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HONORING BENITO MORALES

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Hispanic Heritage Month, we often talk about our cultural and economic contributions, but we cannot forget that Latinos have served our country in every war since the Revolutionary War.

Today, I rise to honor the contributions and patriotism of one of those heroes: Benito Morales.

Benito was born in a small town in Texas during the Great Depression. He attended segregated schools, where he and his brother constantly faced discrimination.

Benito had to start working after finishing the fourth grade. Later, his family moved to Chicago looking for better opportunities. By the time he was 19 years old, Benito was called to service at the height of World War II. He served our country, fighting across France and into Germany.

During the crossing of the Ludendorff Bridge across the Rhine River on March 8, 1945, an enemy artillery shell burst directly in front of the vehicle in which Private Morales was riding.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, he assisted in the evacuation of 11 American soldiers to the nearest station. His heroism earned him the Bronze Star Medal, but it took 75 years and the advocacy of his fellow veterans for the Army to add V for valor to his medal.

In 2016, Benito was awarded the French Government's Legion of Honor Medal by the French Consul General, for which I had the honor to be present. Benito is currently a member of The American Legion Manuel Perez, Jr., Post 1017 in Chicago.

He is now 101 years old, and his life is a perfect example of the contributions that the Latino community has made to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Benito for his bravery and continued service to our country and community.

HONORING SYLVIA PUENTE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and community leader, Sylvia Puente, who has served for nearly 18 years as president and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum and will step down at the end of this year.

Sylvia is a public policy expert whose activism began at the age of 13, walking the picket line with her mom in support of farmworkers. She has spent her career advocating for justice, equity, and economic prosperity.

Sylvia's last name, Puente, means "bridge" in Spanish and translates into her own personal mission statement, which is to build bridges of understanding and opportunity within and between the Latino community and the larger society.

Mr. Speaker, we wish her Godspeed in her new endeavors as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR DARIN WOOD OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIDLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 2 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Darin Wood of the First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, who will be opening the House floor in prayer on Friday.

Pastor Wood grew up in Joshua, Texas, and started his career in pastoral ministry in 1999. The Wood family later moved to the Permian Basin and started preaching at First Baptist Church of Midland in February of 2016.

His leadership is truly inspirational in the Permian Basin. He is no stranger to lending a hand to others, and he has opened the congregation's doors to the public during times of need.

In his own words: "you may enjoy the title of 'pastor,' but truthfully, it is an earned role, won bit by bit . . ."

His wife, Julie, and son, Joshua, will be joining him on Friday. Pastor Wood is an inspiration to so many. For those who live in Midland, the Permian Basin, Midland-Odessa, they know Pastor Darin Wood. They know the inspiration that he brings to the community. Not only is he a voice of reason and of wisdom, but he also urges discernment.

He has personally helped me since I have been here. In fact, just recently, he was telling me about his study on Ezra and Esther and Nehemiah and talking about the stories of the Old Testament and how they apply to us today.

I thank Pastor Wood for his inspiration. For those who live in Midland, they know how inspirational he truly is, and he has been inspirational to me and so many others around Washington, D.C., as he prays for us continuously. I think our country needs prayer right now.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Wood for what he does to serve the Permian Basin, to serve First Baptist Church, and to serve so many people. I also thank him for his inspiration, education, and prayers for me and so many other leaders.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy and omnipotent God, though we have never seen You, we know You. We know You for You have shown Yourself in the wondrous things that You have done and the countless gifts of love You reveal to us each day.

You Lord, our God, faithful in keeping Your covenant of love to a thousand generations, to those who love You and keep Your commands.

Remind us in our generation of Your command to be bearers of Your love in our time. For when we love one another, You abide in us, and Your love is revealed through us.

And when love is scary, when there seems to be no reason or return in loving those around us, remind us that there is no fear in love, for Your perfect love casts out fear. Your love will prevail.

Remind us again that we love because You first loved us, with all our faults and flaws, doubts and divisions, and that we are commanded to love even the most aggravating of our brothers and sisters.

How great is Your love, O God our Father, that You have lavished on us that each one of us should be called children of God. Today, may we live believing that we are and that those whom we encounter this day are Your children, too.

In Your gracious name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LESKO 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECKLESS IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON FULL DISPLAY

(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, the Biden-Harris administration's reckless immigration policies are now on full display for all to see.

Newly released Border Patrol data shows that nearly 530,000 illegal aliens have flown into the U.S. under the administration's irresponsible mass parole program. If that wasn't enough, another 800,000 are set to enter.

Yet, on top of that, they are suppressing the information about how many people are coming into this country, including those who are on the terrorist watch lists.

