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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. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 3, 2019, 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.

CELEBRATING THE RESILIENT SPIRIT OF DAVID WHEAT

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander David Wheat, a Vietnam veteran and former prisoner of war from Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District, who is about to celebrate his 80th birthday on December 16.

David grew up in Duluth, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of

Minnesota Duluth before entering the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School and earning the commission of an ensign. In April 1965, he received his naval flight officer wings and was deployed to Vietnam, flying in an F-4B Phantom as a radar intercept officer.

In October 1965, David was shot down and captured by enemy forces. He spent the next 7 years and 4 months as a prisoner of war in various camps, including the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Despite the cruel torture and inhumane conditions David endured at the hands of his captors, they were never able to rob him of his resilient American spirit.

Following his release from prison, David vowed that he would be happy for the rest of his life. David went on to continue a life of service, reporting to pilot training and earning his naval aviation wings in 1975.

Throughout his career, David flew various types of aircraft and retired after 20 years of honorable service. David also got married and started a family of his own.

In my hometown of Duluth, Minnesota, we are incredibly proud to have a hero like Commander David Wheat living amongst us. David has been an active member of our community, supporting activities and fundraisers for various veterans organizations.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of every Minnesotan, I thank Commander Wheat for his brave service and wish him the happiest of birthdays.

TAKING A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the heartbreaking trend of violence troubling our Native American communities and recognize the Tribal leaders from my district who are taking a stand on this issue.

Native American women in particular face a disproportionately high risk of violence. According to one study, the murder rate of Native American women is 10 times the national average.

During my 23 years as a law enforcement officer in northern Minnesota, I heard far too many horror stories about trafficked or murdered Native American women. Too often, these cases go unresolved.

These victims and their families deserve action. I was glad to hear that President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order establishing an interagency task force to review unsolved cases. I was especially pleased to see Fond du Lac council member Roger Smith, Fond du Lac chairman Kevin Dupuis, and Mille Lacs band chief Melanie Benjamin standing alongside our President in the Oval Office as he signed this executive order.

I applaud Minnesota's Tribal leaders for standing united against this epidemic of violence, and I remain committed to supporting them in this critical mission.

AND STILL I RISE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise with love for my country at heart.

Mr. Speaker, if I appear to have a pensive persona, it is because I am experiencing a melancholy moment, a melancholy moment because some 2-plus years ago I came to the floor of this House, stood in the well, and called for the impeachment of the President some 2 years ago.

That moment is now at hand, and I do feel a sense of thoughtfulness, pensiveness because, to be very honest, I am saddened about what is about to happen. It is not something that I want to see occur in my country. I love my country. This is not something that I came to Congress to be a part of, but it is about to happen.

The House will vote. The President will be impeached, after which his case

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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