



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2012

No. 113

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while, enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal Spirit.

We give You thanks that we all can know and share the fruits of Your Spirit, especially in this time, the virtue of tolerance and reconciliation, of justice and righteousness, of goodwill and understanding, of patience and loving care for others.

Watch over this House and cause Your blessing to be upon each Member, that they might serve all the people with sincerity and truth.

May all that is done within the people's House 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio 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 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress faces looming deadlines at the end of this year, set to take effect in the first days of 2013. Just as we ring in a new year with a renewed sense of optimism, if Congress does not act, looming defense cuts will cripple our military and this Nation.

Our military will be forced to cut an additional 10 percent from its budgets; an additional 10 percent of resources supporting our troops deployed overseas, fighting for our freedoms; an additional 10 percent of budgets supporting new technologies, training, and ships already lacking maintenance and which are behind schedule; an additional 10 percent of our national security.

While the House passed, and I proudly supported, legislation in May to avert these cuts, action is still needed by the Senate and the administration.

Why does Congress continue to wait? Why does Congress procrastinate on an issue so pressing and so important to this Nation? Who will answer the call?

Leaving this issue to the last minute is irresponsible, and failure is not an option. I urge the leaders of this Nation to stop the delay.

REMEMBERING 11 ISRAELI OLYMPIANS

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in 1972, Palestinian terrorists broke into the Israeli Olympic compound and murdered, in cold blood, 11 Israeli athletes.

In the 40 years since, shamefully, the International Olympic Committee has refused to have a minute of silence to commemorate these 11 martyrs. They have rejected it time and time again. And tomorrow, the Olympic Games are starting in London, and they have rejected it again, shamefully.

So I will use the rest of my 1-minute to do a moment of silence for the 11 Israeli athletes who lost their lives at the 1972 Olympic Games.

FILIPINO VETERANS DAY ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, 71 years ago today, President Roosevelt inducted over 40,000 Filipino troops into the United States Army to counter the Japanese threat. Following the occupation of the Philippines, thousands more Filipinos would join the resistance as recognized guerrilla forces working in cooperation with the U.S. Army. However, due to the Rescissions Act of 1946, the service and sacrifice of these brave Filipino veterans would go unrecognized by the U.S. Government for the next 63 years.

Congress finally acknowledged the dedicated service of these veterans when it established the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund in 2009. Although meager in comparison to the benefits these veterans earned, this compensation fund provided the

□ 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.

H5295

recognition they deserved. Yet today, bureaucratic roadblocks continue to prevent nearly 4,000 of these aging World War II veterans from collecting the benefits they are due.

Five of these gentlemen pictured here reside in my district. They range in age from 83 to 100 years old. Regrettably, two others recently passed away. Many more will pass without ever obtaining the recognition they deserve if this body does not act to remove the barriers preventing these veterans from receiving the benefits they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting to ensure these honorable World War II veterans are appropriately recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE 1972 ISRAELI OLYMPIANS

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I will use my time to observe a minute of silence for the Munich 11 who lost their lives at the 1972 Olympic Games.

Thank you.

EXCESSIVE FEDERAL REGULATIONS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, take a look at this. Take a look at the regulatory red tape that's strangling America's small businesses, our job creators. Every time I travel up and down the Ohio River, businesses, both large and small, tell me that new regulations and the threat of more are keeping them from hiring and expanding.

Unemployment has been above 8 percent for the past 41 months, and America's job creators are speaking loud and clear that they want certainty. They want to grow and expand. And as a small business owner myself, I know firsthand the destructive burden of excessive regulation.

Today this House will take an important step toward freeing America's job creators from these excessive regulations. The Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act puts a stop to President Obama's unchecked power to issue costly and job-killing regulations on a whim. I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in supporting this legislation that will empower job creators to put America back to work.

RECOGNIZING LONG JUMP OLYMPIAN GEORGE KITCHENS, JR.

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Kitchens, Jr., from Augusta, Georgia, who will be representing our State and our Nation at the London Olympic Games beginning tomorrow. George will be making his very first Olympic appearance in the men's long jump. A former Clemson Tiger All-American athlete, George will be the first member of the Tigers long jump team to advance to the Olympic Games.

The American Olympic team is made up of 530 men and women. For the first time in history, this Olympic team will feature more female athletes than male athletes. Of the 302 medal events at the Olympic Games, the United States will be represented at 246.

We look forward to watching George win the gold when the men's long jump team takes the spotlight on Friday, August 3. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in wishing our American Olympic team the best of luck in London.

□ 0910

CONDEMNING ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO

(Mr. TURNER of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that Alexander Lukashenko, president of Belarus, continues to rule over Europe's last dictatorship. Despite continued promises of reform, Lukashenko continues to deny the people of Belarus their basic freedoms and human rights, and runs the country as a authoritarian dictatorship.

In fact, after Mr. Lukashenko's fraudulent election in 2010, 700 political opponents and activists were arrested during demonstrations. This is just one example of the type of persecution the people of Belarus have been subjected to in these past 18 years. Lukashenko's total disregard for the people he swore to protect is appalling, alarming, and should not be tolerated.

I'm here today to draw attention to this matter and publicly condemn Lukashenko and his regime for their continuing oppression of the people of Belarus, and offer my support for the country's civilians and pro-democracy forces.

AMERICA NEEDS A FARM BILL NOW

(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, I rise today with a very simple message from rural America: we need a farm bill, and we need it now. With the current farm bill set to expire at the end of September, it is crucial that we continue to provide certainty to one of the few bright spots in our economy

over the past decade. It is all the more crucial to our farmers that we do this as they are staring at cracked, dried-out soil resulting from one of the worst droughts in modern history.

The newspaper Politico looked back 50 years—longer than I've been alive—and found that never before has a farm bill been this close to being passed and been blocked by House leadership. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Southern Minnesotans can't afford to deal with the uncertainty that follows out-of-date policy extensions or lame duck sessions. Lame, for sure.

Don't kick the can down the road. The Senate has passed a bill. The 2012 farm bill passed out of committee on July 12 with a bipartisan vote of 35–11, saving \$36 billion for the taxpayers.

My farmers in southern Minnesota are up before dawn working until after dark. We are leaving at noon today. We have 17 days between now and November 6 to work here in Washington. That is so unacceptable. No one will agree to that. Pass the farm bill. Pass it now.

U.N. ARMS TREATY VIOLATES U.S. CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the draft of the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty called ATT is an attempt by Third World countries to control guns worldwide, including personal firearms in the United States. Under the section of "scope," the treaty indicates that the covered items include small arms and light weapons. The language is so broad that nations are expected to track all weapons movements from the time they are manufactured until their destruction. The language is vague so that the treaty could be interpreted to restrict the ability of the U.S. to help arm its allies, like Taiwan and Israel.

The treaty presents a clear and present danger to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It allows the U.N. to steal our liberty. It is unbelievable that this administration is even considering signing this document. The Senate should never approve it if the President signs onto it. The President should ignore the treaty because he took an oath to the U.S. Constitution, not to the U.N. charter.

And that's just the way it is.

CONDEMNING ANTI-SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on legislation to block all new Federal regulations. I'm concerned that this bill would damage our ability to improve aviation safety, which the bipartisan western New York delegation has long promoted.

We fought alongside the families of Flight 3407, who lost loved ones in a