



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011

No. 74

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Father Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We thank You that You give us a share in Your creative work, having endowed each with unique and important talents.

On this day we ask Your blessing on the men and women of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the care of this great Nation's people and, because of the great blessings You have bestowed on our Nation, the opportunity to build a better world beyond our borders as well.

Please teach each Member to be generous with the gifts You have given and the opportunities with which they have been presented. May they give and not count the cost; fight for the greater good and not count the wounds; toil in their efforts and not seek to rest; labor and not ask for reward, other than to know that they are doing Your will.

May all that they do this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING LOCAL HERO ABBY BERANEK FOR FIRE SAFETY PREPAREDNESS

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a local hero from my home district. At just 7 years old, Abby Beranek of Lemont, Illinois, demonstrated quick thinking and courage when a fire broke out in her home, utilizing the fire safety skills she learned as a Girl Scout to keep her family safe.

When she realized her home was on fire, first-grader Abby Beranek remained calm and immediately put in action the lessons she learned when her troop visited the Lemont fire station. Because of Abby's courage and quick thinking, she was able to help her mom and keep her 18-month-old brothers and 3-month-old sister safe.

I also want to commend the Lemont Fire Protection District, especially Jeff Hawthorne and Chief Carl Churulo, for offering lifesaving educational safety courses for our children. Their hard work and willingness to reach out to the community has clearly made a difference and saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a local hero, Abby Beranek of Lemont, Illinois, who has made her community and her family very proud.

JUST THE FACTS: REPUBLICANS WANT TO END MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, you know, we have all heard the jokes about how many people does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Well, I have a variation on that this morning.

How many seniors have to lose their Medicare in order to provide a \$104,000 tax cut per year for every millionaire? The answer is 17.

Seventeen seniors will see a reduction in their Medicare or an additional cost of \$6,000 a year in order to pay for the millionaire tax cut of \$104,000.

Mr. Speaker, even The Wall Street Journal, the conservative Wall Street Journal, has said the House Republican plan will likely result in higher out-of-pocket costs and greater limits to coverage for all Americans.

House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN's solution is to end the current Medicare program for people.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL VINCENT BROOKS ON PROMOTION TO THREE-STAR GENERAL

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor and privilege of representing Fort Riley, home of the 1st Infantry Division, or the Big Red One, which has been under the command of Major General Vincent Brooks since April of 2009, a term that included a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

General Brooks is being promoted to a three-star general and will be moving on from Fort Riley. In his short time in Kansas, he has been a tremendous

□ 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.

H3685

asset to Fort Riley, a devoted member of our community, and a wonderful adviser to me personally, and we are sad to see him go.

While I could not be in the district to attend the change of command ceremony, I wanted to take a moment and thank General Brooks for his dedication and service to our country, congratulate him on his promotion, and let him know that he will be truly missed at Fort Riley, Kansas.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, this Monday, Memorial Day, will give citizens from around the country the opportunity to come together and remember those who have laid down their lives in defense of our freedom. The debt we owe our Nation's servicemembers and veterans is immeasurable. Therefore, it's fitting to honor those heroes by renewing our commitment in this House to caring for those servicemembers both while they are in the military and after they return home.

As a 24-year veteran of our armed services, I am proud of the work we have done in Congress to support our veteran servicemembers: Passed landmark budgets worthy of our veterans; made sure the VA health care budget was delivered a year in advance; expanded VA health care access for returning combat veterans; increased support for veteran caregivers; passed a 21st century GI bill and continue to improve upon it; and enhanced employment opportunities.

Although we have come a long way, our work is never done. We must make sure that our returning troops do not fall through the cracks and that they make the transition to civilian life with the full support of this Nation.

On behalf of that grateful Nation, we thank our current servicemembers, our veterans, and their families for their service.

HONORING AMERICANS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

(Ms. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as you know, this Monday is Memorial Day, and Memorial Day reminds us that the most fundamental right of Americans, the one we cherish most, is to be free. But that freedom is purchased at a dear price.

