



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

No. 120

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 13, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN S. DUARTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, 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.

CONGRATULATING BELLEFONTE RED RAIDERS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bellefonte Red Raiders varsity baseball team for the extraordinary achievement as the 2023 PIAA quad A State champions.

On June 17, at Penn State's Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, the Red Raiders

defeated Dallas High School 7-1 to claim the championship title. The Raiders were led on the mound by senior Dom Capparella who pitched a complete game while striking out five batters and only allowing one run.

At the plate, junior Trevor Johnson led the way hitting a pair of doubles and scoring two runs. Junior Levi Purnell added a pair of hits and three RBIs.

Mr. Speaker, Bellefonte finished their season with a 20-5 record. Bellefonte joins Bald Eagle, another Centre County school, in winning their class's State championship. This is the first time that the two Centre County schools won a State championship in baseball in the same year.

This is the first time Bellefonte has won a class 4A title, but this is their eighth State championship and the first since 2015.

We congratulate Red Raiders again on their victory.

CONGRATULATING CLARION HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Clarion High School Baseball Team on their 2023 State Championship victory.

On June 15, at Penn State's Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Clarion High School Bobcats beat DuBois Central Catholic for the PIAA Single A 2023 Baseball State Championship. This was an incredibly rare meeting of two teams from the same district. The Bobcats were victorious with a 4-1 win.

Devin Lauer went four shutout innings, allowing five hits and striking out five before giving way to Derek Smail, who allowed just one run in three innings.

Mr. Speaker, this is an historic win for the Bobcats as it is their first State Championship victory in program history. This team was fueled by determination, perseverance, and commitment as they continued to move toward the championship game.

Congratulations to the Clarion High School Bobcats on this impressive victory.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ROSALYNN CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this month offers a joyful opportunity to celebrate the legendary love and leadership of President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter, as they mark their 77th wedding anniversary.

All Americans know of the greatness of President Carter, whose dignity, decency, and devoted public service has touched countless lives. Today, I rise to herald the many good works of First Lady Rosalynn Carter, a revered leader in her own right.

In a moment where there was real stigma against mental illness, Rosalynn Carter decided to make mental health one of her flagship issues.

As First Lady of Georgia, she was deeply moved by the stories of Georgians who shared their struggles with mental illness or caring for a family member with a mental illness. Those stories informed her service on the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped, where many of her contributions were later implemented as policy.

These stories informed her service on the Governor's Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped, as I said.

When her husband went to the White House, she served as honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, where the recommendations became the foundation for decades of change.

In her compelling testimony before Congress on the landmark Mental Health Systems Act, she declared:

□ 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.

H3481

“The mental health problems facing our country are the problems of all citizens.”

After leaving the White House, she founded the mental health policy initiative and mental health journalism fellowship at the Carter Center.

Alongside Betty Ford, she advocated for the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, which ensures that reimbursements for mental health are the same as for physical health; mental or physical health, no distinction. Patrick Kennedy in our House was such an important leader on this.

The same boundless compassion also fueled the First Lady’s fervent commitment to our Nation’s caregivers. She has devoted herself to bringing support and attention to tens of millions of families and professional caregivers across the country.

For 36 years, the Georgia Southwestern State University Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving has advocated for policies to support their work. She even wrote a handbook for caregivers: “Helping Yourself Help Others.”

At the same time, First Lady Carter has lent her voice to so many causes: From childhood immunization, especially among vulnerable communities, to gender justice, as she fought to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Beloved at home, First Lady Carter was also deeply respected abroad. All are in awe of her historic visit to Latin America in 1977, where she championed human rights, democracy, and a new chapter of engagement in the region.

With her characteristic grace and grit, she embraced this high-stakes diplomatic mission: Meeting with heads of state and speaking with authority as an emissary for our Nation.

With her characteristic grace and grit, again, 2 years later, Rosalynn Carter made history as the first sitting First Lady to address the World Health Organization, when she shared her mental health findings. In her memorable remarks, she argued that mental health was an aspect of physical health, and that healthcare is a human right.

Since, through the Carter Center, she has helped strengthen mental health care in Liberia: Caring for people exposed to the stress of conflict, while training community workers to identify signs of mental illness.

Personally, it was my special privilege 2 years ago to travel to Plains to join in celebrating the Carter’s 75th wedding anniversary, a marvelous celebration of their eternal love and limitless partnership.

