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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2020.

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

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House today, a legislative day in response to the growing impact of the coronavirus. As our leaders near an agreement on an economic stimulus package to combat the effects of the pandemic, send Your comforting and encouraging spirit to each one.

May they, united in their resolve to serve all Your people, put aside the divisions that exist to find an effective response that benefits all, but most especially those who are one or two paychecks removed from long-lasting negative impacts beyond the presence of the disease itself.

We thank You, as well, for those men and women in the private sector whose

generosity and sensitivity to the vulnerable have emerged to the edification of all who have eyes to see. Bless them for their response in the current environment.

Finally, continue to bless those who suffer with the virus infection and those whose labor is in treating this illness and finding an effective cure.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7(a) of House Resolution 891, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEWHOUSE 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROMPT ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Our Nation is confronting an unprecedented pandemic, unlike what any of us can remember.

Our role in the Congress is to be proactive and ensure public health officials have the resources and tools that they need to keep our communities safe in the coming weeks and months.

Prompt action is needed to address this extraordinary situation, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act begins to meet the needs of many people in our communities.

The legislation ensures testing is 100 percent covered and paid sick leave. It ensures that food and economic assistance goes directly to hardworking men, women, and families deeply affected by the outbreak.

It also provides much-needed financial assistance to the States to meet this critical public health challenge that they are facing right now.

Leaders must lead. People are legitimately afraid, but we have to work together to address this issue.

EXTEND CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM

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

□ 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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Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the extension of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program.

The CFATS program, first authorized in 2006, is a continuation of congressional efforts since September 11 to protect the homeland. The program surgically and directly addresses gaps in Federal law regarding the security of high-risk facilities that use or possess chemicals of concern at levels of concern.

The program is unique in that, to avoid overlapping with other Federal programs, CFATS was designed to foster collaboration between the government and regulated parties.

CFATS is a security program. Regrettably, over the years, some have tried to make CFATS a safety program, but safety and security are two very different things. Security is about protecting your ability to operate, and safety is about controlling how you operate. We should continue to preserve the program's focus on security.

Finally, it is imperative that, going forward, we find a way to extend the life of the program for a longer period of time, at least 5 years, in order to give the program, its personnel, and the participants the consistency they all need to be successful in their mission.

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MINIMIZE DAMAGE FROM PANDEMIC

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, today, the House will vote on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

This critical legislation provides much-needed support for working people across America.

It includes funding for free coronavirus tests for everyone who needs it; 14 days of paid sick leave and up to 3 months of paid family and medical leave; enhanced unemployment insurance that will protect furloughed workers; food security through SNAP, student meals, senior nutrition, and food banks; and increased Federal funds for Medicaid.

We are facing an enormous crisis in our country right now.

Once we pass this bill, the Senate and the President need to act swiftly so these resources are made available to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI and all of our colleagues who worked so hard on this over the last several days. Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of the American people.

There is more work to be done, and we will do whatever it takes, bear any burden, confront any obstacle in order to minimize the damage that this pandemic will do to our country, and we will do all that we can to keep our country and our constituents safe.

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES TO HELP RECOVERY

(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 prevailing thought has been "things will get worse before it gets better," and recently, it appears the "worse" part is here.

Necessary measures are being taken as we have learned more about this virus. We now have a new term: "social distancing."

Small businesses, though, are suffering, and tourism, the economy in general. This outbreak is causing a lot of hurt.

Now more than ever, it is important to support our local small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy and are experiencing a decline that we haven't seen in a long time from the recent coronavirus outbreak in their towns.

Their failure will result in a much larger problem for a country that has proven to be quite resilient.

The SBA is offering disaster assistance loans to small businesses impacted by the virus.

The issue is to ease and cushion our economy so that, in a few weeks, we can start our bounce back. And, indeed, we will bounce back.

Last week's measure will help our health providers. Hopefully, this week's economic package is not chock-full of socialist wish lists by the Democrats but is something that will actually be helpful to save lives and the economy and is affordable at the same time.

I hope we can accomplish good work this week.

CORONAVIRUS NOT REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, today, the House of Representatives will consider the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, critical legislation to expand paid emergency leave for American workers, to ensure free coronavirus testing, to bolster unemployment insurance for furloughed workers, and to strengthen our safety net for workers and students experiencing food insecurity due to closures.

Democrats and Republicans must continue to advance this emergency legislation to protect the health and economic security of the American people.

The coronavirus does not choose Republican or Democrat, and the American people are looking to this Chamber for swift and decisive leadership.

Madam Speaker, I thank our front-line nurses, doctors, physicians, public health officials, and first responders for

their tireless and courageous efforts to keep Granite Staters safe. They are heroes to all of us, and they are bringing needed comfort to those who have been impacted by this public health crisis.

HONORING CAPTAIN MOISES NAVAS AND GUNNERY SERGEANT DIEGO PONGO

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, Captain Moises Navas and Gunnery Sergeant Diego Pongo, both Marine Raiders, lost their lives on March 8 while on a mission to eliminate ISIS terrorists in Iraq.

I met Captain Navas last year when he spoke at a ceremony to rename a local post office in honor of his fallen comrade, Sergeant Dietrich Schmieman, a central Washington native.

With great poise and humility, the captain said at the time: "We can all sleep well and find comfort in knowing that it is Americans who raise their hands; this Nation's defense is in the hands of guys such as Dietrich Schmieman."

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that we not lose sight of the fact that, as we speak, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces are standing guard to keep our Nation safe.

Today, I rise to echo those powerful words from a brave young captain, pictured here alongside Sergeant Schmieman's parents at the post office dedication, to say that we can indeed sleep soundly because of heroes like Moises, Diego, and Dietrich.

HONORING SIDNEY ESKENAZI

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and fellow Hoosier, Sidney Eskenazi. He will be celebrating his 90th birthday this March 25.

Sidney is a true philanthropist and civic leader. He and his loving wife, Lois, serve as pillars of our Hoosier community and role models for future generations. Without their charitable efforts, many Hoosiers would not have access to higher education, the fine arts, and quality healthcare.

Indiana is indebted to the Eskenazis for their leadership and generosity over the past five decades.

The Pence family, my wife, my children, are truly blessed to consider Sidney and Lois close friends, and we thank them for serving our communities with a true servant heart.

God bless Sid and Lois, and I look forward to continuing to work with them for the benefit of Hoosiers everywhere.

Happy birthday, Sid.