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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 26, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRENDA L. LAWRENCE 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 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE FRANK GUARINI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Sires) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Sires. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great generosity and service of Frank Guarini, a former Member of this institution.

He was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, and has served his State and country through many numerous roles: as a naval officer, a state senator, a representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations,

and a Member of this House of Representatives for seven terms.

During his years on the House Committee on Ways and Means, Frank Guarini was a committed advocate for education.

Since retiring from Congress, he has remained a dedicated champion of education and public service, donating millions of dollars to support local universities and organizations.

He has provided funding to establish numerous institutes, including the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership at St. Peter's University, a nonpartisan forum that drives conversation about public policy and New Jersey's key issues.

He has donated to the New Jersey City University to support performing arts and scholarships designed for interdisciplinary urban studies, planning, and development.

Most recently, Frank Guarini has announced a \$10 million gift to St. Peter's University School of Business to expand and update the school's established new initiatives.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Frank Guarini for his generosity, his public service, his long-standing commitment to bolster education, and his support for his hometown of Jersey City. I thank Frank Guarini.

THE OPIOID CRISIS AND THE AICDAC GRANT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an ongoing epidemic that is plaguing most communities across the Nation. I am talking about the opioid crisis.

Far too many people have fallen victim to opioid abuse, and the statistics

in Pennsylvania are frightening. In the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is reported that 5,388 people died from drug overdose in 2017, many of them from opioid abuse.

Addiction does not discriminate. It does not see race, gender, or socio-economic status. There is not a community in our Nation that hasn't been impacted by opioid addiction in some way.

Before my time in Congress, I spent 28 years as a therapist and rehabilitation services manager. I have seen firsthand how addiction impacts families and our communities.

September is Recovery Month, and it is an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of substance abuse disorders.

To celebrate those who are helping combat the opioid crisis and those who are on the road to recovery, Clarion County recently celebrated Recovery Month by honoring first responders who have made an impact on the community.

Together, John Greenway, Farrah Murray, and Bridget Murray have saved 38 lives by delivering naloxone, the medication that counters the effects of opioid overdose.

At the award ceremony, Clarion resident Dustin Parsons told his story about his struggle with addiction, noting the help he received from the AICDAC, the Armstrong Indiana Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Dustin said: "During the last few years of my addiction, I was in a position where I could meet the AICDAC. They helped me get a lot of resources. I want to give back to the community. I try to convince other people that there is a way out of this."

The AICDAC works to prevent addiction and treat those who have fallen victim to opioid abuse, and they are the recent recipient of a \$1 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

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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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These funds will ensure the region will have substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services, especially when it comes to combating the opioid crisis affecting our communities.

The grant is being used to expand the commission's Addiction Recovery Mobile Outreach Team that services the three area hospitals to provide treatment and recovery 24/7.

Kami Anderson, Executive Director of AICDAC, said: "The commission will continue its work with county overdose task forces which are committed to reducing and eliminating the number of fatal opioid overdoses in the three-county area."

Recovery is incredibly important. The care the therapists, first responders, doctors, and addiction specialists provide can, in many cases, be the difference between life and death, but we must not overlook the critical importance of prevention efforts.

Earlier this month, the Trump administration announced \$1.8 billion to help States combat the opioid crisis. It is my hope that this will be a step in the right direction in healing and to rid this Nation of this health crisis.

RECOGNIZING RAY O'CANTO

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible individual, a man who is a beloved member of the San Joaquin Valley from Fresno, California, Mr. Ray O'Canto.

Sadly, Ray passed away 2 weeks ago after a short battle with cancer.

He was a native of the San Joaquin Valley, born in Visalia, and played baseball at the College of the Sequoias and his beloved Fresno State Bulldogs. He also served for many years as the voice of the Fresno State baseball team.

In 2008, when the Bulldogs went from the underdogs to the wonder dogs and made their improbable run to win the College World Series, the collegiate national championship. Ray was there with his excitement and his enthusiasm that spread throughout the valley.

