



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

No. 61

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 6, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARILYN STRICKLAND to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM THE DUDYKEVYCH FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to read a letter from the Dudykevych family, who are originally from Ukraine and are now living in Tega Cay, South Carolina. They still have family who refuse to leave their homes and their country which, as we all know by now, is under brutal attack by the Russians.

The father of the Dudykevych family literally built their home with his own hands, which is now being destroyed for one reason and one reason alone—they desire freedom.

The heartfelt letter reads like this:

“To President Biden and to Members of the 117th Congress of the United States of America, we highly appreciate your legislative initiatives and clear stance against the cruel and diabolic Russian aggression against Ukraine.

“Today, I am urgently asking you to actively support immediate delivery of Eastern European fighter planes to Ukraine. The brave Ukrainian Army and the country’s heroic citizens are winning the war on the ground.

“The problem is that Ukraine’s cities are being destroyed and the citizens are being murdered from the air. I am requesting your urgent help in convincing the White House that immediate delivery of MiG planes to Ukraine should be the highest priority in support of a free Ukraine.

“What we are witnessing is a genocide against the Ukrainian people. We have an ability in this country and in the allied bases in Europe to stop these murderous attacks from the air. We have a moral obligation to do so. Our words are meant to reinforce President Zelenskyy’s urgent demand for fighter planes.

“Ukrainian cities are lying in ruins, and thousands of citizens are dead and will keep dying because Ukraine’s denial of fighter jets. These planes will protect the Ukrainian sky from Russian air raids.

“There are MiG-29 warplanes sitting at Allied bases in Europe ready for an immediate transfer. Ukrainian pilots are well-trained on these warplanes and can use them to stop the murderous attacks from the air tonight.

“We can no longer sit back and watch schools, hospitals, homes, apartment buildings, bomb shelters, every-

day people of all ages being mass murdered on a daily basis.

“The news that a mother in labor and her unborn baby died after a maternity ward was bombed in Mariupol broke my heart. It is a tragedy that could have been prevented if Ukraine had the planes to defend the sky.

“I know you deal with many requests, but this is an existential need. Ukraine will not survive without your support. Nothing means more to me at this moment. The world is in desperate need of American leadership. Sincerely, Mila Dudykevych.”

This letter was emailed to me 12 days ago on Sunday, March 27, at 2:50 p.m. We all have seen the death and destruction that has occurred since this date, all which could have been avoided if this President had exercised leadership months ago by allowing for the release of the fighter jets, which he failed then and continues to fail now by refusing to honor the request of a desperate Ukrainian people whose only desire is to live in a free country for which they are willing to fight and die.

President Biden, the Ukrainian people and all the free people around the world do not deserve this type of blatant incompetence and willful neglect by the leader of the free world. Historians will record this truly sad course of events for all the world to see in the coming months and years. Mr. President, the words that will be recorded in the annals of history will not be kind.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

WE MUST WELCOME FLEEING UKRAINIANS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the world watched in horror as the retreat of Russian forces from

□ 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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the town of Bucha revealed the scope of the appalling war crimes committed by Vladimir Putin's military.

Journalists and the Ukrainian military discovered mass graves, bodies left in the streets, and the evidence of a massacre of civilians. These are war crimes.

We know now, with certainty, what fate awaits Ukrainians who are subjected to Russian occupation. The United States must open its doors to welcome Ukrainians who are fleeing this invasion.

As co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, early on in the conflict, I and others called on the Biden administration to extend temporary protected status to Ukrainians already in the United States. I was proud when the President heeded that call and when he subsequently increased the refugee cap.

We must do everything in our power to accept fleeing refugees expeditiously. This is a matter of life and death. Over 4 million refugees have already fled the violence in Ukraine. Half of those refugees are children. Millions more remain trapped in cities and villages without access to food, clean water, or medical care.

We now know that Putin's military is willing to slaughter any innocents left behind. It is absolutely critical that the U.S. do everything in its power to assist the people of Ukraine. This means military assistance, yes, but it also means providing for Ukrainians who make the difficult decision to leave their homes behind.

We must support the nations that are already taking in refugees. Allies, like Poland, have already admitted more than 2 million Ukrainian refugees into their nation, and we should ensure that Poland and other countries that have opened their doors are able to help these Ukrainians resettle safely.

This also means continuing to investigate the reports of refugees of color being turned away at border crossings. Here in the U.S., we have a long history as a safe harbor for people of the world.

