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No. 149

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 14, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MORGAN LUTTRELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, 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.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PACHUCO ZOOT SUITS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 45th anniversary of El Pachuco Zoot Suits stores in Fullerton, California. El Pachuco is a very important cornerstone of our community in Orange County.

Phyllis Estrella first heard the word "Pachuco" in the 1940s and 1950s when this word was linked to racial tension and riots in Los Angeles, California.

Later, in the summer of 1978, she was inspired by the Luis Valdez production centered on the Pachuco and the iconic zoot suit. She opened up an El Pachuco Zoot Suits store that year.

Now, high schoolers across Orange County wear zoot suits to proms and graduations, bringing dignity and pride to the name "El Pachuco."

Congratulations to Phyllis and the entire El Pachuco Zoot Suits team for 45 years and 45 years to go.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MINH TAM NGUYEN

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a beloved member of the Orange County community, Mr. Minh Tam Nguyen.

Minh was a Lieutenant Colonel in the South Vietnamese Navy. After the war, Minh and his family sought refuge in America and made southern California their home.

Minh was a pillar for Little Saigon and the Vietnamese-American community across the United States. He started Advance Beauty College to provide for his family and encourage other Vietnamese families to become nail technicians.

He was known as the Godfather of Manicures, and his work as an entrepreneur opened and provided for the community and those like him who left everything behind in Vietnam for a better life in America.

Today, more than 40,000 students have graduated from Minh's beauty salon and school. His children, Linh and Tam, continue to carry his legacy in Orange County and all over the United States.

Minh is the American Dream. His story is the story of Little Saigon, entrepreneurship, and of the American melting pot.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Minh for his hard work. May he rest in peace. His memory lives forever.

BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about how the crisis created at our border by President Biden's executive orders is affecting my city and also the Senate's refusal to pass H.R. 2, the border security act that we passed in May.

In addition, it is only exacerbated by Mayor Eric Adams' insistence that these individuals who enter our country are entitled to free housing at taxpayer expense. New York City has now over 200 shelters and is housing more illegal immigrants than actual citizens of New York.

Not all of these individuals are innocent asylum seekers. Let's be honest and let's be clear. First of all, many of them are using the generosity of this country to gain entry. We know that more than half, between 50 percent and two-thirds, of these individuals are denied their asylum cases when they come to court. There are also many who have already been arrested for committing crimes in our community.

At just one of the 205 migrant shelters, the Roosevelt Hotel, there have been dozens of arrests, mostly for domestic violence, robberies, and assaulting police officers, as well. Earlier this year, four individuals that were housed at the Watson Hotel were arrested for shoplifting tens of thousands of dollars' worth of merchandise from Macy's at Roosevelt Field Mall.

Just this week, an illegal immigrant, who was previously released from Customs and Border Protection and the New York State Police was arrested for a murder on September 2. He was in our country and on our streets, despite having a warrant out for his arrest for a previous stabbing.

There were two individuals who are accused of sexual assault in Erie County in western New York. Even the Erie

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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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County executive, an elected Democrat, has had enough of what is going on, demanding that Mayor Adams pause putting more of these asylum seekers in his community until these security threats are addressed.

Now, this Monday, we marked 22 years since the 9/11 attacks. Democrats and Republicans say, "never forget," yet here we are in a situation with an open border that just in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, 146 people who appeared on the FBI terror watch list were apprehended at our southern border. Combined with the last fiscal year, we are talking about 250 individuals.

What we should be more concerned about, however, are the 1.7 million individuals who are the got-aways, meaning they had zero interaction with our law enforcement or our government. They are in the interior of the country. We don't know who they are. We don't know where they are. We don't know what their intentions are. That is the estimate that CBP is saying.

Yes, we have had millions of people cross our border, but guess what? There are 1.6 million of them who we don't know who they are or what their intentions are. This should be concerning, considering that the FBI has just confirmed that ISIS is smuggling Uzbek asylum seekers across our southern border. An Iranian national was caught in the interior after Iran has threatened revenge and harsh retaliation against the United States, and they said they are going to conduct terrorism on our soil. Yes, the same Iran that Joe Biden just gave \$6 billion to.

More than 107,000 Americans died from overdoses last year, and two-thirds of those deaths are attributed to mostly fentanyl. The DEA recently made over 3,000 arrests of drug cartel networks operating right here in the United States of America thanks to Joe Biden's open border. The deaths are equivalent to a commercial airline crashing every single day.

