



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018

No. 194

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 10, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

THANKING MY SOUTH FLORIDA CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, though I still have a few days left before the end of my term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the constituents for allowing me to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives for so many years.

Whether it has been helping a veteran obtain the VA assistance he or she

needs, or fighting for our Dreamers, or securing funds for important projects in our community, or passing critical legislation to help those oppressed by totalitarian regimes, or one of the many, many other duties that the people of south Florida have entrusted to me, I have been honored to serve them in this distinguished body for almost 30 years, and I have played a small part in making our slice of paradise an even better place in which to live.

Every day when I come to this floor, when I walk these hallowed Halls, or when I look at that magnificent Capitol dome lit up, I pinch myself to make sure that I am not dreaming.

That is because as a political refugee, I have a unique perspective on the greatness of our Nation. America opened its arms to my family and to me as we fled the Communist Castro regime. When we arrived in Miami, it was in one of the last commercial flights out of Cuba. I was only 8 years old.

So to think that I have been elected to serve in the U.S. Congress, that I became the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress and the first woman to chair the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it is simply astounding, not because it is about me but it says a lot about the greatest democracy that man has ever created: the United States of America.

We are a country that says: You can be successful no matter where you started, and that is something that we do not ever take for granted in my south Florida community where it seems like almost everyone seems to be from somewhere else. My constituents are also a testament to the endless possibilities that all of us have as free Americans.

Mr. Speaker, where I was born is not just a place listed on my passport. It has defined how I view the world through the prism of democracy, of freedom, of the rule of law, and of

human rights. These are fundamental American principles that have guided my legislative record.

I have been honored to fight for equal rights for all people by joining efforts that will put an end to the discrimination and the violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I have been proud to advocate for the natural allies of our country, like the democratic Jewish State of Israel, her right to exist, and her right to defend herself; to secure support for a free trade agreement with Colombia, one of our biggest trading partners in Latin America; and to promote U.S. assistance that allows Taiwan to resist Beijing's increasing coercion. I have also worked to promote religious autonomy for the people of Tibet who are also victims of Chinese aggression; and to reestablish democracy and the rule of law in my native homeland of Cuba, in Nicaragua, in Venezuela, in Syria, and in so many other countries; and to sanction rogue regimes like that in Iran, in Russia, in North Korea, and all those who wish to do us harm.

Domestic issues have been priorities for me as well, Mr. Speaker. Growing up in south Florida, I learned to appreciate the wonderful natural resources all around us, and I have made it my priority to protect those treasures so that future generations are also able to enjoy them.

I have worked to re-nourish our beautiful south Florida beaches, to restore the seagrass beds and coral reefs, to provide for advanced wastewater treatment in our beloved Florida Keys, and to reinvigorate our Miami River. Throughout my tenure I have represented Miami International Airport and Port Miami, two of the largest economic engines to our county that serve as the gateway to the Americas and support thousands of jobs and economic development across our Sunshine State.

□ 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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As the wife of a Vietnam veteran who was wounded in combat and a step-mother to marine aviators, I have been proud to support our military and our veterans. During my time in Congress, I authored legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II Women Air Force Service Pilots, WASP, and supported efforts to reinstate burial rights at Arlington National Cemetery to these women pioneers.

I supported legislation to protect victims of domestic violence and some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Mr. Speaker, each one of these issues is important, not only to me, but to our community in south Florida, and I will carry them wherever I go next. I want to thank the hardworking staff and interns with whom I have had the delight to work throughout my tenure in Congress. Some are still looking for jobs; please hire them.

I want to thank my loving and supportive family, my parents, Abu Mandy and Abu Kiki. I know they are watching me from Heaven, and I thank them for encouraging me to run for office and for their love in every step of the way.

I thank Dexter Wayne for supporting and joining me on this crazy adventure and for his unwavering support. The same goes to our adult children: Rodrigo, Patricia, Douglas, and Katharine. I am so proud of each and every one of them. I know that they have accomplished so much, and there is still some more to come.

I hope to have contributed to leaving a better world for our five grandchildren to enjoy with a sixth one coming before the new Congress is sworn in. I thank each one of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have worked with me in a bipartisan manner throughout my three decades in Congress. I will continue to cheer on my pals in the bipartisan Congressional Women's Softball Game.

