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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.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.

As the Members of the people's House return to Washington, keep them safe in their travels. You know well the dangers confronting the citizens of our Nation: extreme weather events, ongoing pandemic effects, economic distress and impending loss of employment, and even housing.

Fill the Members with wisdom, patience, and determination to address these needs as so many dangers continue to close in on our communities.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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 (Mr. GOMEZ). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL WESLEY A. RODD

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corps Corporal Wesley Alexander Rodd, who was killed during a training accident off the coast of Southern California on July 30 of this year and was just laid to rest last Saturday.

Born in Houston, he was a resident of Cypress for 17 years. Just 4 months ago, he became a father. After graduating from Cy-Fair High School in 2016, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and he served as a rifleman with the Bravo Company.

We are grateful to him for his service to our country—for his dedication and for his sacrifice—and it is fitting that we, the people he defended, honor him today on the floor of this House, in this Chamber. And as we do so, we honor the loss and the grief and the sacrifice of his wife, Jamie; his 4-month-old son, Ezra; his mother, Valarie; and all of his family, his friends, and his fellow marines. All Americans are forever in their debt—and he will be forever in our hearts.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

STEP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6133) to reauthorize the State

Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6133

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "STEP Improvement Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM.

(a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(l)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting "including a budget plan for use of funds awarded under this subsection" before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Administrator shall—

"(I) publish information on how to apply for a grant under this subsection, including specific calculations and other determinations used to award such a grant, not later than March 31 of each year;

"(II) establish a deadline for the submission of applications that is not earlier than 60 days after the date on which the information is published under subclause (I), but in any case not later than May 31; and

"(III) announce grant recipients not later than August 31 of each year.";

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The Associate Administrator shall clearly communicate to applicants and grant recipients any information about State Trade Expansion Program, including—

"(i) for each unsuccessful applicant for a grant awarded under this subsection, recommendations to improve a subsequent application for such a grant; and

"(ii) for each successful applicant for such a grant, an explanation for the amount awarded, if different from the amount requested in the application.

"(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant under this subsection may revise the budget

□ 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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