

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, February 23, 2010

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TONKO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 23, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL TONKO 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 6, 2009, 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 each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

### HONORING SYLVIA UNZUETA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in just a few weeks we will be celebrating Women's History Month; and to kick that off, I would like to recognize an individual who is a shining example of the difference that one person can make.

Sylvia Unzueta's life is a testament to how adversity can motivate one to not only better oneself but also to serve the greater sisterhood.

Born in Cuba, Sylvia came to the United States in 1961 at the age of 13 through the Peter Pan program. Not only did she leave behind all that she knew, but Sylvia did not see her parents again until she was 26 years old. The experience of arriving in the United States alone at such a young age instilled in Sylvia a sense of duty to others in need.

Acknowledging the sacrifice that her parents had made in order to send her to the United States to escape Castro's tyranny, Sylvia pursued a higher education here in the United States. She attained a master's degree in public ad-

ministration from the Kennedy School at Harvard University.

After completing her education, Sylvia poured herself into serving her community, especially helping young and vulnerable women and children be able to reach their full potential. During the Mariel boatlift, she helped those Cubans who, just like her so many years before, had come to escape tyranny and build a new life here in America.

Sylvia has worked with the Federal Government and with the University of Miami on issues facing unaccompanied children who come to our great country. She served as an assistant city manager for the City of Miami and later as acting director for Miami-Dade Parks.

One of Sylvia's greatest passions is her belief in citizenship diplomacy as a key to closer and even more meaningful relationships among people, nations, and cultures. To that end, Sylvia has chaired the Miami-Dade County's sister-city relationship with the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife in Spain.

Furthering her efforts to support women, she helped create the annual In the Company of Women awards ceremony during her tenure with Miami-Dade County. This ceremony has helped to recognize the accomplishments of so many inspirational women from my South Florida community. Her service was profiled in a book entitled "A Woman's Place is Everywhere," which was co-written by Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

One would think that, with so much accomplished, Sylvia would take some time off for herself, but she has soldiered on, offering her help where it is needed most. After Haiti was devastated by this most recent terrible earthquake, Sylvia has devoted her time to help. Her work with Haiti began years ago, actually, when she became involved in the welfare of displaced Haitian children who were living in the Dominican Republic.

Sylvia's life has been and will continue to be a source of inspiration for South Florida, for our Nation, and, indeed, for women throughout the world. Our community is a better place because of Sylvia Unzueta. Felicidades, mi amiga. Congratulations, my friend.

### DIGGING OUT FROM THE RECESSION

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as the mid-Atlantic region continues to dig out from historic winter snowstorms, it reminds us of our efforts to continue to dig out of the Great Recession. The snow finally stopped falling, yet it has taken us a long time to get back to normal. Thousands of people waited in subfreezing temperatures for days for their power to be restored; thousands more waited days for their streets to be plowed. Despite best efforts, the recovery has taken time. Our economic recovery also takes time.

The Great Recession of 2007 has officially lasted for 19 months. It was the longest recession since the Great Depression. Seven hundred forty-one thousand Americans lost their jobs in January of 2008. In the first quarter of 2009, GDP tumbled an astonishing 5.4 percent. By March, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had plummeted more than 53 percent. Unemployment rose to 10.2 percent, a 26-year high.

Without immediate action, Mr. Speaker, the economy was on the brink of falling into a devastating depression. With more than 700,000 Americans losing their jobs every month when we took office, we had to act immediately, and we did.

The Great Recession lasted 2 years, and a full recovery will take time. But we made significant improvements in all areas of the economy, and we are in recovery now. Second quarter GDP in 2009 slipped 0.7 percent. The following quarter saw a return to economic growth of 2.2 percent. And in the fourth quarter of 2009, GDP exceeded expectations and registered an outstanding 5.7 percent growth, a swing of more than 11 percent in just 9 months.

The manufacturing industry grew in January 2010 for the sixth consecutive month and, according to the Institute for Supply Management, is at its highest level since August of 2004. Retail spending, a critical component of recovery, increased 0.5 percent in January. The stock market has increased almost 60 percent since its March low, beginning to restore 401(k)s and college funds.

Mark Zandi, a Republican economist from Moody's and former economic adviser to Senator JOHN MCCAIN during his presidential campaign, said, "I don't think it's an accident that the economy has gone out of recession and into recovery at the same time that the stimulus is providing its maximum economic impact."

Mr. Speaker, our job is not finished, but our efforts have saved the economy

□ 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.