I ask my colleagues on the Senate side: When are you going to pass our H.R. 2, our border security act? If the President is not going to undo his executive orders, we need to take action. The House passed it. Unfortunately, I think every Democrat in this Chamber voted against it. Let's see the Senate do its job and pass H.R. 2. If the President is not going to undo the crisis that he created, then we must do it for him.

LABOR CRISIS FOR FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I have spoken to farmers in my district and I have heard from many across the country. No matter where I go or who I speak with, there is a common topic on everyone's mind and that is labor.

The changes coming down from the Department of Labor are causing a scramble, and many are left scratching their heads, trying to figure out what is going on and, above all, if they can afford to continue operating their farms.

Mr. Speaker, it would be great to hear from someone, anyone, to share their thoughts, to share the rationale and to explain the timing.

It is unacceptable for individuals with contracts to feel at their wit's end. It is unacceptable for individuals with contracts to believe they are being pushed to the brink and to hear nothing.

Many believe wage enforcement officers may target them if they ask too many questions, ask what is going on, or speak up.

Mr. Speaker, this must be addressed. All people are asking for is information. They want transparency. They want to know what is going on. They want respect.

RECOGNIZING MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michigan Veteran Homes in my district in Chesterfield.

I was fortunate enough to recently visit this facility and spend time learning from the great folks caring for so many of Michigan's heroes. This great facility provides veterans with top-level care, from physical rehabilitation programs, memory stimulation, and all the way up to full-term care.

The Chesterfield staff honorably serves our veterans with the utmost dignity, which is something veterans deserve. I am so proud to have an organization like this in Michigan's Ninth District, and I am especially proud of the outstanding work Michigan Veteran Homes in Chesterfield does every single day.

PRESIDENT BIDEN IS NEGOTIATING WITH TERRORISTS

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anger. I am angry that President Biden is quite literally negotiating with terrorists and plans to release to Iran \$6 billion in frozen assets.

Do you know what negotiating with terrorists leads to? I will share with you what that leads to: more Americans being kidnapped for ransom. Connect the dots, people. It is not that tough.

This is an absolute embarrassment to our country and a complete and utter failure of Biden's foreign policy yet again. Make no mistake about it. The \$6 billion that Biden is so casually handing over to Tehran, what will it be used for? It will be used to fund State-sponsored terrorism.

Let us not forget what happened on 9/11. This is on the heels of 9/11. We are incentivizing terrorism by giving our

enemies \$6 billion. We can't be this asleep at the wheel; but he is. This will destabilize the Middle East and put our allies at grave risk.

Let me be clear. This is not diplomacy or statesmanship. This is signing a deal with the devil.

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Mr. Speaker, I rise today because my home State of Michigan and our entire country is at a crossroads.

This coming Friday, the United Auto Workers are likely going to strike. Nearly 150,000 will stop working, leaving General Motors, Stellantis, and Ford without anyone to build the cars that drive our economy forward.

If you ask President Biden, he will say it is no big deal and the strike is not going to happen. Well, let me tell you, Mr. President: Guess again. The strike is real, and its dawn is coming tomorrow.

While I don't always agree with Big Labor and their strategies, I can see why they are angry. They have watched as their companies have sold out to the radical Green New Deal agenda and have placed EVs ahead of their employees. Yes, I want to say that. These companies have placed EVs ahead of their employees.

For those that don't know, it is simple. EVs take less parts. Less parts means less workers. Less workers hurt our economy.

Make no mistake about it. This is happening because of Joe Biden's EV mandates and his reckless agenda to rid the world of reliable engines. It is not a sustainable plan, but Biden seems not to care.

Some automakers are just going along to get along with Biden because even when their profits decrease due to EVs, they have doubled down on their plan at the expense of the men and women who build our cars.

I want to be clear about something. I am not against EVs, but I am against mandates and against abandoning things that actually work.

Gas-powered engines work, and they work well. EVs barely work, and they are unreliable, which is something Secretary Granholm knows very well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CELEBRATING MARGARET TATE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of my district's own, Margaret Tate, who celebrated her 90th birthday this year.

Ms. Margaret Tate was born on February 11, 1933, in Shreveport, Louisiana. She was one of 13 children. She moved to Los Angeles at 8 years of age and went on to graduate from Centennial High School in Compton.