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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,
February 27, 2020.

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 7, 2020, 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.

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of our Nation's National Heritage Areas. These sites are rich with history, culture, and the marvels of our Nation's natural resources.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed the first National Heritage Area

into law, calling it "a new kind of national park." Today, nearly 40 years later, our Nation touts 55 National Heritage Areas across the country.

I am proud of the 12 National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania, more than any other State in the Nation. National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania span 57 of our 67 counties, and these areas are truly an economic development powerhouse.

In 2014, tourists spent an estimated \$2 billion worth of goods and services during their travels to Pennsylvania's National Heritage Areas. That is \$2 billion back into our rural communities.

One of those areas, the Oil Region National Heritage Area, is in my district. The oil region was established as a Pennsylvania Heritage Area in 1994. Ten years later it became a National Heritage Area.

Pennsylvania's oil region is rich with history. In 1859, Edwin Drake changed our Nation's energy future forever when he drilled the world's first commercial oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania, which is in my congressional district, establishing Pennsylvania's oil region as the birthplace of the world's petroleum industry.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining the Alliance of National Heritage Areas for their annual Heart & Soul Breakfast, where I was reminded of the positive impact that these areas have on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, National Heritage Areas represent one of the finest public public-private partnership models in the country. It is for that reason and their unwavering commitment to preserving our Nation's history that I am so proud to stand beside them as they tirelessly promote our Nation's rich history.

National Heritage Areas are preserving our Nation's history, not only to celebrate it, but to learn from it and, quite frankly, to create economic development and opportunity utilizing it.

RECOGNIZING THE 176TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, today is February 27, and we celebrate the 176th anniversary of independence of the Dominican Republic, which gained its independence in 1844 from the Republic of Haiti.

Led by Juan Pablo Duarte, Sanchez, and Mella, this island nation moved forward under great adversity. Throughout its 176 years, it has endured military occupation, dictatorship, and other strong and determining challenges. But throughout these many decades, the nation has prevailed.

Today, we enjoy the presence of over 2 million Dominicans in the United States, many of them in New York State, and many of them in the 13th Congressional District, particularly in Washington Heights.

We see many streets in the neighborhood named after some of the patriarchs of the nation. We have Juan Pablo Duarte Boulevard, Manolo Tavarez Justo Way, Mateo Rojas Alou Street, Miguel Amaro Way, Freddy Beras-Goico Way.

We also have schools named after very prominent members of that community. Salome Urena School, the Mirabal Sisters School, Juan Pablo Duarte School, the Juan Bosch School.

We also have a huge parade, which now goes down Sixth Avenue, but originally started right there on Audubon Avenue in Northern Manhattan.

We have social and cultural institutions like Club Deportivo Dominicano. We have many bodega owners, supermarket owners, hair salons, and other small businesses that I think are characteristic of their resolve, our people's resolve to work hard and make it a better city for all of us.

□ 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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