



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

No. 101

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 14, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, on a day when violence has come to this assembly, we

ask Your blessing on our brother Representative STEVE SCALISE, the two officers, and the staffer who have been shot. Bless the hands of those who tend to their injuries.

We as Americans are blessed by a free and open society, with rights secured by law and the Constitution. But once again we are reminded that there is a vulnerability that comes with that openness.

May we all be vigilant in being good citizens, neighbors, and defenders of our way of life at a time when so many challenges to our way of life and government seem under siege.

We thank You for the men and women who respond to the crises that befall us, especially the Capitol Police, and all first responders. May their heroism and generosity of spirit be an inspiration to us all, and may they be assured of our appreciation of their service.

And in this great silence, as we are gathered most dramatically as this assembly at the people's House, may Republicans and Democrats be mindful of the rare companionship they share, men and women who have taken very public responsibility for our country, that carries so many burdens and, today, the reminder, shared danger.

May this day be characterized by kindness, goodwill, and compassion one to another.

God, bless America, and may all that is done 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.

□ 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.

I know that we all want to learn as much as we can about what happened. We just received a briefing from the Sergeant at Arms. I have complete confidence in the investigation that is being conducted by the Capitol Police and the FBI, who are also working with local law enforcement.

I know we want to extend our gratitude for the outpouring of support we have received from throughout the Capitol and from around the country.

And now, knowing STEVE SCALISE as we all do, he is likely really frustrated that he is not going to be able to play in the baseball game. I also know that STEVE wants all of us to commend the bravery of those who came to the aid of the wounded. In the coming days, we will hear their stories, and we will have a chance to hold up their heroism.

My colleagues, there are so many memories from this day that we will want to forget, and there are so many images that we will not want to see again. But there is one image in particular that this House should keep, and that is a photo I saw this morning of our Democratic colleagues gathered in prayer this morning after hearing the news.

You know, every day we come here to test and to challenge each other. We feel so deeply about the things that we fight for and the things that we believe in. At times, our emotions can clearly get the best of us. We are all imperfect, but we do not shed our humanity when we enter this Chamber.

For all the noise and all the fury, we are one family. These were our brothers and sisters in the line of fire. These were our brothers and sisters who ran into danger and saved countless lives.

So before this House returns to its business, let's just slow down and reflect to think about how we are all being tested right now, because we are being tested right now.

I ask each of you to join me to resolve to come together, to lift each other up, and to show the country, to show the world, that we are one House, the people's House, united in our humanity. It is that humanity which will win the day, and it always will.

God bless.

WE ARE UNITED

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the distinguished Speaker in paying tribute to the brave men and women of the Capitol Police force, and also, in sadness, for the assault that was made on our colleagues and members of the staff.

To my colleagues, you will hear me say something you have never heard me say before: I identify myself with the remarks of the Speaker. They were beautiful remarks, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much for the sentiments that they represent. Thank you so much.

Again, we are not one caucus or the other in this House today, but I can

speak for each other in saying that we send our thoughts and prayers to our colleague, STEVE SCALISE.

Personally, we have our Italian-American connection, so as soon as I heard his name, I was filled with concern, as I would be for anyone here, but we have that special connection. So our hopes and prayers—and I said to the Speaker: “I will be asking you every 5 minutes, ‘How is Steve coming along?’” And also, for Zach Barth in Congressman ROGER WILLIAMS’ office; Matt Mika, who was a former staffer, and, of course, as the Speaker acknowledged, Crystal Griner and David Bailey.

In acknowledging their sacrifice and how fortunate we all were that they were on the scene, because other lives would have probably been lost, I want us to remember that every single day the Capitol Police protect all of us, take risks for us. And while a day like this is a time where we can focus on it so sadly, it doesn't mean that other days aren't as challenging.

I especially want to call attention to Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut, who, almost 19 years ago, July 24, 1998, lost their lives protecting the Congress, the Capitol, but not just the Members of Congress, the staff, the press, and our visitors, people who come to see this Capitol, this great edifice to democracy known throughout the world. So they are protecting a great deal, and it is an attraction, and that makes it all the more risky.

You may not know this, my colleagues, but every time I pray, which is very frequently, and certainly every Sunday, I pray for all of you, all of you together. In the earlier years, I used to pray for your happiness, for the fact that we would, working together, heed the words of President Kennedy in the closing of his inaugural address when he said: “. . . God's work must truly be our own.”

How do we view what God's will is for us? How do we come together to give confidence to the American people? As our Founders intended, we would have our disagreements and we would debate them, and we would have confidence in our beliefs and humility to listen to others.

But in more recent years, I have been praying not only for that, but for our safety because I, above anyone in here, and I can say that quite clearly, have been probably the target of more—a political target and, therefore, the target of more threats than anyone, perhaps other than the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

And so I prayed for Barack Obama, and now I continue to pray for him. And I pray for Donald Trump, that his Presidency will be successful and that his family will be safe, because it is about family.

We are called for a purpose to this body. It is a great thing, and we know what it means to each of us to serve, and we recognize that in others. And

we also recognize that you have your constituents. We have ours, and we respect you and your constituents who sent you here, all worthy of respect.

But we do have our differences, and so I pray. My prayer is that we can resolve our differences in a way that furthers the preamble to the Constitution, takes us closer to “e pluribus unum.” And today, again, it is in the family. It is an injury in the family for the staff and for our colleague and for his leadership.

As I mentioned just a minute ago in a meeting, sports are a wonderful thing in our country. They are probably one of the most unifying things. I think the arts, we like to say music, or plays, or whatever, but sports really bring us together in our cities. You see, people have the biggest differences of opinion on politics, and yet when their team is on the field, people come together. People come together.

So when this team was on the field practicing with such camaraderie and such brotherhood—I don't know if you have any sisters on your team. We have two on our team—for this person to take this action was so cowardly, so cowardly.

We will learn more about motivation and the rest of that, but it seems particularly sad—although any violent death, of course, is sad, but particularly sad at a time when people want us to come together, and we are prepared to come together tomorrow night—that this assault would be made.

But we cannot let that be a victory for the assailant, or anyone who would think that way. So tomorrow, we will go out on the field. We will root for our team. We want everyone to do his or her very best, and we will use this occasion as one that brings us together and not separates us further.

Again, I want to thank the Speaker for bringing us together, and, again, with endless gratitude to our Capitol Police, and, in particular today, of course, Crystal Griner, David Bailey; but never out of our prayers, Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to share some thoughts with you on this sad day. STEVE, Zach, and Matt, you are deeply in our prayers. We count the minutes until STEVE returns.

Please convey that to him, Mr. Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

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