



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

No. 20

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 30, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON 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 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

THE VITAL ROLE OF MENTORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the vital role that mentors play in the lives of young people every day. Mentors provide our young people with guidance and support at a time when they begin to make important decisions that will affect their lives forever.

Mentoring programs have demonstrated positive impacts on youth across the country. Young people who

meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs. Young people who are at risk for dropping out of high school but who had mentors are 55 percent more likely to enroll in college and 78 percent more likely to begin volunteering regularly in their own communities.

We have great mentoring programs in our San Joaquin Valley that I have the honor and privilege to represent filled with individuals dedicated to providing support and guidance to youth. Some of the critical programs include, but are not limited to, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, Focus Forward, and Care Fresno.

When I was a senior at Fresno State, just a few years ago, I was a mentor in the Big Brother program. And let me tell you, my little brother, Phillip Yancey, I still remember to this day. I thought I was doing a good thing by giving some of my time, but I will tell you that I gained much more in appreciation for the challenges that this young man had. For the 18 months I was his mentor, I hope I made a difference; but, clearly, I know that Phillip made a difference in my life. So, it is a two-way street. Mentoring is not just helping those young people in our communities, but, I will tell you, it is a rewarding experience.

Sadly, still, there are an estimated 9 million young people throughout the United States who do not have mentors or positive adult role models as a part of their lives outside of their home. That is why I join with many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the resolution to make January National Mentoring Month. We need to raise awareness of the significant roles that mentors play in the lives of young people across the United States, and we need to promote the creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank out there all who have participated in various types of mentoring

programs across this great country of ours. You are making a difference.

HONORING THERESA DIMAGGIO

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Theresa DiMaggio as the Heroine of the Month for California's 16th Congressional District.

Theresa is a fierce advocate for veterans. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that veterans receive only the best care and treatment.

Why? She is a veteran herself. For over 11 years she has worked in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, including the VA medical facility in Fresno, California, which serves veterans in my district, an important hospital. Here, I had the pleasure to work with Theresa to make sure that our San Joaquin Valley veterans and their families received the high-quality care and service they deserve.

Theresa will continue to serve our veterans in the Veterans Administration San Diego Healthcare System. We will miss her in our valley.

Stephen Bauman, the director of the Fresno VA hospital, described Theresa in this way:

In my 40 years in working with the Federal Government, I have rarely worked with someone that is so focused on supporting our fellow veterans. Theresa's dedication and her commitment to our Nation's heroes is unparalleled. She works tirelessly to ensure each veteran is provided the best support possible and has truly been an inspiration to me. She will be missed by all of us who worked with her.

Theresa is a veteran herself. She proudly served, as I said, this country in the United States Army. Altogether, she has been serving our Nation honorably for 19 years, an incredible record.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service of Theresa DiMaggio, her strong commitment to supporting our veterans, and the example that she has set for all of us. We cannot thank her enough for her service to our country.

Congratulations on a job well done, and God bless.

□ 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.

H683

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just hours before our 45th President, Donald Trump, will deliver his first State of the Union Address.

Members of Congress and guests will fill this Chamber tonight to hear the President speak about a host of issues impacting America, from economic growth to trade deals and infrastructure investments, to immigration reform. I look forward to hearing the President speak about the administration's successes to date and the plans for the future.

The President and the First Lady, Melania Trump, have invited 15 guests to attend the speech tonight, including veterans, law enforcement officers, first responders, and families who have lost loved ones in the fight against the MS-13 street gang. All the guests in this Chamber tonight, invited by Members of both parties, represent a wide cross section of America, and I know that all have hope that our greatest days truly do lie ahead.

Just weeks ago, the House passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for the American people to get our economy moving again. In February, Americans will see and are beginning to see, today, more money in their paychecks. We delivered a fairer, simpler, pro-family Tax Code to give more money back to taxpayers and spur economic growth.

As the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is implemented, we are hearing story after story about how this is already making a difference in millions of people's lives across the country. We have already seen positive results, and we look forward to hearing more from President Trump tonight on his vision for a safe, strong, and proud America.

Hundreds of companies across the Nation are sharing the benefit of the GOP tax reform with their workers. They are raising wages, awarding bonuses, and increasing 401(k) matching contributions. I want to highlight just some of the companies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that are investing in their employees:

1st Summit Bank in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, provided a \$1,000 bonus to all full-time employees on top of their 2017 year-end bonuses, raised its salary ranges, and increased its charitable giving budget by 10 percent.

