



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022

No. 115

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 13, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIANO ESPAILLAT 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:

Almighty God, You bless the people who patiently endure hardship and testing. And so we bring before You our prayers for the people of Ukraine who, in these last months, have endured indescribable adversity and have been tested time and again. Yet, they have held fast to their faith in You and confident in Your deliverance from unspeakable horrors.

You see the atrocities inflicted upon Ukraine, O God. You know the torture the Ukrainians endure day after day at the ruthless hands of their enemy. They wait patiently for Your intercession. Where, then, is Your blessing?

O Lord, You have promised those who love You the crown of life. Give to the people of Ukraine, who have remained unwavering in their hope in You, who have embodied Your compassion in tending to the overwhelming suffering around them despite the risk to their own lives, give them evidence of the abundant life You have prepared for them.

Defend them with the strength of Your mighty arm. Crown them with

righteousness, for in facing the wickedness that encroaches on them, they have remained steadfast in their devotion to You.

May they serve as a testimony to Your faithfulness and a witness to Your abiding presence. And may we prove worthy to endure the testing and hardship that befalls us when we are called to take our stand against tyranny and oppression.

All this we pray in Your sovereign 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 Utah (Mr. STEWART) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STEWART 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 entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LET TEACHERS TEACH

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise with a message for those it may concern.

At Robb Elementary School, more than 15 good guys with guns, ballistic shields, and body armor confronted a bad guy with a gun and didn't do what many expect teachers to do with a pistol.

Expecting teachers to take out bad guys with guns is unreasonable, outrageous, and dumb. Let teachers teach.

RETURN TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, I received a letter from a Boy Scout in my district telling me how his family has been forced to change their budget and cancel their summer vacation.

Unfortunately, this story is not unique, and right now, more than two-thirds of Americans have been forced to dip into their savings to pay for groceries and gasoline. This is the reality of an economy that has been wrecked by Biden's socialist spending spree.

These policies have consequences, and it is estimated that American families will spend an additional \$460 a month because of inflation. Just this morning, it was reported that inflation rose by 9.1 percent in the past year.

Let's call this 9 percent inflation what it is. It is a tax on workers and families, and it is having a severe impact on my community. It is time to stop spending money that we don't have on policies that we don't need. It is time to return to fiscal responsibility.

ATTACKS ON THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

☐ 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.

H5979

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, wars were fought, movements were launched, constitutional amendments were passed to give every American of every race and gender full citizenship and the right to vote.

But last month, the Supreme Court released a shadow docket ruling reinstating Louisiana's GOP-drawn, unrepresentative congressional maps. This sends Louisiana back to a tarnished history of diminishing the votes and voices of African Americans.

It is shameful that the Court refused maps that fairly represent the population of Louisiana. We need maps that follow the simple math and give Black Louisianians their rightful representation per current population.

The Supreme Court is out of control in so many ways, but this and other most recent rulings make it clear that this Supreme Court will stop at nothing to silence the voices of Black and Brown Americans. This ruling shows that many of these Justices are committed not to the Constitution but to the far-right political agenda that includes further attacking of the Voting Rights Act.

Together we must fight against the age-old pattern of silencing Black voters. While the forces of injustice may have won the battle, we will win the war.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American hero.

Ronald Reagan once said: "Some people wonder all their lives if they made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem."

This is especially true of Hershel "Woody" Williams, who will be lying in honor in the Capitol tomorrow. Until his death on June 29, Williams was the sole surviving marine from World War II to wear the Medal of Honor.

Then-Corporal Williams was a 21-year-old marine when his unit landed on Iwo Jima in February 1945. He was thrown into bloody combat almost immediately. Japanese forces were dug into a network of reinforced pillboxes, and American forces were pinned down by heavy machine gun fire.

Williams could see his fellow marines needed help, so he grabbed a flamethrower and charged towards the enemy stronghold alone.

Can you believe he was just 21 years old when he did that? As his Medal of Honor citation says: "Covered only by four riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out one position after another."

Williams' actions, his citation concludes, displayed "valiant devotion to

duty" and enabled "his company to reach its objective."

Williams saw the American flag raised on Mount Suribachi that same day.

Williams was honorably discharged 9 months later, but he reenlisted in the Reserves twice. By the time he retired from the Corps in 1969, he had served 20 years and risen to the rank of chief warrant officer 4.

Yet, Williams still felt the call to service after he retired. So, among other things, he started the Woody Williams Foundation. Williams and his foundation helped establish 104 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across America to date, and right now more than 69 more monuments are underway in 50 States.

Woody Williams went above and beyond the call of duty on the battlefield and back home, and by lying in honor in the rotunda tomorrow, Williams continues to serve our veterans.

Some people don't know this, but Williams said one of his last wishes was to lie in honor in the Capitol, but it wasn't for himself. No, it was for every Medal of Honor recipient who served in World War II. What a hero.

Our veterans fought together as a team. They sacrificed as a team. And now, thanks in part to Woody Williams, we will honor them as a team.

One last wish, one final act of service. That was Woody Williams. Selfless to the end.

As long as there are Americans like Williams and all the Medal of Honor recipients we honor this week, this will always be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

WE MUST REMAIN ALERT

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, the January 6 Committee has interviewed more than a thousand people and gathered more than 140,000 documents.

Yesterday, the committee revealed how the former White House counsel agreed that there was no evidence of widespread election fraud. At hearing after hearing, the committee has proven that Trump's big lie led to a violent insurrection that attempted to end our democracy.

I introduced two resolutions calling for the prosecution of insurrectionists and condemning the Proud Boys' acts of terror. Now, more than 800 insurrectionists have been arrested, and the leader of the Proud Boys has been charged with seditious conspiracy.

Efforts to undermine our democracy are not over. We must remain alert and protect people's right to vote.

SAFEGUARDING THE SAVINGS OF RETIREES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the left's woke agenda is putting the retirement savings of many Americans at risk.

The Biden administration's proposed rule would require retirement plan managers to consider environmental, social, and governance factors when making investment decisions for workers and retirees. These factors can include a company's carbon footprint, hiring practices, and whether it is unionized.

ESG factors are subjective and arbitrary, making them a perfect weapon for the left. Forcing ESG standards on retirement accounts is a clear violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which requires fiduciaries to put the financial interests of plan participants first.

ESG requirements pressure investors to subject retirement savings to low-yield investments. This is irresponsible. We should be doing all that we can to safeguard the savings of retirees instead of putting them at risk to satisfy the woke mob.

VULNERABLE WOMEN WILL BE HURT MOST

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in outrage that extreme Republicans seek to control women and their most intimate healthcare decisions by banning abortions. These cruel efforts will hurt the already vulnerable women in our communities the most, especially poor women.

Madam Speaker, there are more than 800,000 women of reproductive age with incomes under 100 percent of poverty who live in States that haven't expanded Medicaid.

These women are being left without access to comprehensive healthcare coverage, and now many are being stripped of their abortion rights. These women are less likely to access birth control, will struggle to receive wellness exams, and now will not have access to abortion.

This is the vision Republicans have for America. This is what the right-wing wants. Well, I won't stand by quietly, and Democrats will not stand by quietly. I plan to fight for women because I trust women to make their most personal, intimate healthcare decisions.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County