San Diego Chief Aaron Heitke recently spoke to the Homeland Security Committee, talking about how he was told to suppress these numbers, to keep them hidden from the American public and from Congress to do anything about that.

This is the height of hypocrisy by the Biden-Harris administration, especially border czar Harris, trying to keep us from knowing and taking action to repair the sieve of a border we have.

We have to do much better than that because the American public is being subjected to all sorts of fentanyl and potential terrorists, as well as a crime level and all the other things we are seeing that are harming our country.

THE DANGERS OF PROJECT 2025

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm. The dangers of Project 2025 are real, and they are coming. This isn't some distant threat. It is all happening right now, and extreme MAGA Republicans are leading the charge.

This isn't just another political agenda. It is Donald Trump's playbook to seize control of our government with no checks and no balances, just power.

Project 2025 would ban abortion nationwide; strip away birth control, including access to IVF; raise taxes on working families; and destroy Social Security and Medicare as we know them. The American people don't want to roll back the clock with Project 2025. They want a government that works for them.

I came to Washington to fight for working families, to protect our communities, and to defend fundamental rights like reproductive freedom. We have real work to do, and I won't let Project 2025 or Donald Trump stand in the way.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or CJD. CJD is a rare brain disease that causes a rapid decline in a person's cognitive health and often leads to death within only a few months to 1 year following the onset of symptoms.

There are about 500 new cases in the United States each year. Sadly, one of these cases was a friend of mine and a well-known member of the Central Valley community, Bakersfield Mayor Harvey L. Hall.

In 2018, Mayor Hall lost his life from CJD just 2 weeks after his diagnosis. Mr. Hall was a beloved member of our community and the longest-serving mayor in Bakersfield's history. His sudden death was a shock to our community and devastating for all who knew him, including his wife of 28 years, who is here today, Lavonne Hall.

Madam Speaker, I am introducing a resolution today to designate November 12 as CJD Awareness Day, and I am proud to honor Mayor Hall's memory in this way and raise awareness for thousands of CJD patients and the families who have been impacted by this disease.

PROJECT 2025 IS A CRUEL AND RECKLESS PLAN

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about the former President's Project 2025.

It is a cruel and reckless plan that threatens the health and welfare of women in every corner of this Nation.

Project 2025 would end access to medication abortion, create an abortion surveillance state, and criminalize abortion services. These policies are more than restrictions. They are a direct assault on women's lives.

Just ask Anya Cook from my home State. At 16 weeks pregnant, suffering from a miscarriage, she was turned away from treatment because of Florida's cruel 6-week abortion ban. Anya nearly bled to death, delivering her fetus alone in a bathroom.

This is the future of Project 2025: women in pain, bleeding, abandoned by a broken system.

We must fight back.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RALPH H. BODE

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

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Ralph H. Bode, from Racine, Wisconsin.

On September 27, 1944, Staff Sergeant Bode's aircraft was shot down over the skies of Kassel, Germany.

After the crash, three crewmembers were taken prisoner. Staff Sergeant Bode was not among them. He was declared missing in action. At the time,

Staff Sergeant Bode was 20 years old, serving as a World War II tail gunner. He played a vital role in the bombing mission aimed at disrupting Nazi operations over Kassel, Germany.

For 80 years, no one knew what actually happened to Staff Sergeant Bode, but recently, his remains were identified. This Friday, 80 years to the day of his last mission, he will be returning home to Racine, Wisconsin.

Madam Speaker, I welcome home Staff Sergeant Bode. We are a nation forever grateful for those who gave their lives defending our freedoms.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today during Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate our beautiful communities and cultures and how we support one another.

From city councils and school boards to the State legislatures and Congress, Latinos are leaders. We embody the spirit of service and dedication that drive our communities forward.

We put people over politics. We are champions for working families, advocates for justice, and trailblazers who inspire the next generation to strive for excellence.

Our contributions remind us of the rich and vibrant culture Latinos bring to our Nation.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, let us not forget that we are stronger when we stand together, that we have built beautiful lives in this country, and that our brightest days are ahead of us.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to celebrating the rest of Hispanic Heritage Month with my constituents and wish a happy Hispanic Heritage Month to all.

ILLEGAL ALIENS THREATEN DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, illegal aliens are voting in America. This actually subverts democracy.

It is basic that registration confirms citizenship and voting—confirm photo identification to preserve democracy for all political parties.

Elon Musk suggests a leftwing strategy with the lack of citizenship enforcement, saying: "If Dems win President, House, and Senate . . . they'll grant citizenship to all illegals, and America will become a permanent one-party deep socialist state."

House Republicans passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act to protect and preserve the right of