



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010

No. 59

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MORAN 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.

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 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HINOJOSA) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Ever-present God, who knows us through and through, hasten to help us and strengthen the faith and unity of Your people.

Give us courage to attack what is evil and surrounds itself with negativity. History shows us You will fortify the just, lift up the lowly, and cleanse the pure of heart.

Empower us to accomplish what is good and give You the glory 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 26, 2010 at 9:31 a.m.:

That the Senate concur in the House amendment to the bill S. 1963.

That the Senate passed S. 3253.

That the Senate agreed to with an amendment H. Con. Res. 255.

Appointments:

Commission on Key National Indicators
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RULEMAKING GIVES US AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT WITH NEW HEALTH REFORM LAW

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, 14 months ago this House passed in the stimulus bill a measure that contained \$20 billion for information technology relating to health care. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published a rule on January 13 of this year to determine qualifications of what determined a so-called meaningful user and who will be able to receive this funding.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I spoke to the American Hospital Association. Our Nation's hospitals are almost unanimous in their dissatisfaction with the rules coming out of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These rules are misguided, rigid, and in fact unattainable.

In fact, a bipartisan group of 248 members of this House of Representatives agreed. Further, instead of incentivizing compliance, these rules punish noncompliance. This undoubtedly gives us an idea of what we can expect with the rulemaking and regulation that will occur at the Centers for

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2847

Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services, Office of Personnel Management, and, for crying out loud, the Internal Revenue Service as they go through this same process addressing the new health care reform law. This will go on for years, and in fact decades, perhaps even generations.

Doctors, hospitals, information technology manufacturers, medical device manufacturers, and all Americans need to stay alert and pay attention to what's coming out of the agencies here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of us to stay involved and active. The stimulus and the reform bill will affect how health care is delivered for generations to come.

ARIZONA VOTERS LIKE NEW LAW

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while pro-amnesty advocates are busy criticizing Arizona's new immigration enforcement law, Arizona voters are registering their overwhelming support. According to a Rasmussen Reports telephone survey, 70 percent of likely voters in Arizona approve of the legislation, including 84 percent of Republicans, 69 percent of independents, and more than half of Democrats. These results are not surprising.

Arizonans are no different from other Americans. They want to see the Nation's immigration laws enforced. They are rightly concerned about the jobs that illegal immigrants take from citizens and legal immigrants, about their communities' safety, and about the substantial costs to taxpayers of illegal immigration.

If the Obama administration continues to ignore immigration laws, it should not be surprised if other States follow Arizona's example.

HONORING ANTHONY "TONY" J. CORTESE

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of my friend, Anthony "Tony" J. Cortese. For the past four decades, Mr. Cortese was a proud and dedicated employee of the United States Postal Service.

I am proud to stand on the floor today in support of H.R. 4543, legislation to designate the Westgate Station Post Office in my district of San Jose, California, in memory of Mr. Cortese. I would also like to thank my good friend and the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, for working closely with me on this effort.

Mr. Cortese was born in the San Francisco Bay area and moved to Santa Clara County with his family after his father took a job at the Ford plant in Milpitas. A few years after

graduating James Lick High School in San Jose, Mr. Cortese started working as a letter carrier in the downtown San Jose post office.

Mr. Cortese was a tireless advocate for letter carriers in the region and made a significant impact on our community. In addition to his 42 years with the Postal Service, Mr. Cortese served 27 years as the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193. Under his leadership, this local procured a building for its members, secured expanded health benefits, and provided an open forum for discussion with union members, community advocates, and local elected officials.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Cortese developed strong relationships with postal workers and management. His legacy and accomplishments at the Postal Service will not be forgotten.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Anthony Cortese, and ask my colleagues to support naming a post office in his honor. I want to congratulate the family, and I want to give a personal thanks, because without his work my family would not have benefited from the kinds of things he has done in our community.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SELECT INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT PANEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4(a)(5) of rule X, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel of the Committee on Appropriations:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Florida.

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 a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ANTHONY J. CORTESE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4543) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4285 Payne Avenue in San Jose, California, as the "Anthony J. Cortese Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4543

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

SECTION 1. ANTHONY J. CORTESE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4285

Payne Avenue in San Jose, California, shall be known and designated as the "Anthony J. Cortese Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Anthony J. Cortese Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am proud to present H.R. 4543 for consideration. This legislation will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4285 Payne Avenue in San Jose, California, as the Anthony J. Cortese Post Office Building.

Introduced by my friend and colleague Representative ZOE LOFGREN of California on January 27, 2010, H.R. 4543 was favorably reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on April 14, 2010, by unanimous consent. In addition, this legislation enjoys the overwhelming support of the California House delegation.

A 55-year resident of San Jose, California, Mr. Anthony Cortese was born in the East Bay city of Richmond, California, and graduated from James Lick High School in San Jose. While in his early twenties, Mr. Cortese began working for the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier in the downtown San Jose post office and continued to serve as a proud Postal Service employee for over 40 years. As a letter carrier, Mr. Cortese became an active member of his union, the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193. Mr. Cortese climbed the ranks from shop steward to vice president, and in 1981 was elected union president, a position he proudly held for 27 years.

As president of Local 193 for nearly 30 years, Mr. Cortese devoted his efforts to advancing the well-being of his fellow letter carriers. Notably, Mr. Cortese successfully procured a union-owned headquarters building for the members of Local 193. He helped expand member health benefits and established an open, meaningful, and continuing dialogue between his union members and Federal, State, and local elected officials.

However, Mr. Cortese's service was not just limited to his efforts on behalf