the right to boycott the racist policies of the Government and the State of Israel.

I love our country's freedom of speech, Madam Speaker. Dissent is how we nurture democracy and grow to be better, more humane, and just. This is why I oppose H. Res. 246.

All Americans have a constitutional right, guaranteed by the First Amendment, to freedom of speech, to petition their government, and to participate in boycotts.

Speech in pursuit of civil and human rights at home and abroad is protected by our First Amendment. That is one reason why our First Amendment is so powerful. With a few exceptions, the

government is simply not allowed to discriminate against speech based on its viewpoint or its speaker.

The right to boycott is deeply rooted in the fabric of our country. What was the Boston Tea Party but a boycott? Where would we be now without the boycott led by civil rights activists in the 1950s and 1960s, like the Montgomery bus boycott and United Farm Workers grape boycott.

Some of this country's most important advances in racial equality and equity and workers' rights have been achieved through collective action protected by our Constitution.

Americans of conscience have a long and proud history of participating in boycotts specifically to advocate for human rights abroad. Americans boycotted Nazi Germany in response to dehumanization, imprisonment, and genocide of Jewish people. In the 1980s, many of us in this very body boycotted South African goods in the fight against apartheid.

Our right to free speech is being threatened with this resolution. It sets a dangerous precedent because it attempts to delegitimize certain people's political speech and to send a message that our government can and will take action against speech it doesn't like.

Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court has, time and time again, recognized that expressive conduct is protected by the Constitution, from burning a flag to baking a cake. Efforts to restrict and target that protected speech run the risk of eroding the civil rights that form the foundation of our democracy.

All Americans have the right to participate in boycotts, and I oppose all legislative efforts that target speech.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress, State governments, and civil rights leaders from all communities to preserve our Constitution, preserve our Bill of Rights, and preserve the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech by opposing H. Res. 246 and antiboycott efforts wherever they arise.

□ 1215

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL WILLIAM "BILL" MCMILLAN, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Corporal William "Bill" McMillan, III. Corporal McMillan was a combat medic serving in Iraq when he lost his life in an IED attack on July 8, 2008.

The death of Corporal McMillan prompted his father, Lloyd, and Brad, his older brother, to write a poem about his sudden death entitled "The Medic's Last Patrol." It goes like this: As your Stryker rolls, you remember many missions through this long, tough fight.