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No. 37

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 25, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O, God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, thank You for the spirit of contentment we can receive from You, bringing quietness and faith to our hearts.

Today, use our lawmakers for Your purposes, enabling them to live worthy of Your name. May the words they speak bring edification and unity, as our legislators build bridges of cooperation. Lord, give them the wisdom to depart from strife, remembering that soft answers turn away anger.

We pray in Your great name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

JOYCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UPCOMING CENSUS

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to a share story of the Ridley School District, which is leading the charge in our community to raise awareness of the importance of the upcoming Census.

Under the leadership of Kelli Mullany, the director of pupil services, the Ridley School District has launched a districtwide effort to ensure a complete and fair count in the 2020 Census.

Ten years ago, Pennsylvania undercounted over 25,000 children, resulting in a loss of nearly \$44 million in funding for critical programs like healthcare, SNAP, school lunches, affordable housing, teacher training, and classroom technology. These programs were all impacted by the undercount.

Since children are among those most likely to be undercounted, it is particularly important for schools like Ridley to promote a complete Census count. Community leaders like Kelli are working hard alongside local churches, preschools, shelters, housing authorities, public libraries and using social media to spread the word that we all count.

The Census is the basis for how the Federal Government distributes billions of tax dollars, so we need a complete count. Our children and our communities can't afford another

undercount this year. We all need to spread the word that the Census is easy, safe, and important.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA DEVORRIS COHEN

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrea Devorris Cohen, a dedicated community leader whose work has benefited the people of Blair County.

As the president of Lakemont Park, Andrea has led the recent transformation of this amusement park into a renewed recreational epicenter for our community. From new playgrounds and walking trails to batting cages and basketball courts, Lakemont Park has been restored to a beautiful facility where families and friends can gather together.

A homegrown Altoona leader and the daughter of Nancy and Don Devorris, Andrea has spent her career working for our community and improving the quality of life in Blair County. This week, she will be honored by the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission for her many contributions and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, we thank Andrea Devorris Cohen for her leadership in the revitalization of this historic recreational center, as well as her continued service to our community.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

□ 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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H1173

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 25, 2020, at 9:38 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 995.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

HONORING ROSA NACCARATO

(Mr. SUOZZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken in this Chamber before about my father's American success story as an Italian immigrant. Today, I rise to tell the story of another Italian immigrant success story, the story of my constituent's mother, Rosa Naccarato.

Rosa died unexpectedly this past Christmas, only 2 weeks shy of her 95th birthday.

In 1955, Rosa left Italy with her husband and six children, leaving behind her friends and family, all in pursuit of the American Dream. Think of the tears that were shed as family and a way of life were left behind and as they faced the unknown.

The Naccaratos arrived in America with only \$200 in their pocket. They worked hard and experienced tremendous hardships and personal affronts because they didn't speak English. But they refused to believe that they were second-class citizens.

They persevered, and their children all achieved tremendous success. Their son, Anthony Naccarato, my constituent, was recently installed as the New York State president of the Sons and Daughters of Italy.

Anthony asked me to speak up on behalf of his mother and all immigrants who make the leap of faith to leave everything behind and come to America to try and live the American Dream. Hopefully, Rosa Naccarato's story will inspire others to persevere through the hardships, the discrimination, and the outright disrespect.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Rosa Naccarato. God bless her, and God bless the United States of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1615

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Ms. SCANLON) at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

GOLD STAR SPOUSES AND SPOUSES OF INJURED SERVICEMEMBERS LEASING RELIEF EXPANSION ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2227) to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness or die while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2227

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Spouses and Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expansion Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF LEASES OF PREMISES AND MOTOR VEHICLES OF SERVICEMEMBERS WHO INCUR CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OR DIE WHILE IN MILITARY SERVICE.

(a) CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.—Paragraph (4) of section 305(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3955(a)), as added by section 545 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), is amended to read as follows:

"(4) CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OF LESSEE.—

"(A) TERMINATION.—If the lessee on a lease described in subsection (b) incurs a catastrophic injury or illness during a period of military service or while performing covered service, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the lessee incurs such injury or illness—

"(i) the lessee may terminate the lease; or

"(ii) in the case of a lessee who lacks the mental capacity to contract or to manage his or her own affairs (including disbursement of funds without limitation) due to such injury or illness, the spouse or dependent of the lessee may terminate the lease.

"(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) The term 'catastrophic injury or illness' has the meaning given that term in section 439(g) of title 37, United States Code.

"(ii) The term 'covered service' means full-time National Guard duty, active Guard and

Reserve duty, or inactive-duty training (as such terms are defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code)".

(b) DEATHS.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended by striking "The spouse of the lessee" and inserting "The spouse or dependent of the lessee".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2227, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2227, as amended, the Gold Star Spouses and Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expansion Act of 2019.

This bill was introduced by Representative CHERI BUSTOS of Illinois. I thank her for her work with the committee. It expands on the work the committee did last Congress with Representative BUSTOS to improve the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

This bill ensures that active and reserve component servicemembers and their spouses or dependents who are catastrophically injured while in service to this Nation have the ability to break their home and vehicle leases up to a year after their injury so that the family can modify their living situation to what best suits their new needs.

Servicemembers and families undergo difficult life transitions because of catastrophic injuries. Families should have the flexibility to be at their servicemember's side during recovery and the ability to easily move closer to family, friends, or other support networks.

Families dealing with the catastrophic injury of their loved ones should not have to worry about leases and cancellation fees.

Madam Speaker, this bill is an outgrowth of the bill Mrs. BUSTOS led last Congress and was the suggestion of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. It also clarifies similar legislation that passed in the National Defense Authorization Act last year.

H.R. 2227, as amended, would make it clear that catastrophically disabled servicemembers who have the mental capacity to terminate a lease may do so. It is not only spouses and dependents who are protected by the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Wenstrup, a former member of this committee, for his focus on the issue