Rosalynn has long been Jimmy’s closest friend and confidant, and the Carter Center will forever stand as a testament to the true partnership in service that the Carters share.

God has truly blessed America with the leadership of the Carters, and our grateful Nation salutes them for their lives well-lived.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MARGARET THATCHER

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions to western civilization by the Iron Lady of the U.K., Margaret Thatcher.

In an era characterized by rapid social and economic change, America finds itself at a crossroads. The principles that once made our Nation a beacon of freedom and prosperity are under attack on multiple fronts.

In the midst of these consequential times, our attention should turn to one of history’s most influential leaders, Great Britain’s Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Her unwavering commitment to fiscally responsible principles and resolute leadership skills provide invaluable lessons for an America pushing back against a growing tide of socialism.

Margaret Thatcher understood that the engine of a thriving economy lies in the power of free markets. Her resolute vision of limiting the size and scope of government, disassembling monopolies, and lowering taxes revitalized the British economy.

Similarly, America needs a decisive leader, steadfast and determined to thwart the death spiral of out-of-control spending and woke cultural influences that have migrated from academia to boardrooms, and now into public policy.

While President Ronald Reagan’s policies helped subdue the threat of communism abroad, different qualities are needed to decapitate the snake emerging from within our current culture. Prime Minister Thatcher inherited a kingdom in decay, struggling with much of what ails America today. From her lonely perch at number 10 Downing Street, through what seemed to be sheer will and determination, from the ash heap of history, a United Kingdom rose on her shoulders.

Thatcher’s unapologetic patriotism and emphasis on national sovereignty resonated with people from all walks of life all over the world. In an era of globalization, America must safeguard its financial interests, values, and identity. A leader cut from the same cloth as Margaret Thatcher would prioritize secure borders, promote American jobs, and ensure that our national interests are not compromised by supranational organizations.

By reaffirming our commitment to sovereignty, we can forge a future where America’s interests are always at the forefront of our decisionmaking process.

Prime Minister Thatcher’s vision of a free society extended beyond economics. She was a staunch defender of individual liberty, recognizing that government should serve as a protector, not as a nanny state. She understood the immorality of socialism. She trusted individuals to make their own choices, championed personal responsibility, and promoted self-reliance.

America needs a leader who upholds these timeless virtues, resists the encroachment of woke ideologies, and recognizes the pitfalls of out-of-control spending that bloats the bureaucracy that seems to dictate every aspect of our lives.

As socialism gains traction in America’s political discourse, it is crucial to remember the destructive consequences of such policies in the past. Thatcher recognized the pitfalls of collectivism, firmly rejecting the notion of big government’s corrosive effect on individual liberty and economic growth.

She recognized the critical aspect that socialism is not only economically inefficient, but is immoral. By advocating for free-market principles and resisting the deceptive allure of socialism, America can maintain its foundation as the land of opportunity and avoid the pitfalls that led to the demise of other republics such as the Greek and Roman Empires.

Margaret Thatcher’s leadership provides an inspiring template for America to follow. Her legacy reminds us that the preservation of individual freedom and fiduciary trust are paramount for the survival of prosperous economies.

As our challenges mount, we need a leader who embraces the principles of economic freedom, national sovereignty, individual liberty, and personal responsibility. Thatcher’s unwavering resolve, steadfast values, and commitment to commonsense policies serve as a powerful reminder of the transformative impact a leader can make.

America needs a bold leader whose focus is riveted on reviving our Nation’s spirit, restoring our economy, and defending the principles that have made us exceptional. Adhering to Maggie Thatcher’s legacy will guide us toward a brighter future that ensures America remains a shining example of freedom, prosperity, and opportunity for generations to come.

UNENDING EPIDEMIC OF MASS SHOOTINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, last week, we celebrated our Nation’s birthday, a day that conjures up images of flags and fireworks, family barbecues and patriotic parades.

But in my district, the dominant image on July 4 was a mint green child’s bicycle. That little green bike lay untouched in the street in the Kingessing neighborhood for days after it was abandoned by its innocent owner when a man wearing combat gear and a mask stalked his neighbors, shooting randomly, killing five and injuring four others. One of the victims was 13. Another was on his dinner break from work. Two-year old twins