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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 29, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUSAN WILD 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 4, 2021, 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.

RECOGNIZING HEROES AND VICTIMS IN COLLIERVILLE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, last week, our community in Collierville, Tennessee, experienced a horrific tragedy.

On Thursday, September 23, last week, a gunman opened fire at the Kroger on Byhalia Road. Fifteen people were shot, and one woman, Olivia King, a mother and grandmother, died as a result of her injuries in the hospital later that day.

Roberta and I are praying for Olivia King's children, her family, and her friends at this difficult time.

As Collierville Alderman Maureen Fraser said: "Everybody needs to be more like Olivia King. She was very kind, very generous, very Christian, and a rule-follower."

Our hearts go out to all the victims, their loved ones, and everyone in the entire community who has been impacted.

I want to quote Collierville Police Chief Dale Lane, who said that Collierville is "one of the most resilient communities in America." I believe that this is an absolutely true statement.

On that tragic day, we witnessed our brave heroes—law enforcement officers, Federal agents, firefighters, EMTs, doctors, nurses, and other local officials—spring into action. Not a single person hesitated to act or tend to a person in need.

Their training and selfless actions helped save people's lives that day. There is no doubt about it. I cannot thank enough everyone for their incredible bravery and courage that day.

The collaboration and cooperation between all the law enforcement agencies and all the first responders was tremendous. These agencies included: the Collierville Police Department; the Collierville Fire Department; the Shelby County Sheriff's Office; the Germantown Police Department; the Germantown Fire Department; the Memphis Police Department; the Memphis Fire Department; the Bartlett Fire Department; the Bartlett Police Department; the Fayette County Sheriff's Office; the DeSoto County, Mississippi, Sheriff's Office; the Tennessee Highway Patrol; the FBI; and other Federal law enforcement agencies. They worked flawlessly together to address and handle the situation in a timely and professional manner.

I also commend Collierville Police Chief Dale Lane's strong and effective

leadership, and I thank his entire staff for their heroism. Special commendation also goes to Collierville Fire Chief Buddy Billings and his men and women for their swift action that prevented the additional loss of life.

Further, I want to recognize all the first responders, the doctors, the surgeons, the nurses, and their staff for delivering the necessary and immediate care to these victims.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner, Town Administrator James Lewellen, and Collierville Municipal School Board Chairman Wright Cox for their continued and strong leadership.

Mayor Joyner issued a proclamation declaring tomorrow, September 30, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., as a day of prayer and meditation for the town of Collierville and her victims.

The people of Collierville are strong and resilient. They will always remain Collierville Strong.

PASS TRANSFORMATIONAL CLIMATE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, Americans nationwide have felt the impact of this year's extreme weather, from flooding to wildfires to record heat. In Washington State, heat domes in June and August of this year have caused hundreds to die of heat exposure, roads and highways to buckle, and shellfish to broil in their streams.

The iconic Mount Rainier, one of the snowiest places on Earth, was not immune to this. The unprecedented heat, nearly 40 degrees above the previous recorded high, has had a devastating impact on the mountain. This image shows Mount Rainier during most of the summer, its sides bare, compared to its typical snow cover.

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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For longtime residents of Washington State, it is jarring to see Mount Rainier without snow on its peak. In just 4 days this summer, 4 days in late June, the peak of the heat dome, the mountain lost 30 percent of its total snow cover. This is a visual demonstration that climate change is real.

The lack of snow became more notable as the summer progressed, and this heat is an ecological issue and an economic issue. Washington State's shellfish industry is among the largest in the Nation, contributing \$270 million to the State economy and supporting nearly 3,000 jobs.

The heat dome this summer devastated shellfish farms that make up the core of this industry. Shellfish growers reported shellfish baking to death, literally, in shallow water and on the beach. Taylor Shellfish, located in my district, reported losing over 2 million clam seeds.

As our planet warms and climate change takes hold, these extreme weather events are becoming more common, costing lives and critically damaging our environment and our economy.

Against this backdrop, our need to pass transformational climate change legislation becomes even more stark and more urgent. We must invest in electric vehicle infrastructure. We must dramatically expand public transit. We must build an energy grid using renewable sources of power.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create tens of thousands of jobs and build a sustainable society for future generations. My district, my State, and our planet depend on it.

INDEPENDENCE IN INDIAN COUNTRY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, October 11 is, in South Dakota, Native American Day.

