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No. 9

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 15, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIM STAPLES

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Tim Staples, a devoted husband, brother, son, and teacher. Tim gave his life working to save the life of another.

As a volunteer for search and rescue team of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Tim joined the search for a missing hiker last month on California's Mount Baldy. Trag-

ically, this would be Tim's final rescue operation.

Despite the risks, Tim's endless dedication to serving others guided him through 9 years as a volunteer with the search and rescue team, where he assisted countless operations to help save the lives of fellow San Bernardino County residents.

But his passion for search and rescue was not the extent of Tim's desire to serve his community. Tim's desire to serve the community spanned across education and community and civic activities.

He grew up in San Bernardino County, attending Damien High School in La Verne before getting his college education at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Tim was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout before becoming an Eagle Scout. He completed the Buckskin Leadership training and dedicated his time to training other Scouts.

Tim was an educator, spending his career as a teacher and coach at both St. Lucy's High School in Glendora and at his alma mater in Damien.

He is remembered by his family and friends for his love of helping others and often helping complete strangers. From stopping traffic to help push a car through a crowded intersection to driving over 2,000 miles to help a friend move, Tim was always willing to put his full energy and effort behind helping other people, including on his last day.

He is survived by his two sisters, his parents, and his loving wife, Katie.

Tim's students, athletes, friends, family, and all of San Bernardino County are better off as the result of Tim's endless compassion and drive to serve others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT HARRY AMIGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sergeant Harry Amigh, a resident of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, and a Korean war veteran.

Sergeant Amigh enlisted in the United States Army in 1948 and would go on to serve in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, one of the Korean war's greatest battles. Sergeant Amigh was killed in action during that battle at just 20 years old.

Though his military career ended far too soon, Sergeant Harry Amigh left an incredible legacy behind. I am humbled to be joining the Amigh family this Friday, January 17, to honor his legacy and present the family with seven military awards and medals in his memory.

Sergeant Amigh is the recipient of a: Purple Heart; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Star;

Combat Infantryman Badge; United Nations Service Medal; Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal; and.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

The men and women who have chosen to dedicate their lives to defending the United States are among the most courageous citizens.

Sergeant Amigh loved his country, and he fought valiantly for his country. For that, we are forever indebted to Sergeant Amigh and the many men and women like him who made the ultimate sacrifice.

IN SUPPORT OF IRANIAN PROTESTERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of and as a cosponsor of House Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY's H. Res. 791, supporting the protesters in Iran. H. Res. 791 serves notice to the Iranian regime that the United States is watching and the world is watching.

□ 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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Sadly, yesterday, my Democratic colleagues blocked a vote on this resolution that expressed support of antigovernment protestors in Iran and condemned Iran's role in the downing of a Ukrainian civilian aircraft last week.

So what was in this resolution that motivated my Democratic colleagues to prevent consideration?

The resolution would have condemned the Government of Iran for killing 1,500 Iranian citizens who were protesting their government as well as condemned the Government of Iran for shooting down Ukraine International Airlines flight 752, killing 176 people.

In addition, the resolution, in section 3, "condemns the Government of Iran for repeatedly lying to its people and to the world about its responsibility for the downing of Ukraine International Airlines flight 752"; section 4, "calls on the Government of Iran to, A, refrain from the use of violence, and, B, protect the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; and," section 5, "supports the protestors in Iran, their demands for accountability, and their desire for the Government of Iran to respect freedom and human rights."

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that my Democratic colleagues would block a measure expressing support of freedom and human rights, principles that should be afforded to all persons.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ENEDINA CELIZ RAPAN

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and recognize the incredible life of Enedina Celiz Rapan, who passed away this month at the age of 93.

I was raised in a farmworker community with farmworker parents in the eastern Coachella Valley, where, for many of us, hardship and injustice can feel like the norm; and if it weren't for women like Enedina Rapan, many of us would still believe that it is true, and we would not be standing where we are today.

Enedina came to America at a young age to work hard, earn her living, and give her children a better life. And while she was working away in the fields, sweating in 120-degree heat with calloused hands, she witnessed the mistreatment of her fellow farmworkers and she saw their suffering.