Mr. Speaker, it truly has been the highest honor of my professional life to represent the great people of south Florida. I am excited to start a new chapter in my life, and for whatever life throws at me, all I have to say is: Put me in, Coach.

Muchas gracias. I thank my constituents.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD GARRETT OF EDMONTON, KENTUCKY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my friend, Howard Garrett of Edmonton, Kentucky. In addition to serving as mayor since 1993, he has served as an officer of the Kentucky State Jaycees, a member of the local Industrial Board and 9-1-1 Board, and a deacon of the Edmonton Baptist Church. As an officer of the Barren River Area Development District and

the Barren-Metcalf Ambulance Board, his influence was felt throughout the region.

In his personal life, Mayor Garrett is an avid University of Kentucky and Yankees fan. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Teresa, and they are the parents to three children and grandparents to five grandchildren. Mayor Garrett has much to be proud of in his life. On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I thank him for his years of achievement and compassionate service to the Edmonton community.

RECOGNIZING MONROE COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE TOMMY WILLETT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Monroe County Judge-Executive Tommy Willett on his retirement after serving two consecutive terms in office. Prior to his election, Tommy and his father owned and operated Pure Drug Company in Tompkinsville, Kentucky. Currently, Judge Willett serves as the secretary of the Barren River Area Development District Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Monroe County Water Board, Monroe County Board of Health, and several other significant boards and committees over the years. In his free time Judge Willett enjoys spending time with his two sons, daughters-in-law, and his four grandchildren.

On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I congratulate Judge Willett on his years of service to Monroe County and wish him many years of continued success in the community to which he has given so much.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE RICHARD ARMSTRONG

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Clinton County Judge-Executive Richard Armstrong. I am grateful for his efforts to better the lives of First District Kentuckians through his service on the Lake Cumberland Area Development District Board of Directors as well as his involvement with numerous community organizations throughout his career.

As one of Clinton County's prominent community leaders and advocates, he has prioritized industrial development and spurred economic opportunities for those he has served. These significant accomplishments, in combination with his passion for serving his community, have distinguished him as one of the region's most prominent public servants. His achievements and efforts to improve the lives of his fellow Clinton Countians have forged a legacy of outstanding character and commitment to continuous improvements in all facets of community life.

Judge-Executive Armstrong's passion for bettering the community is rivaled only by his love for spending time with his family. I join his wife, Joy; his children, Cannon and Brandy; and his five grandchildren; as well as all those who know him in thanking him for his years of service to his community.

RECOGNIZING ADAIR COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE MIKE STEPHENS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my friend, Judge-Executive Mike Stephens of Adair County, Kentucky. His outstanding service and contributions during his tenure have greatly benefited his community, and I am proud to recognize him for his years of service.

Prior to being elected to public office Judge-Executive Stephens owned and operated his own pharmacy. He has also served on the Homeplace Board of Directors and the Lake Cumberland Area Development District Board of Directors. Judge-Executive Stephens' varied experiences and knowledge of the local community made him a compassionate and effective county judge-executive and an exceptional public servant.

On behalf of the First District of Kentucky, I thank Judge Mike Stephens for his numerous accomplishments while serving as Adair County judge-executive.

MAYOR RITA SANDERS

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Nebraska's most dedicated and inspirational leaders. Rita Sanders has served since November 2010 as the mayor of Bellevue, one of the oldest cities in Nebraska and home to one of the largest bases in the United States Air Force, Offutt Air Force Base.

She concludes her service as mayor today, and she has achieved many heralded results. Mayor Sanders was inducted into the Filipino Asian American Hall of Fame in 2017 as a testament to her tireless work and tremendous accomplishments as a Filipino American. In addition, the adjutant general for the Nebraska National Guard awarded Rita the Civilian Distinguished Service Medal in March of 2017.

Mayor Sanders was born in Hawaii in 1952. Her father served in the United States Army and was a Bronze Medal recipient for heroism in Vietnam. Her mother was originally from Germany. Mayor Sanders is married to Rick, and they have two grown sons. They are owners of a very successful business serving the elderly community.

Rita is an outspoken advocate for our servicemembers and has emphasized and enacted measures to enhance public safety, and community and family programs, including programs that support our military families at Offutt. She has served as a longtime board member for the Offutt Advisory Council and was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to the Commission on Military and Veterans' Affairs for the State of Nebraska.

Mayor Sanders also embraced the importance of economic development and community enhancement throughout