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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 12, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUZAN K. DELBENE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House today as they leave for a week of constituent visits in their home districts. Protect them and all whom they encounter from the dangers of coronavirus infection, and help them to be of comfort and encouragement for people back home.

Help them to withstand open criticism when they know what is right before You and conscience. Often, they are characterized by half-truths and attributed motives that are far beneath them. Uphold them at such times with personal integrity and compassion for those most in need.

Continue to bless those who suffer with the virus infection and those whose labor is in treating this illness and finding effective cure.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VARGAS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMMEMORATING LEGACY OF HELEN FABELA CHAVEZ

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

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of International Women's Day.

Throughout our past, many men have been recognized for their impact on our society; however, it is extremely important that we recognize the many women who fueled social change.

Helen Fabela Chavez was one of these women.

Helen was born on January 21, 1928, in Brawley, California, a city in my district. Like many Chicano children in the early 20th century, Helen began working in the agricultural industry at the age of 7.

After marrying Cesar Chavez in 1948, Helen left the workforce to take care of her husband and their eight children.

However, after 10 years, Helen returned to the workforce as the breadwinner for the family while Cesar Chavez began to establish the National Farm Workers Association.

Helen and other Chicana members contributed greatly to the success of the union, and she later became the treasurer for what became the United Farm Workers.

I want to honor Helen Fabela Chavez, a woman who both raised and financially supported her family while also changing history from the grassroots up.

HONORING JACK CAMPBELL

(Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Jack Campbell, former commander of the Indian Trail VFW Post 2423. Sadly, Jack passed away March 10, 2020.

At 19 years old and weighing 100 pounds, Jack was too light to be drafted, but "things changed," in his words, and soon he was in Vietnam.

Jack's service to his country did not end abroad. Upon returning, he became

□ 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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commander of VFW Post 2423, captain of the Honor Guard, and District 13 commander for VFW North Carolina.

Jack was a patriot who valued service, the national anthem, and the American flag.

Citizens of Indian Trail have lost a pillar of the community.

May we all look to Mr. Campbell's example: a life well lived, dedicated to our country and everything for which it stands.

Jo and I send our thoughts and prayers to his family and loved ones.

UNITING TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, this week, coronavirus impacted my north Jersey community in a heart-breaking way.

Our thoughts are with the loved ones of Bergen County resident John Brennan, New Jersey's first life lost from coronavirus. Mr. Brennan was a lifetime horse trainer, a fixture at Yonkers Raceway, and a remarkable individual.

As of this morning, New Jersey now has 22 other presumed positive cases, several in my district alone.

North Jersey's hospitals and front-line medical professionals are working to contain the outbreak and keep our residents safe. I commend our counties and hospitals in New Jersey's Fifth District—New Bridge, Valley, Atlantic, Hackensack, Meridian, and Holy Name—for working so hard and working together and for holding daily calls to coordinate efforts to help combat the spread of the virus.

This week, I led members of our congressional delegation to ask the CDC when New Jersey should expect to receive confirmation of our pending presumed positive cases. We still have not received CDC confirmation of the tests that have been sent to the agency.

I know the CDC is working diligently to fight this crisis, but gaps in testing confirmation hinder our ability to mitigate the spread.

Now is the time for our country to come together—our great hospitals, the CDC, all levels of government—to ensure all Americans are safe.

There is nothing partisan about this moment. We must, as a country and as government, come together to fight the coronavirus and keep our families safe.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE BEST CHANCE TO MITIGATE CORONAVIRUS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, from the Oval Office, the President's address to the Nation last night stressed how important decisive action is today and in the future to prevent the spread of the virus tomorrow.

I commend the President for his latest measures to keep the country safe and to provide for its continued prosperity.

The travel ban from China proved to be a lifesaving choice for Americans, and I expect the European travel ban will provide a similar result and ability to hold off even worse results.

Should the House vote on a coronavirus package today, I would like to remind my colleagues that our local governments are the best chance we have of attacking this virus head-on.

The President has worked diligently to provide local public health officials the resources they need to mitigate the virus, including the rapid release of the funds from the emergency supplemental we passed last week.

Our cities and towns know the risks that their citizens face the best, and Congress should be doing all it can to take proper action in aiding them and, most importantly, our American citizens.

EXTEND CENSUS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today, the Census begins to reach out to households across America.

All communities across the country must be counted, particularly those that are hard-to-count communities.

The Census is for everybody. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we now face difficult challenges for the Census.

The Census must be extended an additional 3 months so we can get an accurate count.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Today we begin the census for families across the country. But due to the coronavirus pandemic we are going to face grand obstacles. The Census should be extended for 3 months to ensure a precise count.

Hoy comenzamos el conteo del censo para familias a través del país pero por la creciente epidemia del coronavirus vamos a tener grandes obstáculos. El censo debe de ser extendido por tres meses para tener un conteo preciso.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

CONGRATULATING KENT FOUNTAIN

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kent Fountain for being elected the National Cotton Council chairman for 2020.

Mr. Fountain is an excellent choice for this important role and knows the cotton industry inside and out.

He is the president and CEO of Southeastern Gin and Peanut and has won numerous awards, including Southeastern Ginner of the Year in 2001 and the Horace Hayden National Ginner of the Year in 2016.

Additionally, Mr. Fountain works as the director of Cotton Council International, which promotes American cotton abroad.

With cotton being so critical to Georgia's economy, I am proud that we have someone from our State with so much expertise leading the national cotton industry.

Kent, congratulations on your election. Keep up the good work.

HIGHLIGHTING NASA'S ARTEMIS PROGRAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the NASA "be an astronaut" program.

For the first time in 4 years, NASA is accepting applications for a new class of astronauts.

Space exploration is a rich piece of modern American history, and thanks to the new Artemis program, it will remain a part of our future.

Artemis will send the first woman and another man to the South Pole of the Moon by 2024 and allow us to establish a permanent presence on the Moon by 2028.

Our Nation's astronauts help execute a bold vision for science and for exploration. Aspiring astronauts have the opportunity to join NASA for this new chapter in space exploration.

Applications are being accepted through March 31 at www.USAJOBS.com. U.S. citizens with a master's degree in a STEM field, 2 years of related experience, and a passing physical exam are eligible to apply.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all eligible space lovers and travelers to apply for this incredible opportunity.

BILL PUTS INTERESTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BEFORE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5518, the Access to Counsel Act.

This bill would provide illegal immigrants the right to counsel immediately upon crossing our sovereign border, and American taxpayers, by the way, would be picking up the tab.

This legislation doesn't address the humanitarian crisis at the border. It doesn't help women and children being exploited by the drug cartels. It doesn't