It has been inspiring to see Americans offer unwavering support for Ukraine from the outset of the Russian invasion. I am confident that this support will mean Americans will rally together to support any Ukrainian refugees who arrive on our shores. As they do, Congress has an opportunity to reform our immigration system to be more welcoming to individuals around the world who are in need.

I share the outrage of my constituents who are watching what is unfolding in Ukraine. As an advocate for Ukrainians here at home and abroad, I am also reminded that there are other atrocities occurring around the world. We can, and must, extend the same outrage we have for the crimes in Bucha to the crimes in Syria, the conflict in Tigray, the famine in Yemen, and the violence in the Northern Triangle. And just as we open our doors to

Ukrainian refugees, we can, and must, open our doors to refugees from around the world.

In recent weeks, I have urged the Biden administration to end title 42. This policy allowed the U.S. to use the pandemic as justification for expelling migrants without a hearing before an immigration judge. The administration just announced last week that they intend to end this policy.

One immediate effect will be that Ukrainians arriving at our borders will be able to seek asylum more easily, but, critically, it also means that migrants from the global south will no longer be stranded in the immigration process. The Federal Government should seek out other avenues in which providing recourse for Ukrainians will make our system more equitable for all immigrants.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, foreign citizens seeking entry into the U.S. have faced months-long waits for counselor appointments. That backlog now threatens to prevent fleeing Ukrainians from reaching our shores.

The lengthy immigrant visa delays have caused many Ukrainians to turn to nonimmigrant visas so they can reach temporary safety with family or friends in the U.S. Yet, as Ukrainians and other foreign citizens have been increasingly forced to utilize nonimmigrant visas, wait times have drastically increased.

Reporting last month showed that wait times in Hungary were 275 days. In Moldova, the wait was 329 days. On February 28, the wait in Warsaw, Poland, was 86 days. Two days later, the wait was 134 days for visitor visas and more than 40 days for other types.

I sincerely hope the State Department finds a way to dramatically decrease processing times for Ukrainians who have fled their homelands, but we cannot simply prioritize Ukrainian cases and leave all others behind. These wait times impact immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from around the world. Ukrainians are not the only ones whose lives are in danger.

The tragedy in Ukraine has shone a bright spotlight on the need for our entire immigration system to be more inclusive. Congress cannot allow this moment to pass without finally addressing the flaws in our system. Too many lives hang in the balance for us to do nothing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKE JILOTY

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

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, on December 25, Volusia County, Florida, lost a great businessman and valued community leader, Mike Jiloty. Through Mike's hard work and personal approach to business, he received hundreds of industry awards. Serving as the president of United Way of

Volusia and Flagler Counties, Mike fought for the health, education, and stability of every person in his community. He dedicated his time to the FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools to better prepare students for their careers.

As a graduate of the Leadership Florida Class XIV, Mike used his skills as a leader to serve his community and was honored by several organizations, including the Volusia Association of School Administrators, the Daytona Beach Community College Foundation, the Conklin Center for the Blind, and the Lodging and Hospitality Association of Volusia County.

Madam Speaker, Mike Jiloty is a true example of a servant leader. He sought to inspire others, to make his community a better place, and he is missed dearly. It is my honor to recognize him on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKIE ROBINSON INTEGRATING BASEBALL

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, Jackie Robinson once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson created a lasting impact on the lives of generations of Americans when he stepped out of the dugout at Ebbets Field before a crowd of more than 26,000 spectators. This moment would change the course of history and have a lasting impact for generations as he broke the color barrier as the first African-American player in professional baseball history.

Jackie Robinson is a true servant leader, and his life and legacy has had a major impact across the country, including in my own congressional district, where I am honored to have a piece of his legacy at the Daytona City Island Ballpark where, in 1946, Jackie Robinson played in the very first integrated major league baseball spring training game. In 1990, in honor of the life and legacy of Jackie Robinson, the Daytona City Island Ballpark would be renamed the Jackie Robinson Memorial Ballpark.

Jackie Robinson's impact was felt across the Nation. It was the first time a Black player competed with a minor league team against a major league team since the color line was implemented in baseball in the 1880s. As we observe the 75th anniversary of his courageous act, it is clear the impact and legacy of Jackie Robinson on the advancement of human rights will be everlasting.

A1A DESIGNATED AN ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, of the approximately 4 million miles of byways and highways that stretch in all directions across the United States, there are very few that come close to the beauty, history, and serenity that encompasses the 72-mile stretch of A1A that runs from St. Johns County, Florida, to Flagler County. Flanked by the Atlantic Ocean and crisscrossing the St. Johns River and Intracoastal Waterway, for more than 75 years the A1A