Now, when America turns its eyes to Indian reservations, so often—too often—the focus is on poverty, despair, dysfunction. But there are wonderful stories from Indian Country as well, stories of hope, opportunity, hard work, success, entrepreneurship.

With that in mind, I want to talk to you about Tashina Red Hawk. She is a 17-year-old member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is an excellent student, and she is a rodeo queen. She is my friend, and let me tell you, Madam Speaker, she is impressive.

Tashina graduated early from high school, and then, when the pandemic hit and her college classes went online, rather than do what so many teens did, spending more time on social media or video games, she decided to become an entrepreneur. It is just an amazing story.

Her local coffee shop had remained closed during the pandemic, so Tashina

saw an opportunity. She wanted to save money for college.

Again, as I said, she is an excellent student. She wants to be a veterinarian. Now, she knows that path is not going to be easy, and it is going to take a few dollars in the bank. She knew that this business opportunity would give her a wonderful chance.

Here she is in front of Tashina's Coffee. She also wanted to make sure that her local community, her small town, had the same amenities that large towns do, and I think we can all agree that a powerful cup of coffee is a great amenity. From firsthand experience, I can tell you that her coffee really is excellent.

She works so hard, Madam Speaker, long days, long weeks, to make this business a success. Tashina is passionate about instilling a sense of independence and hard work among other young people on her reservation.

This woman is going places. I am proud to say that she is my friend.

Her father sums it up well. He said, Tashina "is not a victim. She is an advocate."

Now, Tashina's story is one of many throughout Indian Country and the State of South Dakota that don't get the attention that they deserve. I think of so many Tribal leaders that I have met with over the years who choose self-reliance: Leslie Crow, our office's inaugural Ben Reifel fellow. She is a teacher, a college instructor, a small business woman.

I think of Lakota Vogel. She is the executive director of the Four Bands Community Fund, and she works with Tribal members to build economic opportunity on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

I think of Myrna Thompson, secretary of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, whose long-term service as secretary of that Tribe has been a consistent and reliable source of leadership for her people.

Madam Speaker, there are so many others. It has been clear to me that Native American people across this country are resilient. And those who choose hard work and independence over reliance, they are so often successful, and they are so often strong.

They provide us a great opportunity. We can be more like them. We can be more like Tashina and Lakota and Leslie and Myrna.

This Native American Day, we should all take a moment to admire their hard work and entrepreneurship, and we should follow their example. If there were more Tashina Red Hawks, we would have a better Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH JEAN BECK VUNA

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true public servant. We use that term frequently

and often too casually, but the individual I am speaking about unquestionably defines the term and sets an example we should all strive to achieve.

Elizabeth Jean Beck Vuna has served as my district office casework manager for 20 years. She has served the Congress and the American people for over 33 years. Prior to serving my constituents, she worked for Congressman Glenn Anderson and Congressman Stephen Horn from Long Beach, California.

It is worth noting that the bitter partisan politics of today have never touched Elizabeth's commitment to service. She has worked for Democrats and Republicans without concern for political philosophy. It is that dedication, that determination to help people, and that diligence that truly makes her irreplaceable.

Elizabeth will be retiring on September 30. When she does, we will be losing one of the most effective and compassionate caseworkers in the history of the Congress. Yes, I know that sounds boastful, but it is quite simply the truth.

Little did I know when I hired Elizabeth in 2002 what a profound impact she would have on the lives of so many of my constituents and on me.

Elizabeth began her career in public service because, when her brother returned home from the Vietnam war, he could find no assistance for his PTSD and Agent Orange-related illnesses. She decided it would be her mission to ensure that other veterans would not face a similar fate and often focused her efforts in helping veterans obtain the benefits they so richly deserved.

She also felt an affinity for immigrants since she and her husband adopted five orphaned children from Tonga. That experience led her to become a local expert in international adoption.

Her compassion for all immigrants also led her to become a recognized expert in the field, and she diligently advocated for all immigrants to be afforded all the benefits legally available to them.

The number of constituents Elizabeth has helped in a substantive manner are in the tens of thousands, and I am probably undercounting.

She has mentored other congressional staff and given guidance and direction to everyone who was lucky enough to ask her to do so.

Not a week goes by that I do not hear from some of my constituents about this miracle or feat that she accomplished on their behalf, whether it is large or small.

As her retirement became known, my office received dozens of emails thanking her for her service and asking if she couldn't stay just a little longer.

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She has assisted the many studios in my district as well as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology, but perhaps