



United States
of America

Congressional Record

CORRECTION

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010

No. 44

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

March 22, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANN KIRKPATRICK 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.

DARK DAY FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Yesterday was an historic day in this Nation. The problem for our citizens is that it was historically dark. Madam Speaker, it's raining in Washington today. It's raining because our Founders are weeping. Our Founders are weeping over the incredible vote taken yesterday that was an affront to federalism, an affront to individual liberty, and an affront to freedom. And it's distressing—so very distressing—to so many citizens across

this land because they know there were positive solutions—there are positive solutions—to put in place as it relates to the challenges that we face in health care.

As a physician, I know that when you put government in between patients and families and doctors, it is destructive—destructive to the trust that we hold dear in order to bring about the greatest amount of quality health care in our land. It was distressing on another avenue as well, and that is it was so hyper partisan—the hyper-partisan way in which this vote passed. Madam Speaker, the bipartisan vote on this bill was a “no” vote. The vote was 219–212—all Republicans, joined by 34 Democrats, opposing the bill.

In much of the debate yesterday, we heard about how it was being compared to Social Security in 1935 and Medicare in 1965 and the momentous aspects of those votes. Madam Speaker, it's curious to note that on those votes, the House approved the Medicare bill in 1965 by a vote of 313–115, with nearly half of the House Republicans voting for it at that time. In the Senate, it was approved 68–21, with half of the Republicans supporting it. A major difference between that vote and this vote. Social Security passed the House in 1935 by a vote of 372–77, with four-to-one, or 80 percent of the Republicans supporting it in the House, and 75 percent of the Republicans in the Senate supporting it.

So, Madam Speaker, it is so distressing that this bill had to be so divisive—not just for this Chamber, but for our land. The American people are angry. And they're angry because they don't believe that the bill that was passed yesterday includes any of the fundamental American principles that we hold dear for health care—affordability, accessibility, quality, responsiveness, innovation, choices. All of those are things that we believe ought to be in place for health care in our Na-

tion. All of them are violated by the bill that was passed yesterday and reportedly will be signed into law tomorrow by the President.

Madam Speaker, the American people are angry. They want Washington to listen. They deserve Washington to listen. We are about to be a government that no longer has the consent of the governed. Madam Speaker, that's a very dangerous place to be. So I call on Speaker PELOSI and I call on the Democrats—the Democrats in charge in this House—to end the arrogance of one-party rule; end the tyranny of one-party rule; end what Alexis de Tocqueville over 150 years ago said was the only threat to our Nation, and that is the tyranny of the majority. End the tyranny of the majority in this town right now.

The challenges that we have in this Nation are immense, and they can be solved most beneficially, respecting our Founders and respecting our citizens, by working together positively in a truly bipartisan way and by listening and representing our constituents. I call on the Speaker for positive action for freedom and for liberty and for democracy.

HONORING THE LIVES OF DOUG SHRIVER AND RAY WRIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Doug Shriver, who was tragically killed with his friend Ray Wright on Friday, March 19, while clearing snow from the roof of Mr. Wright's cabin above Creede, Colorado. Mr. Shriver was my friend and a tremendously respected member of the San Luis Valley and Colorado water community. He was only 54 years old.

□ 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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Combined, both of these men held nearly 60 years of water knowledge related to the Upper Rio Grande basin and State of Colorado. Shriver was on the Colorado Ground Water Commission and served as president of the Rio Grande Water Users Association, an umbrella organization for ditch companies along the Rio Grande. All of these board positions were on a volunteer basis.

