



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025

No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, thank You for Your patience. You listen to our prayers even when we have insufficient faith. Guide our steps, particularly when we attempt to shape our own destiny.

Today, lead our lawmakers to the successful fulfillment of Your purposes. As they strive to honor You, strengthen them with an endurance that will keep them strong in the face of complex challenges. Lord, make them grateful that You have given them the honor of serving You and country.

And, Lord, bless Senator KEVIN CRAMER with Your healing hands.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO RON STEELE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I come to the Senate floor to congratulate a legend in the broadcasting business. Ron Steele is a longtime journalist from my hometown TV station KWWL in Waterloo, IA. Tomorrow

will be his last day behind the anchor desk after more than 50 years of bringing news, weather, and sports to Iowans.

Over the years, he has interviewed newsmakers from around the world and across our State, spanning U.S. Presidents, Nobel laureates, Olympic medalists, and hometown athletes. Iowa's families in the Cedar Valley looked forward to his weekly coverage of "Friday Night Heroes." He also launched a public affairs program called "The Steele Report," where he interviewed more than 400 people, including this U.S. Senator.

As an avid news consumer, I hold Ron's work in high regard. He has received recognition for his outstanding work, including the prestigious Jack Shelley Award from the Iowa Broadcast News Association as well as multiple Emmy Awards.

Ron didn't let grass grow underneath his feet behind the anchor's desk. He leveraged his platform to become an invaluable civic leader across Cedar Valley, bringing particular focus to special needs kids. Ron's program called "Iowa's Child" series has helped 200 children find their forever families. Like my work in the U.S. Senate on foster care, what I hear from foster care kids as they are shuttled from one family to another over the course of a year: I would like to have a mom and dad and a home. That is what Ron was helping these 200 children find.

His leadership also was instrumental in raising enough money for the five Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum in Waterloo. I don't expect people in Washington to know about the Sullivan brothers, but they are the five brothers who were on the same destroyer in 1942 in World War II. It sunk, and they all lost their lives. There are some trees planted out here, on the Capitol Complex, in their memory—five Japanese trees.

So, from one small town kid to another, I appreciate Ron's commitment

to our community and to the people of Iowa. He will certainly be missed behind the news desk. My wife Barbara and I wish the entire Steele family the very best in the years ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, almost every single House Republican signed their names to what would be the largest Medicaid cuts in American history. The havoc, the damage that that would do to tens of millions of American families would be almost unprecedented when it comes to Medicaid.

Why did Republicans do it? So they could cut taxes for the billionaires club. The Republican agenda is quickly taking shape. Under Donald Trump's Republican Party, billionaires win; American families lose.

Last night proved that Senate Democrats are right. It doesn't matter if Republicans go with 1 bill or 2 bills or 50 bills. The endgame for Republicans has always been the same: cutting taxes for billionaires and forcing American families to pick up the tab.

Now the attention returns to the Republican Senate. Republican Senators know these billionaire tax breaks are unpopular, particularly because it will push deep, nasty cuts to Medicaid.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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