



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

No. 54

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: Merciful God, thank You for giving us another day.

Your care and wisdom are shown to us by the way You extend Your kingdom into our world down to the present day. Your Word reveals every aspect of Your saving plan. You accomplish Your designed purpose in and through the hearts of the faithful who respond to You.

Today, convert our minds and hearts that we may become the great Nation You hope us to be.

Help the Members of this people's House to seek Your presence in the midst of their busy lives. Animate them with Your spirit and help them to perform their appointed tasks to come to solutions that will redound to the benefit of our Nation.

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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CROW. Madam 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. CROW. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDER of California 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.

SALARY EQUALITY

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today because it is absolutely absurd that in the year 2019, women are still paid less than men, 77 cents on the dollar compared to men, but it is even worse for women of color. Latina women make only 53 cents on the dollar.

That is why I was so proud to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, which included our amendment to specifically support women of color.

There are thousands of Latina women in my district who work hard day in, day out, only to be paid half what their male counterparts get. It hurts them, it hurts their families, and it hurts our Central Valley community.

This is an equality issue, but it is also an economic issue. In fact, almost a quarter of the families in the Central Valley have a woman as their breadwinner.

It is 2019. It is time that women, especially Latina women, are not left behind.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to take up this bill and make sure we are lifting up everyone in our communities.

CONGRESS MUST UPHOLD IDEA PROMISE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the 1970s, Congress made a commitment to provide a free and appropriate education to students with disabilities.

While we have made tremendous progress, thanks to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, we have also failed to fully fund the cost of special education that was promised by Congress at that point in time.

Congress promised to cover 40 percent of the extra cost of special education, but we have never come close to fulfilling that promise. In fact, current funding remains only at 14 percent of the targeted amount.

Mr. Speaker, that is shameful.

This means our students and schools suffer, it means that the programs will be cut, it means schools won't be able to recruit and retain qualified teachers, and above all else, it means that students with disabilities will not be able to succeed, not without the appropriate high-quality services they deserve.

That is why I proudly cosponsored the bipartisan IDEA Full Funding Act, which would mandate gradual increases in IDEA funding to reach that full commitment made by Congress of 40 percent by fiscal year 2029 and each subsequent fiscal year.

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.

H2889

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and uphold the promise to provide students and schools with the resources they need.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN BERSIA

(Mrs. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of central Florida community leader, faculty member, and editorial writer, John Bersia, who recently passed away.

Born and raised in central Florida, John earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida as well as masters degrees from Georgetown University, American University, and the London School of Economics.

He then returned to our community to begin writing editorials for the Orlando Sentinel. There, he won a Pulitzer Prize for an editorial series that exposed the predatory lending practices of irresponsible payday lenders, leading to legislation that cracked down on that industry.

In 2001, he began teaching at the University of Central Florida, where he helped establish the Center for the Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. Throughout his career, he inspired his students to pursue a love of travel, new cultures, and humanity-focused work, but his passion spread beyond that campus.

He hosted a weekly TV show on WUCF and chaired different institutions, including the Global Connections Foundation, the World Affairs Council of Central Florida, and the Orlando Area Committee on Foreign Relations.

John sought to broaden people's connections to the outside world while helping us see that global issues can also be local.

For that and much more, he will be truly missed.

CONGRATULATING VINCENNES UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of an outstanding group of young men from Vincennes University in Indiana.

For the first time since 1972 and the fourth time in school history, the Vincennes University Trailblazers captured the National Junior College Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship.

Led by coach Todd Franklin, the Blazers had a benchmark year, ending the season with a record of 34-2 and defeating Ranger College in the championship game by a score of 87-77.

The team's standout in the finals was freshman forward Kevin Osawe, who scored 22 points and had ten rebounds,

earning the tournament's most valuable player honors.

Athletics provide a set of skills that will be with these young men for the rest of their lives.

The commitment and follow-through required to come together as a team and win a national championship are rare and should be commended.

Congratulations to the Vincennes University Blazers men's basketball team on a job well done, and good luck next year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEVE CERNAK

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a dear friend and remarkable professional, Steve Cernak.

As CEO of Port Everglades in Broward County, Florida, Steve oversaw the largest expansion in the port's history and helped Port Everglades grow to become the number one cruise port in the country.

He had a vision for the port, and he was an incredibly dedicated public servant.

Steve loved his work, community, and family.

He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and took any opportunity to share how proud he was of his grandchildren, often sharing photos of them before meetings, to which I can personally attest.

His professionalism was unmatched, and I am grateful for his unwavering commitment to keeping Americans safe.

Although Steve is no longer with us, his legacy will live on through the institution he helped propel into the leading port in our Nation.

Steve Cernak was a selfless, compassionate, and tireless public servant, and he will be profoundly missed, but never forgotten.

HONORING ROCK BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Rock Bridge High School Bruins boys basketball team of Columbia, Missouri, for winning the Missouri State Championship Class 5 Basketball Championship in Springfield.

In winning the school's first boys basketball state title, the Bruins exhibited a never-say-die attitude, staging a comeback after being down by eight points heading into the final quarter against Christian Brothers College High School.

The Bruins came close last year, bowing out in the semi-finals, but this year's team would not be denied.

The long hours of practice paid off, as Rock Bridge came roaring back in the

final quarter to win 63-59 and bring home the championship.

This season finale is a testament to the great coaching of Jim Scanlon and the dedication and hard work of all the players, whose determination and teamwork brought home the victory.

So congratulations to the Rock Bridge High School Bruins, state champs from Missouri's Fourth District. We are proud of you and we wish you continued success.

DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLORADO: THE HEALTHIEST COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Douglas County, Colorado, being named the healthiest community in the United States by U.S. News and World Report.

With all due respect to all of my colleagues in this body, there is no State like Colorado. We are home to 300 days of sunshine, the Rocky Mountains, and the best breweries and skiing in the country. And it should be no surprise that it helped make us the seventh fastest growing State in the country.

But this year we have added another accomplishment to our list: community health.

With seven of America's top 25 healthiest communities in Colorado, Douglas County tops that list. Home to countless walking trails, community-building events, 63,000 acres of protected land, and innovative infrastructure, Douglas County is truly a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome my colleagues to Douglas County and the rest of our incredible district to see for themselves what makes The Centennial State so great.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE THE TRUTH

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thus far, I have released four transcripts of interviews from the Judiciary Committee into the apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and the Justice Department.

Today, I release the fifth.

The American people deserve transparency, they deserve to know what transpired at the highest levels of the FBI, and the origin of the probe into President Trump's campaign.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I request the link, dougcollins.house.gov/nellieohr be placed in the RECORD so the American people can review the transcript of Nellie Ohr's interview.

I will continue to work to release as many transcripts as possible.

The American people deserve the truth.