



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022

No. 36

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PERLMUTTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, You were working on us before we even knew to look for You. You have put people, situations, and events in our lives to draw us to yourself, that we would come to know You and appreciate Your steadfast love for us.

Continue to open our eyes that we may see Your masterful hand at work. As we gaze about us, may we look with Your eyes to see how You are reflected in the faces of those who share in creation with us.

Give us the insight to understand how certain challenges we have faced have strengthened us to serve You better, to understand that our pain has given us empathy that we would be better suited to attend to the suffering of others.

Enable us to seize the opportunities You have put before us that allow us to participate in Your creative purpose, to appreciate and respect Your willingness to trust us with your handiwork.

In responding to You, may we prove to be good and faithful stewards in the care and tending of the gracious gifts we have received by Your hand.

We offer this prayer in Your most holy name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COHEN 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will take this occasion to update the Speaker's announced policies of January 4, 2021, regarding the requirement to wear masks in the Hall of the House during the coronavirus pandemic.

Consistent with updated guidance from the Attending Physician, the Chair wishes to inform Members that masks are no longer required in the Hall of the House. The Chair would further note that all Members and staff may continue to wear masks at their discretion. This announcement is incorporated within the policy on conduct during a covered period of January 4, 2021, and supersedes all other announced policies that are in conflict.

The Chair appreciates the attention of Members to this matter and expects Members to continue to respect the health and safety of other Members and staff during this ongoing pandemic.

demic, including by following current and future guidance of the Attending Physician with respect to masks, social distancing, and other COVID-related health and safety protocols.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUPPORTING PRESIDENT ZELENSKY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I led a bipartisan group to visit Lithuania and the OSCE meeting in Vienna, Austria.

In Lithuania, we met with the leaders and assured them of America's Article 5 responsibilities and commitments in case Russia comes into Lithuania. They are very concerned.

We met with our troops, who are 6 kilometers away from Russian troops stationed in Belarus. We then went to the OSCE in Vienna, and we led a strong response to support Ukraine and oppose an unbelievable invasion by the cruel Vladimir Putin.

The European community is united, except for Russia and Belarus, in opposing the intrusion. Vladimir Putin is not operating in a rational manner. His KGB history and his extreme response to COVID have driven him to a delusional, paranoid, and dangerous state. It concerns all.

I appreciate the actions of our President in supporting our country. I support President Zelensky, who is the Maccabee of his era, but the candle has only lasted so long. We need to get him more oil.

□ 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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H1151

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE MEANS NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, we are witnessing the violent acts of a Russian dictator in Eastern Europe. Vladimir Putin is attempting to rehang the Iron Curtain, murdering innocent women and children who stand in his path.

To help put an end to the war, America must stand united with the free people of Ukraine and continue to provide them with the lethal aid that they need to defend themselves.

It is time for the United States to stop the flow of Russian oil to the rest of the world and impose harsh sanctions against Russia and its leaders. Vladimir Putin and corrupt Russian oligarchs must know that they will pay a steep price for their unwarranted aggression. It is time for President Biden to allow for America to become energy independent again and share our resources across the world.

Energy independence means national security. Now is the time to promote American energy, and now is the time to stand with the Ukrainian people.

HONORING IOWA STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of seven young men from Iowa's Second Congressional District.

Timothy Koester of Bettendorf, Marcel Lopez of New London, Hunter Garvin of Iowa City West, Eric Kinkaid of Camanche, Blaine Frazier and C.J. Walrath of Burlington Notre Dame, and Ben Kueter of Iowa City earned the title of State champion at the Iowa State wrestling championships earlier this month.

Wrestling holds a special place in the homes of many across Iowa, and these young men should be incredibly proud of their achievements. Through hard work and dedication, these student-athletes were able to dominate their competition and bring home victory to their school, family, and community.

These young men proved that the possibilities are endless if you work hard enough. Congratulations to all of our State champions.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILURES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Zelensky of Ukraine is a rock-ribbed leader who will fight and deliver for his country, and Americans are standing with the Ukrainians, who are fighting so bravely for their country.

It is damning that Americans can't say the same for the person who is supposed to be the leader of the free world as we can for President Zelensky.

Our leader kneecapped American energy production by eliminating the Keystone XL pipeline and empowered Putin by waiving sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline in Europe. Due to that abysmal decision, the U.S. is now explicitly not targeting Russia's energy sector with sanctions. It is as if he wanted America to be dependent on Putin and autocrats in Russia indefinitely.

We could have done more to stop what has happened in Ukraine. Americans support the Ukrainians and want to see a change in our energy policy. What is happening now is damaging our country and our standing in the free world.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1447

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of New York) at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

"SIX TRIPLE EIGHT" CONGRES- SIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 321) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 321

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Six Triple Eight" Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that es-

tablished the Women's Army Corps (referred to in this section as the "WAC") as a component in the Army. The WAC was converted from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (referred to in this section as the "WAAC"), which had been created in 1942 without official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

(2) Dubbed "10 percenters", the recruitment of African-American women to the WAAC was limited to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to match the proportion of African-Americans in the national population. Despite an Executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense industries, the Armed Forces remained segregated. Enlisted women served in segregated units, participated in segregated training, lived in separate quarters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used segregated recreational facilities. Officers received their officer candidate training in integrated units but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and technical training schools were integrated in 1943. During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-American women served in the WAAC and the WAC.

(3) After several units of White women were sent to serve in the European Theater of Operations (referred to in this section as the "ETO") during World War II, African-American organizations advocated for the War Department to extend the opportunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC units.

(4) In November 1944, the War Department approved sending African-American women to serve in Europe. A battalion of all African-American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this section as the "6888th"), which was nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight".

(5) Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, which resulted in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces drove across Europe, the ever-changing locations of servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to those servicemembers. Because 7,000,000 civilians and military personnel from the United States served in the ETO, many of those individuals had identical names. For example, 7,500 such individuals were named Robert Smith. One general predicted that the backlog in Birmingham, England, would take 6 months to process and the lack of reliable mail service was hurting morale.

(6) In February 1945, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

(7) The 6888th created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organize "undeliverable" mail, determine the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of "No mail, low morale", the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months.

(8) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France, in May 1945 and worked through a separate