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No. 159

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 15, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN 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 9:50 a.m.

CASEY COUNTY FLOODING

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage this body to keep Casey County, Kentucky, in your thoughts and prayers.

On Sunday, the community experienced flooding that impacted multiple businesses, roads and homes in the area.

This is not the first time the community has experienced flood waters, with the "great flood" that occurred in 2010.

The community came together during that flood, and I know they will once again unite to tackle this tremendous challenge.

Casey County is a resilient community where people look out for each other and help their neighbors in times of need. As they continue to weather this challenge, I would like to encourage anyone in or around Casey County to reach out to my office for any assistance they may need moving forward.

HONORING TOMMY WILLETT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear friend, political teacher, community leader, and statesman, Tommy Willett, who passed away on September 8.

Tommy served as my Monroe County Judge/Executive from 2011 to 2018. Under his steady leadership, Monroe County saw unique and unprecedented cooperation among various elected officials, which was clearly reflected in his running unopposed for reelection on 2014.

I knew Tommy Willett my entire life. He owned Pure Drug Pharmacy in Tompkinsville and was always active in the world-famous Monroe County political scene. As a young, aspiring candidate for public office, Tommy took me under his wing and taught me so much about grass-roots organization, political strategy, and get-out-to-vote techniques.

Tommy's beloved wife, Elizabeth Young Willett, preceded him in death. Ms. Willett was my high school English teacher, and one of the best ever at Monroe County High School. Tommy is survived by his two, fine sons, James and Scott Willett.

Judge Willett lived a life of public service and professional achievement. He was a true Monroe County success story who will be deeply missed.

HONORING DR. LEANN DALTON COOPER

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Leann Dalton Cooper,

who has been selected by the Kentucky Family Medicine as the State's top, young doctor. She is a native of Russell County and a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. For the past 3 years, she has practiced medicine in Russell County. Dr. Cooper will receive the award at a ceremony in Louisville on September 25.

Mr. Speaker, I join with everyone in Russell County and throughout the Commonwealth in honoring her on this outstanding statewide achievement.

HONORING SENIOR CENTERS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the valuable services that our senior centers in Kentucky are providing for senior citizens throughout the First Congressional District.

Along with essential workers, senior centers have provided crucial services to our elderly populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the country has learned to adapt to different times, senior centers have also modified their services. For instance, the Union County Senior Services organization had to cancel potlucks, exercise classes, and bingo sessions. While those in-person activities were unfortunately suspended, the dedicated servants who make up this organization dramatically increased options for home delivery and meal pickup for area residents.

In addition to providing meals, the Union County Senior Services also distributes food grocery items for the senior citizens. Just recently, they even hit a tremendous milestone of 15,000 meals prepared since the beginning of the pandemic. Their tremendous contributions have been replicated in the entire region, showing that Kentuckians truly have each other's backs during times of need.

As a lead Republican cosponsor of the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, I understand the critical services

□ 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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senior centers provide for the elderly. I stand today to recognize all the hard work and dedications these centers provide throughout the First District of Kentucky.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, as a liberated Democrat to say that the moral movement for justice everywhere cannot condone injustice anywhere. We cannot allow ourselves to be induced to believe that there is a binary choice, that we must choose either peace officers or peaceful protesters.

No, there is a righteous choice. And the righteous choice will cause us to conclude that we must choose justice for the police just as we choose justice for the protestors. Crimes committed against the police must be punished and crimes committed by the police must be punished.

We are a Nation of laws, and if the law is to prevail, all criminals must be punished. But not only must they be punished; they must be punished expeditiously against those who commit crimes against people just as we would have them be punished expeditiously against those who commit crimes against the police. "Injustice anywhere," as Dr. King put it, "is a threat to justice everywhere."

Mr. Speaker, I stand and I rise as a liberated Democrat to say we cannot condone crimes against the police nor can we condone crimes committed by the police.

SOLIDARITY WITH BELARUS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong solidarity with the citizens and the political dissidents of Belarus.

On August 9, 2020, Belarus held its presidential election with its incumbent President, Alexander Lukashenko, claiming victory with over 80 percent of the vote. Both the United States and the European Union have called the elections "neither fair or free," as the Lukashenko regime restricted ballot access for candidates, prohibited local independent observers, and employed intimidation tactics against opposition candidates.

Mass protests erupted following the election. Tens of thousands of protestors took to the street to express their disapproval of Lukashenko and his administration. His regime responded with excessive force to quell the protests, including the use of live and rubber ballots, leading to thousands of Belarusian citizens being either detained or arrested. It appears likely that violent crackdowns will continue.

