



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

No. 165

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: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

We are grateful, O God, that You have given to them the goals of justice and the designs of freedom. Remind each Member that it is their work to develop the strategies of achieving those goals and designs, being mindful of the prompting of Your spirit.

You have given to each of them, and to us all, the abilities to do good works. So we pray that we will be faithful in our tasks, responsible in our actions, and fervent in our desire to serve.

Bless us, O God, this day and every day to come. May all that is done 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.

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

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

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

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CONAWAY 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.

SAVE THE CHRISTIANS FROM GENOCIDE ACT

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation declaring the Christians and Yazidis of Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, and Libya as targets of genocide. This bill will make them eligible for expedited refugee and visa processing for entry into the United States and give them priority over other applicants.

The Save the Christians from Genocide Act is imperative at this time. The alarm bell is ringing. Ancient long-standing communities of Christians in the Middle East are being murdered individually and en masse, targeted for extinction. Under President Obama's

leadership, our government has stood by impotently and watched this crime against humanity.

I call on my colleagues and Members of this House to join me in cosponsoring this bill to save the Christians from genocide. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims are finding safety and economic handouts in Europe, but what about the true targets of genocide? Where is their safe haven?

I ask my colleagues to join me to support the Save the Christians from Genocide Act to prioritize our immigration and refugee policy to save these Christians from facing brutal extinction.

I rise now and will ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this bill. I, at this moment, will submit it to Congress for consideration.

ROYALS 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be here this morning.

On Sunday, November 1, the Kansas City Royals took game five of the World Series from a very good New York Mets team. They beat them in the 12th inning, and they bring the Commissioner's Trophy back to Kansas City for the first time in 30 years.

The Royals' championship season had the best record in the American League: 95 wins, defeated the Astros in five games, defeated the Blue Jays in six, and defeated the Mets in the World Series in five games. These unheralded comeback kids scored 51 runs in the seventh inning or after in the postseason, shattering the previous record by 15 runs.

It was made clear on Tuesday that this championship was not only about the Royals, but about their loyal fan

□ 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.

H7745

base. Mr. Speaker, 800,000 people turned out for the celebration. Every school within 100 miles was closed.

The 2015 Royals team epitomizes what it means to play like a team. Our players never gave up. They have respect for themselves and the game, and they treat each other like family.

I want to congratulate my team, the Kansas City Royals, and express sympathy for the losers.

SALVAGE TIMBER BURN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California and the West continue to be ravaged by wildfires each summer and fall, which is especially devastating to our forests in a time of record drought. Much is done on suppressing fires as they happen, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars of sometimes unplanned emergency funds, as well as hundreds of millions in loss of the people's assets: the forestland and trees are in that inventory and, with it, the habitat, all of value not frequently accounted for on public lands.

What I am immediately frustrated by is the lack of mobilization after a fire for the important salvage work needed on public land and how important it is that it be timely. Large trees after a fire, many of them can be salvaged within a year, and their value, sold to help recover costs for needed reforestation.

This is important for many reasons, such as: habitat; the renewal of the forest; and the critical prevention of massive erosion into our streams, rivers, lakes, and other waterways after a fire, which replantings help mitigate. Indeed, with the EPA's waters of the United States emphasis, they should be looking at their own timely treatment of their own jurisdictional public lands first.

We need timely issuance now of the permitting that the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are holding in their hands for even modest work still pending on 2014 fires. I urge these permitting entities to expedite the paperwork now to salvage what we can of 2014 timber burn that has little time left to salvage at a value that will help taxpayers, instead of cost them.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT MERCED

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart to convey my thoughts, prayers, and support for the students, the faculty, and the staff of the University of California at Merced in my district, one of the rising stars and the newest university in the University of California system. It is 11 years old, with 6,700 students.

Yesterday was a very sad and unfortunate day. An incident occurred where four individuals were stabbed by a student on campus. The good news is that I am told that they will all recover, but it was a tragic act of violence. The campus was shut down.

My thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and all those who are part of the University of California campus at Merced, a wonderful community that I am honored to represent.

I am touched, but not surprised, by the courage and the bravery that the students have shown during this difficult time. I am also not surprised by the amount of community support that has come together over the last 24 hours.

The university community that Chancellor Dorothy Leland and the faculty have built is a tremendous support within the Merced campus. It is very special, and I know everybody is reaching out to support everyone at this difficult time.

Again, my prayers and thoughts are with the victims and their families, the faculty, the students, and the administration. We, today, are all University of California Merced Bobcats.

Stay strong and courageous. We are all with you. God bless.

STAFF SERGEANT RYAN D. HAMMOND

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond of Moundsville, West Virginia. Staff Sergeant Hammond was one of six airmen killed last month when their C-130 crashed at Jalalabad.

A native of Moundsville, Staff Sergeant Hammond joined the Air Force after graduating from John Marshall High School in Glen Dale.

On Tuesday, I joined with Ryan's family and friends to honor his life, service, and sacrifice at Arlington National Cemetery. The burial service was a reminder that the expense of individual freedom is steep, row after row of white headstones with names of Americans who gave their ultimate sacrifice.

Dozens of his fellow squadron members paid tribute to Staff Sergeant Hammond during the ceremony. As they filed past, they laid their wings upon his coffin, a final salute to a young airman who followed his dream of flying. There was not a dry eye at the grave site.

Thomas Paine said, 200 years ago:

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

I offer my condolences to Staff Sergeant Hammond's family; his wife, Holly; his parents, David and Cathy; and his friends.

Staff Sergeant Hammond will be missed, but his sacrifices will never be forgotten.

REVIVE THE SALTON SEA

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today we are leading the way at the Red Hill Bay to revive the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is the largest body of water in and poses the largest public health and economic threat to California.

As the sea recedes, windblown dust containing arsenic and pesticides can cause respiratory distress in kids and seniors in the surrounding communities. The noxious odors may reduce home values and harm our tourism industry, costing billions of dollars. For too long, there has been study after study but no concrete action.

Today, at the Salton Sea's Red Hill Bay, we break ground on the first large-scale project to help prevent dust exposure and promote renewable energy development.

Imagine a Salton Sea that hosts the largest renewable energy industrial park in the Nation, creating jobs in southern California, while preserving wildlife habitat and preventing the noxious dust our children may breathe. Imagine a Salton Sea that, once again, attracts tourists from throughout the globe.

This is my vision for the Salton Sea, and today we took the first step to making this vision a reality.

GOFFSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Goffstown Grizzlies football team, a high school with just 1,000 students who have an amazing story of perseverance and achievement.

Thanks to great coaching and hard work, the team qualified for a division 3 championship a few years ago and has since advanced to division 1, the toughest in the Granite State. Even their fans thought competing at this level would be a tall order.

The Grizzlies are undefeated this season. They entered Saturday's playoff game ranked number one; and they got there with exciting defense and special teams blocking punts and returning kickoffs for touchdowns.

The Grizzlies have the Granite State's fiercest linebacking crew and a sack leader. Their kicker boots 45-yard field goals, helping his team to average more than 42 points a game. The running back rushed for over 1,000 yards this season and scored over 20 touchdowns. They have New Hampshire's most potent passing attack and incredible local support.

Their spirited fans make it easy to like the Grizzlies, who take on the Second District's North Nashua Titans this weekend.