Doug's service on these boards put him in the middle of the San Luis Valley's successful fight to keep its groundwater, sought by the American Water Development, Inc., and later the Stockmen's Water Company, both who hoped to sell it to the big cities. At the time of his death, he championed the establishment of subdistricts to further protect the San Luis Valley's groundwater, a concept where groundwater users pay a combination of fees and assessments to retire farm ground and reduce groundwater pumping to protect the aquifer. Shriver was a visionary in the San Luis Valley and Colorado water community. He strongly believed that both wildlife and agriculture could live together, and was a vocal advocate for the rural way of life at the Statewide level. A native of eastern Rio Grande County, he farmed potatoes and small grains. He was also an avid outdoorsman, who loved to ride snowmobiles and four-wheelers in the high country. My heart goes out to his family and his wife Carla.

Madam Speaker, today, I also rise to pay tribute and honor the life of Ray Wright, who was tragically killed with his friend Doug Shriver in the same accident while clearing snow from the roof of his cabin in Creede, Colorado. Mr. Wright was my friend and a tremendously respected member of the San Luis Valley and Colorado's water community. He was 56 years old.

Wright served on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District for nearly two decades, with the last 10 years as president. He was also a member of Colorado's Interbasin Compact Committee, a Statewide board tasked with balancing the State's water needs, and had served two terms on the Colorado Water Conservation Board. All of these board positions were on a volunteer basis.

I served with Mr. Wright on the Rio Grande Water Conservation District board. His service on that board put him in the middle of San Luis Valley's successful fight to keep its groundwater, sought by AWDI and Stockmen's Water, who both hoped to sell it to big cities. At the time of his death, he championed the establishment also of the subdistricts to further protect the San Luis Valley's groundwater.

Ray was also a visionary in the San Luis Valley and the Colorado water community. He strongly believed that both wildlife and agriculture could live together, and was a vocal advocate for the rural way of life. A native of Rio Grande County, he farmed potatoes and small grains. He was also an avid out-

doorsman and angler, who built his own bamboo fly rods.

He leaves three daughters—Suzanne, Sarah, and Lauren—as well as his longtime partner, Mona.

HEALTH CARE DEBATE ISN'T OVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, we had a significant event happen in this hall last night. And I don't have a lot to say about it. I'll let the numbers speak for themselves. Over \$500 billion in Medicare cuts for seniors. Over \$500 billion in new taxes for small businesses. In my home State of Texas, over \$24 billion in unfunded Medicaid mandates. This is not the health care reform that the American people want. They want us to work together and come together in a bipartisan manner to have real solutions for their problems. We want every American to have access to quality, affordable health care. Unfortunately, the majority didn't want to deal with us. But this isn't over. They've got to get it passed through the Senate. There are going to be multiple lawsuits across the country and they're going to have to answer to the American people in November of this year.

I found it very telling at the end of the Speaker's speech last night that she had shifted her conversations from health care reform to health insurance reform. This debate isn't about health insurance reform. It's about giving every American access to quality, affordable health care. And I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve that when this bill comes back to the House of Representatives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Father of love, source of all blessings, help us pass from our old life of brokenness and sin to the new life of healing and grace.

May Your word today bring good news to those most in need of Your mercy.

In our service to others and this Nation may we find You in our midst as our saving Lord with redeeming power.

Prepare us for the glory of Your kingdom now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HALVORSON 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.

CONCERNED CITIZENS MADE A DIFFERENCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the health care takeover vote last night was a battle in the ongoing war between supporters of limited government and the forces of big government. The fight will continue as we promote limited government and expanded freedom.

I was very encouraged in the last year by the activation of concerned citizens who fought hard to protect the doctor-patient relationship and prevent a Federal Government takeover of health care. Yesterday's outcome is sad for America, but don't think for one second citizens didn't make a difference.

After making voices heard loud and clear at town halls and tea party rallies across the country, voters moved on to the ballot boxes in Virginia, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Washington liberals may have chosen to ignore the message, but citizens can remind them again soon that they are a force which has awakened to support change in the future.

Please know that while these efforts to protect the doctor-patient relationship and prevent a Federal Government takeover of health care were overlooked by a majority of lawmakers, they are certainly appreciated by the majority of freedom-loving Americans across the country.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House