AccuWeather of State College in my Fifth Congressional District provided special year-end bonuses to all employees over and above other compensation benefits and year-end bonuses to which employees may be entitled. Company leaders said: "The bonuses are possible due to the company's robust financial performance in 2017 and strong confidence in the growing U.S. and global economy now that the tax bill has passed."

Fulton Financial in Lancaster raised its base wage to \$12 per hour, awarded bonuses for its 3,700 employees, and is increasing charitable contributions by \$2 million.

Kish Bancorp in Belleville awarded \$500 bonuses to part-time employees, \$1,000 bonuses to full-time employees, is adding \$10 million to capital expenditures over the next 3 years, and will raise their base wage.

This is just a fraction of what is happening in the Commonwealth and in States across the Nation. The benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are just beginning to be seen, and I have great faith that the benefits will just continue to grow for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I know the President will be talking about his record-setting accomplishments in his first year, how the policies of his administration are lifting all Americans and setting a foundation for building a safe, strong, and proud America. From jobs and the economy to his \$1 trillion plan for rebuilding our depleted infrastructure, to important immigration reforms, I know that he will cover a lot of ground tonight and will speak from the heart.

I also hope to hear about our national security, from rebuilding our military to the ongoing efforts to defeat terrorists around the world who try to harm America and Americans.

I know the President's State of the Union Address will resonate with our American values and unite us with patriotism and greater opportunities. I welcome the President tonight to this Chamber, as well as the First Lady and all the guests, and I look forward to hearing his important message for the future of our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BISHOP ALEXIS THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Alexis Thomas, who passed away on January 18, 2018.

Bishop Thomas was many things to many people. He was an inspiring pastor. He was a father, a son, and a brother. He was a dynamic and passionate leader not just at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, but throughout our community in Phoenix. Under his careful stewardship, Pilgrim Rest grew by leaps and bounds.

However, Bishop Thomas' service extended well beyond the church. Bishop Thomas founded the African American Christian Clergy Coalition and co-founded the African American Strategic Alliance Coalition in Phoenix. Thanks to these endeavors and many others, Bishop Thomas will be remembered as a man with a remarkable vision for change who was taken from us way too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to call Bishop Thomas my friend. I can per-

sonally attest that he worked miracles, large and small, every day in Phoenix and in Arizona. He touched more lives than we will ever know. And though we are devastated by his loss, we know that his legacy of service and love will live forever in our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LYLE WELLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to two leaders, one from the First Congressional District of New York, from the North Fork.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lyle Wells, whose family farm is over 350 years old. Lyle was taken from our community too soon. He was a leader, a former president of the Long Island Farm Bureau, and a one-time member of the Riverhead Town Planning Board.

He positively led and left a great impact and legacy on the next generation of farmers who really do need to be better cultivated to give that opportunity to be able to thrive.

Long Island Farm Bureau Administrative Director Rob Carpenter, talking about Wells' impact and a relationship going back decades, said: "He would take all the time needed to explain a program to anyone who wanted to learn about farming—a legislator, a community member, another farmer. It's a big loss. You just can't replace a Lyle."

It was also observed that everyone would start laughing because of his style of laughter. It was an honor that he graced our community and our town. Him having gone through life in this community made the rest of us better. That was the positive impact of Lyle Wells.

A memorial service will be held for Lyle this Thursday, February 1, beginning at 11 a.m. on the hill at Wells Homestead Acres, located at 185 Phillips Lane in Aquebogue.

We will pray for Lyle's family. We are thinking about Lyle, and he will certainly be looking over what hopefully will be 350 more years of great farming on that family farm.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to pay tribute to Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, who just passed away at the age of 97.

For me, Rabbi Zeldin was Uncle Shy. For the Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles, he was their founder, their rabbi, their teacher, and their friend, according to the announcement they posted on their website.

Rabbi Zeldin was born in Brooklyn, New York. His father's picture, Morris, is in my office. Morris Zeldin was a respected scholar and ardent Zionist. Rabbi Zeldin moved to Los Angeles in 1954 to establish the California branch of Hebrew Union College and served as an 11-State regional director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.