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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day, in the midst of sometimes contentious debate, we ask again that You give all Members peace and patience, with wisdom and courage to do what is best for our Nation.

Perplexing and competing questions and answers challenge us all to remember that our Nation is a people descended from immigrants, most in history, and many in faith. May all Americans, and those Members who represent them here, rise to the challenge of these days and prove to be the best of ourselves.

As always, may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOGGETT 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

VIRGINIA'S PAPER AND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the paper and wood products industry in Virginia, which employs over 1,500 men and women in my district; and I wish to recognize the achievements of the industry in improving purchased energy efficiencies.

Sustainability is inherent to the pulp, paper, packaging, tissue, and wood products manufacturing industry. These products are made from renewable and recyclable resources, and these companies have a good track record of managing natural resources in order to ensure that they can continue making useful products in the future.

In 2011, the industry established the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 initiative, pursuing one of the most extensive sets of sustainability goals established for a U.S. manufacturing industry. This week, the American Forest and Paper Association is releasing their 2016 report on the industry's performance.

The industry has improved their purchased energy use per ton of production by 8.1 percent in 2014 compared to the 2005 baseline year, nearing the goal of at least a 10 percent improvement—and some pulp and paper mills are largely energy self-sufficient. In 2014, 15 percent of electricity needed to power manufacturing processes was self-generated, in some cases supplying energy to the electric utility grid.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this industry on taking steps to improve environmental per-

formance, continued economic progress, and support of our communities. I am proud of this industry's progress and their continued commitment to advance sustainability performance and the fact that they provide jobs throughout the United States.

IN MEMORY OF SETH RICH

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I rise to honor the memory of an extraordinary young man who worked in dedicated service at the Democratic National Committee, Seth Conrad Rich.

Seth was just 27 years old when he was killed this past weekend in our Nation's Capital, the victim of an unknown shooter. He was a dedicated, selfless public servant, protecting one of our most essential freedoms: the right of all Americans to vote. He carried out this work because he believed that together we could make the world a better place. We were fortunate to know and work with him.

Just last Friday, Seth wrote a response on Facebook to the terrible shootings in Dallas. He wrote:

Stop hating each other. . . . We have to be better and more true. . . . Please, stop killing each other.

I hope the Members of this body will join me in offering our deepest thoughts and prayers to the Rich family today, but thoughts and prayers are simply not enough.

In Seth's prescient words: We must stop the hate. We must be better and more true.

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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