



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

No. 172

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 5, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Enable them, O God, to act on what they believe to be right and true and just, and to do so in ways that show respect for those with whom they disagree.

Send Your spirit of peace upon our Nation. Endow the Members of this House and all our governmental leaders with the wisdom to respond with whatever policies and laws might be needed to ensure greater peace and security in our land.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FUDGE 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING BENNY AND NELDA SPEAKS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th anniversary of my good friends and fellow Arkansans, Benny and Nelda Speaks.

Benny and Nelda first met in Mountain Home, Arkansas, Benny fresh out of the Navy, Nelda having returned home from business college in Springfield, Missouri.

They were married on December 6, 1963. They have one daughter, Ladonna Speaks Moranz; two grandchildren, Natosha and Brandon; and were blessed with one great-grandson, Logan.

Madam Speaker, it is no easy task making it to the 50-year anniversary. It takes great commitment, a willingness to compromise and to listen, and a loving spirit. These qualities embody the relationship of the Speakses' marriage, serving as a testament and example to the rest of us.

The Speakses are involved community leaders who truly care about Arkansas and have devoted much of their time and effort giving back to their community.

□ 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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I thank the Speakses for their friendship over the years, and I am so glad to be able to wish them a happy 50th wedding anniversary this December 6.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SUCCESS STORIES

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is already improving access to quality affordable health care for millions, including my constituents.

In my home State, for example, Covered California is a shining example of how the Affordable Care Act, when implemented fully, will be a success. California's exchange is now enrolling thousands of Californians into health care coverage every day.

Residents in my district, ranging from young adults, to seniors, to children with preexisting conditions and those who cannot afford health insurance, have been receiving critical protections and savings because of the Affordable Care Act.

In fact, one constituent wrote me recently after receiving a letter from his insurance company. After looking at the plans offered through Covered California, he was able to find coverage that was both more affordable and better for him. He told me that he does not want to put insurance companies back in charge and pay higher premiums for less coverage.

Every time Republicans vote to repeal or dismantle the Affordable Care Act, they make it perfectly clear that charging women more for being a woman is okay, that denying victims of domestic violence coverage is okay, and allowing insurance companies to increase premiums to increase profits is okay.

CONGRATULATING THE BOZEMAN, MONTANA, GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

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

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the Bozeman High School girls cross-country team will be in Portland, Oregon, to run in the Nike Cross National Championship. These dedicated and talented young women have won seven consecutive Montana Class AA State championships and have competed for five consecutive years at the Nike Cross Northwest Regionals.

This year, after securing their seventh State championship, they came in first at the Nike Cross Northwest Regionals in Boise, Idaho. They will now advance and compete this Saturday against high school runners from across the country at the Nike Cross Nationals.

As a graduate of Bozeman High School and a Bozeman Hawk, I couldn't

be more proud to see the Bozeman girls cross-country team representing Montana at the Nike Cross Nationals. I join all Montanans in wishing them the very best on Saturday. Go Hawks.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, 23 percent of Ohioans with incomes below 133 percent of the Federal poverty level were uninsured. But thanks to the expansion of Medicaid in my home State of Ohio, all of the almost 600,000 residents who are uninsured with incomes below 138 percent of the Federal poverty level will now have access to Medicaid coverage.

In my district alone, an additional 72,000 people became eligible for Medicaid. And next Monday, December 9, all of these individuals will be able to begin signing up for health care coverage that begins January 1. No longer will I receive calls from constituents like Brandon Proctor, who was told that he was "too rich for Medicaid but too poor for subsidies."

This is the way the Affordable Care Act was supposed to work. Finally, all Ohioans will have access to quality and affordable health care.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WELLINGTON BOONE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an incredible man of faith, with a true calling and a heart for serving the Lord, Bishop Wellington Boone.

Bishop Wellington Boone was ordained into ministry in 1973; and in that same year, he married his childhood sweetheart, Katheryn. Today, Bishop Boone not only celebrates 40 years of ministry, but 40 years of a loving marriage with his wife. In today's world, it is unique and certainly admirable to see a couple celebrate 40 years of marriage. Their long-lasting marriage is a testament to not only their commitment to each other, but their dedication to serving the Lord.

Bishop Boone's 40 years of leadership and service in ministry is also a tremendous accomplishment and one that deserves recognition. Through his work, Bishop Boone has faithfully led others in their quest to glorify and serve the Lord.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Bishop Boone as he celebrates 40 years of ministry and 40 years of marriage with his lovely wife, Katheryn.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to call attention to a new report from the Nation's premier scientific body, the National Academy of Sciences. We typically associate climate change with gradual, longer-term problems, but according to the academy, climate change could also pose a risk of rapid hard-to-predict environmental changes that have the potential to cause widespread damage in the near term.

The report warns that the collapse of the polar sea ice could send sea levels soaring. The destruction of the coral reefs could cause a mass extinction of sea life. The elimination of summer sea ice in the Arctic could alter the world's weather patterns.

These "tipping points" could happen suddenly. It is reckless to do nothing when faced with these threats. If there is a 10 percent chance that these threats would happen, it is irresponsible for us to ignore it.

Dr. Richard Alley, one of the co-authors, compared the threat of abrupt climate change to the dangers posed by drunk drivers. He said, "You can't see it coming, so you can't prepare for it."

Congress is acting irresponsibly if we don't take this issue seriously. We want to pass on a planet that is worthy of our children's and our grandchildren's future.

LIMITING ACTIVITY ON THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, next week, the National Park Service will begin holding public meetings on its ridiculous plan to limit recreational activity on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri's Eighth District. I urge families and individuals across Missouri to attend these hearings and oppose the Obama administration's changes to the riverways.

Let me reiterate what I have said to the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, and the Director of the National Park Service, Jonathan Jarvis, that we adamantly oppose the proposal to appease environmentalists by limiting the public use and enjoyment of our riverways. This proposal would hurt small businesses that rely on the riverways and keep my constituents from enjoying the riverways that belong to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my constituents to attend public meetings in Van Buren, Salem, and Kirkwood to show opposition to the Obama administration's Park Service's attempts to restrict our access to our rivers.

THE PHILIPPINES

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the