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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. BRAT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVE BRAT 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 3, 2017, 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.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MINERS DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Nation observed National Miners Day, which was designated by Congress to honor the contributions and sacrifices of miners both past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I am the proud grandson of a Pennsylvania coal miner. National Miners Day does mark the anniversary of the worst mining accident in

history on December 6, 1907, in Monongah, West Virginia. The disaster resulted in the death of 362 miners.

While technology in mining has continued to improve, mining remains difficult work. Every day, our Nation's miners work so hard excavating minerals for energy production and raw materials for many forms of manufacturing. In particular—my family heritage—I am very proud of our Pennsylvania coal miners who really dug the coal that fueled the industrial revolution and provided the energy for fueling our preparations to win World War I and World War II.

From coal to copper, and from gold to granite, miners work to provide materials that play an important role in our everyday lives. American miners today deliver the same commitment to the industry that they historically have. But thanks to advancements in technology, we are seeing the industry operate smarter, faster, and, most importantly, safer.

Americans benefit from the energy, metals, and minerals made available to us thanks to mining. It is as fundamental today as it was centuries ago.

Mr. Speaker, to all of our miners, I say: Thank you for all you have given to this important industry.

CONGRATULATING THE TITUSVILLE AREA HOSPITAL

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Titusville Area Hospital on a national recognition for overall excellence in patient perspective.

The award, which is presented by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, was announced on National Rural Health Day. Titusville Area Hospital CEO Lee Clinton called the award a true honor and added that he is very proud of the care provided and the level of expertise offered to the citizens served at the Titusville Area Hospital.

He said: "All of our staff strives to provide each patient with the best pos-

sible experience every time. This award demonstrates our ability to exceed as a small, rural community hospital."

Mr. Speaker, our rural hospitals face complex challenges that range from financial concerns to a shortage of healthcare professionals. Thankfully, the Titusville Area Hospital is being recognized as a top performer that is increasing patient satisfaction, and I am proud that it sets the standard for other rural hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate CEO Lee Clinton and all of the staff of the Titusville Area Hospital on this outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES THOMAS ESCO, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. James Thomas Esco, who was born in Canton, Mississippi in 1942, which is home to my good friend, Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON, who represents that area. It is also home of The Canton Spirituals, one of the most outstanding gospel singing groups in the country.

Mr. James Thomas Esco was born a unique person. He was the 29th child of 30 in a blended family of Mr. Percy Lee and Mrs. Earline Esco. He loved his family and fell in love with his wife's 16 brothers and sisters. He was married to Mrs. Sadie Pearl Esco for 55 years.

He was as solid as a rock and a humanitarian with a heart of gold. He was always concerned about and looked out for the well-being of others. He was a hard worker. He worked in a factory and drove a taxi. He brought dignity to any work task which he performed. He stressed the importance of education and taught his children to get the best grades. He adored his wife's 16 siblings and supported them in their endeavors.

□ 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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