He was also a popular media personality, hosting a show that showcased the food and history of the great San Joaquin Valley and the incredible cornucopia of products that we produce.

Those who knew Ray said he radiated positivity and enthusiasm in everything he did, and that was the case.

He loved our community, and his loss will be felt for a very long time.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our friend, Ray O'Canto.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month and the countless Hispanic Americans who have contributed

so much to the richness and diversity of our Nation.

Ray O'Canto was an example, but there are so many, many, many examples.

In my district, again in the San Joaquin Valley of California, the majority of our constituents trace their origin to Hispanic communities. Actually, in California, it goes back to the very origins of the State, about 400 years ago.

They, in so many different ways, reflect the diversity and the breadth and the width in our community and in our Nation in business, in education, in the military, in labor, in sports; meaningful contributions, working people that make a difference every day giving back.

The Hispanic community throughout our country reflects the American story, and that is the story, I believe, of the immigrant, immigrants past and immigrants present, all wanting to make a contribution and to live what we call the American Dream. The dream that is held near and dear by everyone throughout the world who admires and appreciates that America is a beacon of light, and certainly it has been for the Hispanic communities.

There are so many different individuals that I could recognize in my congressional district. I would like to mention a couple of individuals that I think reflect the temerity, the tenaciousness, and the willingness to give back.

Mr. Aguilera, a first-generation immigrant, worked his way from being homeless to owning his own business. He founded the Merced Soccer Academy, a local nonprofit organization which brings young people together to compete and to learn from one another. Every Monday, he hosts meetings for community members to share in events.

Another individual that I work with from the California Highway Patrol is Officer Aldo Garcia, also known as "El Protector". "The Protector" is a community outreach officer that focuses toward the Hispanic community. His emphasis on education, not just law enforcement, has broken down barriers for peace officers and created a more approachable situation.

There are so many examples: Jose Ramirez, a world champion boxer and an Olympic competitor; Tom Flores, two-time Superbowl championship coach for the Oakland Raiders. The list just goes on and on and on.

And guess what? All of these individuals and their families reflect immigrant origins coming to live the American Dream.

Isn't that really what it is all about? I believe so.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month and the noteworthy accomplishments that Hispanic Americans make throughout our country, serving in our Armed Forces, making the sacrifices that all Americans make. It is what makes our country the great country it is.

NATIONAL FAMILY MEALS MONTH

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of my favorite topics: supper.

Growing up a farm kid in rural Kansas, supper was always a great time, a special time. As a matter of fact, most everything I needed to ever learn, I learned at the supper table.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the celebration and importance of September as National Family Meals Month, a grassroots movement to raise awareness of the benefits of bringing families together around the supper table for frequent family meals.

Family meals are at a critical intersection in our Nation. The will to return to the table exists, but families need a friendly familiar voice to show them the way.

As a physician, a husband, a father, and now a grandfather, I can speak to the positive impact having one or more family meals around the table each week can create for families and communities.

I believe there are Main Street issues, economic issues, and then there are suppertime issues as well. It is the issues at the dinner table we need to be more focused on.

In my house, we traditionally have dinner each day at 6 p.m., no exceptions. My wife, Laina, has an open invitation policy at our dining table. Our family and friends, whoever is over at our house, knows they can always have a seat, and as my dad used to say: "We will just throw another potato in the pot." But one rule, they can't be late. And number two, you have to leave your cellphone in your bedroom.

We take the time to sit down without the day's distractions and discuss the issues impacting our lives and how we can provide support to one another.

Frequent family meals create stronger family relationships and provide opportunities to connect with loved ones and talk about your day. Eating together feeds the emotional well-being of all family members.

With the growing influence of social media and so many distractions, the table is one of the safe places left where families consistently can have a conversation together.

It is our local grocery stores that are helping bring families back to the table. They work to provide busy customers like you and me easy mealtime solutions and to realize the health and social benefits they contain.

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With our very trusted neighborhood grocery stores assisting us with our mealtime challenges, I know we can get back to the table.

Right now, let's each of us promise to have more family meals and to get together at least once a week, because at home, together, is how Kansans and