



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019

No. 10

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O God, our way, our truth, and our life, we worship You.

Quicken our consciences by Your holiness, that we will find nourishment in Your truth.

As this partial government shutdown continues, help our lawmakers to open their hearts to Your love and to surrender their desires to Your purposes.

Lord, in this tangled world, we are conscious of our woeful inadequacies to sit in the seats of judgment, to balance the scales of justice, and to respond with equity to the myriad calls of human needs.

We need You, Eternal God, to crown the deliberations of this Chamber with Your wisdom to fit these challenging times.

We pray in Your mighty Name.
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. SCHNEIDER. 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. SCHNEIDER. Madam 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE 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.

DO THE RIGHT THING AND REOPEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in Congress to do the right thing and support the Democrats' efforts to reopen our Federal Government.

We are seeing devastating impacts on 800,000 Federal employees who serve us, the contractors that work for us, and the economy that impacts every person in this country. Yet the President's petulant, adolescent approach to the shutdown has been supported by my colleagues through their inability to support reopening government.

Responsible governments around the world do not shut down, and leaders do not take hostages and demand ransom.

Look, today the President is shutting down the government over an ineffi-

cient and unnecessary wall. If we capitulate, the next shutdown will be over his desire to lift sanctions on the Russians. The next shutdown could be over his desire to stop the Mueller investigation, and so on and so on.

This isn't how the United States can or should operate, yet the Republicans' complicity in this petulant behavior hurts our constituents and threatens our economy.

Mr. President, reopen the government before you further damage the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PINGREE). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING RIDGWAY AREA HIGH SCHOOL AS A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ridgway Area High School for being named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has identified and celebrated excellence in education through the Blue Ribbon Award.

Ridgway Area High School's tradition of academic excellence is a testament to this rural community's dedication to the importance of education. Like many small communities, the high school serves as a central hub in Ridgway. Faculty and staff work diligently to help each student reach their fullest potential.

Ridgway Area High School knows that families and community stakeholders are vital to the educational mission. They strongly value the idea that students who are involved in teams, groups, and community service

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.

initiatives are those who grow habits of engagement that lead to productive citizenship. All graduating seniors are required to have completed 50 hours of community service in local nonprofit organizations in the Ridgway community in an effort to instill in all students a sense of service above self.

Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate Ridgway Area High School on this outstanding achievement.

END THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN AND REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise to call on the President and Senate Republicans to reopen the government.

We are now on day 27 of the Trump shutdown, and more and more families are being harmed. 800,000 Federal workers have been furloughed or are working without pay—workers from the Forest Service, Coast Guard, Customs and Border Patrol, and TSA. These workers clock in every day to make sure the rest of us are safe, and they can't count on a paycheck.

Federal employees aren't the only ones impacted. I recently met with a small business in my district that works on Federal contracts supporting space exploration and research, a growing industry. Because of the shutdown, they haven't been paid for work they have already done, forcing this small business to lay off 20 percent of its workforce last week. It never had to happen.

Every day, this shutdown the President is so proud of hurts more families and businesses. It must end.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the young people from my home diocese in Springfield, Illinois, who traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 46th annual March for Life tomorrow.

Each year, nearly 200 students from throughout the Diocese of Springfield and the 13th District come to our Nation's Capital to show their support for choosing life. It is truly inspiring to see so many—especially young people—marching for life, and I am proud to stand with them in their defense for life.

Last year, I attended mass with these students to pray for all unborn children and for an end to abortion. Before mass, I learned that, when the students arrived in Washington, one of their classmates, Ayden O'Malley, from Nokomis, Illinois, suffered a serious medical episode. Ayden passed away 5

days later here in Washington. Although I never met her, I admire her convictions and willingness to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

This year, we remember Ayden as well as all unborn children whose lives were cut short.

SHUT DOWN THIS SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on day 27 of the Trump shutdown, to talk about the real-world impacts on those in my congressional district, ordinary Americans who hope and pray for an end to this manufactured crisis.

This week, I held a tele-townhall to hear personal stories from my constituents. I heard from an 80-year-old grandmother who is worried sick about what a long-term shutdown means to her Medicare.

I heard from a TSA officer who struggles to make ends meet on his \$23,000 salary and wonders how he will ever survive if he misses another paycheck.

I heard from folks who worry about their tax refunds and their SNAP benefits, their rental assistance and their home loans. And I heard from people who wonder how much longer will their children be able to get a warm meal when they get to school each day.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. It is time to stop the partisan games. Most of all, it is time for the Senate and the President to do their job and shut down this shutdown.

FIRE SAFETY CONCERN AT WINTERGREEN RESORT

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to speak about a pressing local safety concern in my home county of Nelson. Wintergreen Resort is facing major fire safety issues.

Last week, I spoke with the local fire chief, who pointed out that having only one exit from the Wintergreen Resort creates the potential for a major public safety crisis. In the case of an emergency, such as a fire blocking the main exit, there would be no way to leave the resort.

I have called the National Park Service and asked that they help me mitigate this situation by allowing a secondary exit that will allow people to go from the resort, through the national park, and to the Blue Ridge Parkway in the case of a fire or emergency. This simple step, 450 feet, would safeguard the community against a potential disaster.

Government, when necessary, should be here to assist, not interfere. Guidelines that don't make sense need to be changed so that common sense prevails.

GOOD PUBLIC POLICY DEPENDS ON ACCURATE DATA

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, good public policy depends on thorough and accurate data. That is why this week's ruling by District Judge Jesse Furman to block the administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census is so important to my district on the central coast and to our country.

The 2020 Census is more than just about where people live. It dictates how our many, many boundaries are drawn.

The Census is enshrined in our Constitution, and it is a bedrock responsibility of our government. But adding a citizenship question to the Census with this administration in charge may scare people from actually answering the questions, and that could result in inaccuracies that jeopardize the disbursement of over \$700 billion in funding for essential services in our communities like roads, schools, and even nutrition assistance programs.

This decision by the Federal judge is very good news, but we must continue to work to live up to our responsibilities under the American Constitution, and we can do that with a 2020 Census that depicts a precise population count through accurate data, adequate area offices, and appropriate and acceptable questions that everybody in all communities can answer.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss border security, not as viewed by Washington elites, but how it is viewed by average Americans.

Democratic leaders and the media will tell you that most Americans don't support President Trump's proposed southern border wall. They will tell you that a border wall is not needed; it is immoral; it won't fix the country's illegal immigration problem.

I currently represent Florida's Third Congressional District, and here I have a picture of my district's public creative space, the 34th Street graffiti wall that is well known in Gainesville. This wall is used by local organizations to express their thoughts on issues and display information for community events.

Recently, local residents painted their support of President Trump's proposed wall for all passersby to see. The wall reads: "Keep the government shutdown until the wall is funded. Call Congress. We the people demand Congress fund and build the wall now."

It is a great example of everyday Americans voicing their support for what matters most to them.