I rise in gratitude to the millions of Americans who have made the sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice, and to their family members. I remember in particular Private David R. Fahey of

Yorktown Heights, New York, from our own District 19, who made the ultimate sacrifice this year.

Thanks to all of our veterans and all of our families who do so much to assure that we enjoy the freedoms that we cherish every day.

TRUE COSTS OF REPUBLICANS' MEDICARE PLAN

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues across the aisle have recently claimed that current seniors won't be impacted by their plan to end Medicare as we know it. This simply is not true.

From day one their plan would force seniors to pay more for prescription drugs and health services because the doughnut hole will be reopened and free wellness visits under Medicare would be eliminated. As a consequence of the reopening of the doughnut hole in my State of New Jersey alone, an estimated 142,800 seniors will pay \$80 million more for prescription drugs in 2012. Additionally, the majority's plan to rescind the ban on copays for wellness visits for seniors would force at least 30,000 New Jersey seniors to pay over 3 million more for annual wellness visits next year.

Once the plan takes effect in 2022, out-of-pocket expenses for seniors will soar. A typical 65-year-old in New Jersey would pay \$7,060 more in 2022 for health care costs, more than double the cost under current law.

Mr. Speaker, the majority's plan for Medicare does not preserve the program as we know it. Rather, it takes money from seniors' pockets and places them at the mercy of rising insurance costs.

□ 1010

BILL JACKSON RETIREMENT SPEECH

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, this week, my district is losing one of its very best agricultural reporters to retirement. Bill Jackson will be leaving the Greeley Tribune, and in his place will be a big hole in coverage of agricultural issues in the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado.

He spent his entire childhood and early years in Fort Morgan but ultimately moved to my hometown of Yuma, Colorado, where he graduated high school. He served in the Navy, and after that he went to Arizona and Sterling before joining the Greeley Tribune in 1977, where he has spent the last many years.

In 2004, Bill was inducted into the Colorado Agricultural Hall of Fame. Mike Peters, one of Bill's colleagues at the Greeley Tribune, wrote a speech about Bill for his retirement, and it

was so funny that I would like to share some of those excerpts with you today.

You know you're Bill Jackson if you go to cover a water meeting and you know what the heck they're talking about.

You know you're Bill Jackson if, when someone mentions Charlie or Dick Monfort, instead of talking Rockies baseball, you tell them how you changed their diapers when they were little.

You know you're Bill Jackson if you know every single farmer, rancher, milker, ditch rider, beet picker, cow-boy, cowgirl, and rainmaker in Weld County.

You know you're Bill Jackson if the term "NISF" not only makes sense, but it also makes your heart race.

You know you're Bill Jackson if you know the path of a snowflake from the point it falls from the sky onto the mountain, it goes into a river and then a reservoir and down a river until it reaches your water cup.

We're going to miss Bill Jackson. I thank him for his service to Colorado and to Colorado agriculture.

INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

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

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, throughout its illustrious history, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has served as the proving ground for many innovations that have become mainstays in automotive production and at raceways around the world. But it is the 500-mile race that is conducted at the end of May that makes the Indianapolis Motor Speedway so special. Every Memorial Day weekend, 300,000 fans from across the world gather at the historic track for "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," the Indianapolis 500.

This year, I, along with motor sports fans from around the world, am excited to be celebrating the 100th anniversary of this famous race. For 100 years now, legions of fans have traveled to the town of Speedway, Indiana, to witness the premier motor sports event in the world and to see which driver's likeness will be added to one of the most coveted trophies in the world of sports—the Borg-Warner Trophy.

As the largest single-day sporting event in the world, the Indianapolis 500 remains a great source of pride for my constituents in the Seventh Congressional District and for Hoosiers all across the United States.

WAITING FOR ICE

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago Tuesday, a police chief in my district stopped a man for speeding. The driver was an illegal alien. He didn't speak English, so a translator