Mr. Speaker, included in these arrests are several opposition leaders, including former presidential candidates Sergei Tikhonovskiy, Viktor Babaryka, Coordination Council members Liliya Vlasova, Sergei Dylevsky, Maria Kalesnikava, and Maxim Znak, as well as several of their staff and volunteers, Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, the opposition presidential nominee, was forced to flee the country, as was opposition leader Veronika Tsepkalo and her husband, former presidential nominee, Valery Tsepkalo.

None of the dissidents have been given a fair trial, and all of them have had their human rights denied. As I think about the current situation in Belarus, I am reminded of President Ronald Reagan's speech to Soviet dissidents at Spaso House in 1988. President Reagan made two things clear that day: The United States' commitment to human rights are, and will continue to be, fundamental and unwavering, and that through strength, determination, and prayer, there is nothing you cannot conquer.

Reagan also said in that speech, "While we press for human rights through diplomatic channels, you press with your very lives, day in, day out, year after year, risking your jobs, your homes, your all."

Mr. Speaker, while the people of Belarus continue their tireless fight for human rights, the United States should be working with our European partners and allies to impose new sanctions on those responsible not only for voter repression, but also for the violent crackdowns that follow the election.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of 28 individuals.

BELARUS SANCTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Alexander Lukashenko, President (Notes: Ordering the blatant falsification of presidential voting, commission of acts of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opponents and journalists.)

2. Lydia Yermishina, Chairwoman, Central Election Commission (Notes: Multiple cases of election fraud and falsification, criminal misconduct concerning the tabulation of balance and miss reporting election results.)

3. Yuriy Karaev, Minister of Interior (Notes: Commission of acts of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

4. Valeriy Vakaluchik, Director, KGB (Notes: Ordering and implementing acts of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

5. Viktor Lukashenko, counselor to the president on national security (Notes: Organization and implementation of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

6. Dimitri Lukashenko, son of Alexander Lukashenko (Notes: Sanctions imposed by extension to family members.)

7. Dimitriy Balaba, special police unit, Minsk (Notes: Commission of acts of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of

detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

8. Ivan Kubrakov, Director of Minsk police department (Notes: Commission of acts of violence against peaceful protesters, portrait detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

9. Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister (Notes: Organization of falsification of elections.)

10. Igor Sergeenko, Head of presidential administration (Notes: Organization of falsification of elections.)

11. Viktor Sheyman, Chief Manager of the President (Notes: Persecution of political opponents of Alexander Lukashenko.)

12. Dimitriy Pavlichenko, Head of the Association of Veterans of the Special Forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ex-commander of Military Unit 3214; Ex-commander of SOBR. (Notes: Unofficially commanded the special forces who violently dispersed protesters in Minsk.)

13. Ivan Tertel, Chairman of the State Control Committee (Notes: The official initiator of the Belgazprombank case and the arrest of presidential candidate Viktor Babariko along with his relatives, friends, and employees.)

14. Oleg Slizhevsky, Minister of Justice (Notes: Sanctions imposed by extension to leading officials on account of the Belarusian government's suppression of free and fair elections and subsequent abuses.)

15. Petr Miklashevich, President of the Constitutional Court (Notes: Sanctions imposed by extension to leading officials on account of the Belarusian government's suppression of free and fair elections and subsequent abuses.)

16. Valentin Sukalo, President of the Supreme Court (Notes: Sanctions imposed by extension to leading officials on account of the Belarusian government's suppression of free and fair elections and subsequent abuses.)

17. Aleksandr Konyuk, Prosecutor General (Notes: Provision of official justification for the brutal crackdowns on protesters and involvement in the manufactured prosecution of members of the opposition.)

18. Ivan Noskevish, Chairman of the Investigative Committee (Notes: Falsification of criminal cases against protesters.)

19. Vladimir Karanik, Minister of Health (Notes: Dissemination of misinformation about the orchestration of medical protests.)

20. Ivan Eysmont, Chairman of State Broadcasting "Belteleradiocompany" (Notes: Organization of falsification of elections.)

21. Igor Lutskiy, Minister of Information (Notes: Organization of falsification of elections.)

22. Viktor Hrenin, Minister of Defense (Notes: Sanctions imposed by extension to leading officials on account of the Belarusian government's suppression of free and fair elections and subsequent abuses.)

23. Major General Yuri Nazarenko, Deputy Minister of the Interior and Commander of the Interior Armed Forces, former Chief of Staff of the Lukashenko Security Service (Notes: Commission of acts of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

24. Vladimir Zhiznevsky, Commander of the Internal Army Unit No. 3214 (Notes: Commission of acts of violence against peaceful protesters, torture of detainees, inhumane detainment conditions, persecution of political opposition and journalists.)

25. Alexander Bykov, Commander of the Special Rapid Reaction Force (COBP) (Notes: Commission of acts of violence against