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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 30, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

THE VITAL ROLE OF MENTORS

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the vital role that mentors play in the lives of young people every day. Mentors provide our young people with guidance and support at a time when they begin to make important decisions that will affect their lives forever.

Mentoring programs have demonstrated positive impacts on youth across the country. Young people who

meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs. Young people who are at risk for dropping out of high school but who had mentors are 55 percent more likely to enroll in college and 78 percent more likely to begin volunteering regularly in their own communities.

We have great mentoring programs in our San Joaquin Valley that I have the honor and privilege to represent filled with individuals dedicated to providing support and guidance to youth. Some of the critical programs include, but are not limited to, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, Focus Forward, and Care Fresno.

When I was a senior at Fresno State, just a few years ago, I was a mentor in the Big Brother program. And let me tell you, my little brother, Phillip Yancey, I still remember to this day. I thought I was doing a good thing by giving some of my time, but I will tell you that I gained much more in appreciation for the challenges that this young man had. For the 18 months I was his mentor, I hope I made a difference; but, clearly, I know that Phillip made a difference in my life. So, it is a two-way street. Mentoring is not just helping those young people in our communities, but, I will tell you, it is a rewarding experience.

Sadly, still, there are an estimated 9 million young people throughout the United States who do not have mentors or positive adult role models as a part of their lives outside of their home. That is why I join with many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the resolution to make January National Mentoring Month. We need to raise awareness of the significant roles that mentors play in the lives of young people across the United States, and we need to promote the creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank out there all who have participated in various types of mentoring

programs across this great country of ours. You are making a difference.

HONORING THERESA DIMAGGIO

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Theresa DiMaggio as the Heroine of the Month for California's 16th Congressional District.

Theresa is a fierce advocate for veterans. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that veterans receive only the best care and treatment.

Why? She is a veteran herself. For over 11 years she has worked in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, including the VA medical facility in Fresno, California, which serves veterans in my district, an important hospital. Here, I had the pleasure to work with Theresa to make sure that our San Joaquin Valley veterans and their families received the high-quality care and service they deserve.

Theresa will continue to serve our veterans in the Veterans Administration San Diego Healthcare System. We will miss her in our valley.

Stephen Bauman, the director of the Fresno VA hospital, described Theresa in this way:

In my 40 years in working with the Federal Government, I have rarely worked with someone that is so focused on supporting our fellow veterans. Theresa's dedication and her commitment to our Nation's heroes is unparalleled. She works tirelessly to ensure each veteran is provided the best support possible and has truly been an inspiration to me. She will be missed by all of us who worked with her.

Theresa is a veteran herself. She proudly served, as I said, this country in the United States Army. Altogether, she has been serving our Nation honorably for 19 years, an incredible record.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service of Theresa DiMaggio, her strong commitment to supporting our veterans, and the example that she has set for all of us. We cannot thank her enough for her service to our country.

Congratulations on a job well done, and God bless.

□ 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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