If there is one thing about Enedina, it is that, when she saw injustice, she would speak up and get to work to fix it. So, when she saw farmworkers laboring for hours on end with no bathrooms nearby, she fought to bring restrooms to the fields. And when she saw seniors in the community going hungry, she organized, asking for donations and cooking meals so they could have dinner to eat.

And Enedina devoted her life to standing up for people who were mis-

treated, discriminated against, and vulnerable. There was no voice too soft that Enedina didn't hear and elevate.

Enedina was a giant for our community, working with the United Farm Workers of America, Cesar Chavez, and Lideres Campesinas to stand up for the rights of farmworkers. She used her tireless will and unmatched strength to pick people up, fight for what is right, and make the Coachella Valley a better place for everyone who lives there.

I am better off because of Enedina's work. My family and the entire farmworker community of the Coachella Valley, we are all better off because of Enedina's work.

And she would not be happy with me for being up here talking about her, because she was so humble. A woman who elevated everyone's voice around her, she would never seek this type of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to make sure the country knows Enedina's story. I want to make sure you know about her contributions to our community and her unrelenting pursuit of justice.

Enedina will be sorely missed, but her presence will be felt and her life, an inspiration for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PETRA RUIZ OF COACHELLA VALLEY

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the Nation about the life and legacy of Petra Ruiz of the Coachella Valley.

Petra Ruiz was an organizer, activist, and leader who used her life to stand up for farmworking women across California.

As the son of farmworkers in the eastern Coachella Valley, I am all too familiar with the social, economic, and political hardships the farmworking community faces on a daily basis. The struggles can often be so great that you have to have someone or something to look to for inspiration. For me, and for so many of us in the Coachella Valley, Petra Ruiz was one such inspiration.

Petra was a fierce and loving leader who was held in high esteem, even by the people who didn't agree with what she had to say. But it was hard not to agree with what she had to say. You see, Petra believed in helping farmworking women across California advocate for themselves, for their families, and for their communities in the struggle for equality and their basic human rights.

Petra got involved in the union movement in the 1970s and was a warrior for justice and equality within the farmworking community through her final days.

A phrase that I have heard repeatedly in talking with members of the community and with her family is "she was always there." Petra was always there.

Even as a mother and a grandmother to a big family, she worked with the United Farm Workers of America and as a member of Lideres Campesinas to

advocate for the rights of the farmworker community. Petra led marches; she attended meetings; she would even go door-to-door with flyers making sure that farmworkers knew their rights.

Petra was a remarkable woman, revered, admired, a mover and shaker, an effective leader who led with her actions as much as she did by her words. She inspired me to never say no to my dreams, to pursue justice at every turn, and to always believe I could make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, while she is missed dearly, Petra's legacy didn't end with her passing. Her impact is felt today and will continue in the lives of generations to come.

TIME TO BURN THE BEETLE IN NORTH DAKOTA

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, this weekend will be time to burn the beetle. I am talking about the mountain pine beetle and the damage it has done to the majestic Black Hills National Forest. In recent years, that pine beetle has infected 430,000 acres in the Black Hills, leaving millions of dead trees.

Now, the pine beetle thrives in an overly crowded forest. It craves density. So to tackle this problem, Federal, State, and local governments and private citizens have set to work thinning the forest.

Initially, from the very beginning, it has been the State and local partners that have been most proactive and aggressive; but, in recent years, Federal policies have helped as well.

The Forest Service started utilizing the categorical exclusions in the 2014 and the 2018 farm bills, allowing them to more quickly utilize sound forest management practices like tree thinning and controlled burns.

This picture tells the story well. In areas where the forest has been actively managed, the trees live; in areas where they have not been, they die. And now, today, after years of battle, it seems as though we are nearing the end of this particular outbreak.

That is good news, but it is no time to take our foot off the gas. One key action needed is to continue working with the timber industry to set and meet good harvest targets so we can get that excess timber out of the forest.

Mr. Speaker, I started my comments by noting that it was time to burn the beetle, and in Custer, South Dakota, this weekend, that is exactly what they will do at their Burning Beetle arts festival.

It is a good opportunity for us to remember the damage that has been done—430,000 acres—but also to remember the importance of good management, of good stewardship, and of good