



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023

No. 22

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 2, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.  
KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

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

Almighty God, how good and pleasant it is when people live in unity. And on this day, when many have been in fellowship together at the National Prayer Breakfast, people of different parties and nations have broken bread together, people of different beliefs have shared in faith, we give You thanks for the harmony of their devotion to You and for giving us a glimpse of what is good and pleasant in Your eyes.

May all of us have the willingness to look for such common ground in our engagements with one another, whether it be over a matter of policy or in a moment of prayer. Reveal Yourself to us in the other, that in them we would see again what is good and pleasant in Your eyes.

Sovereign God, remind us that to strive for unity does not mean to disparage diversity. Rather, You call us to be one in You, for there we will discover that the dissonance of our voices will resolve to harmony. How good and pleasant that would be.

In Your loving name we pray.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CASAR 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### WELCOMING SENATOR PETE RICKETTS TO WASHINGTON

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to Washington the newest Member of the Nebraska delegation, U.S. Senator PETE RICKETTS.

Senator RICKETTS has just finished 8 very good years as Governor of Nebraska. During that time, he steered the State through challenges, including a dramatic period of historic flooding and a global pandemic.

Through it all, he led Nebraska to the best performance of any State during the COVID pandemic, according to Politico.

Across his 8 years as Governor, he helped run State government more like a business, delivered historic tax relief, and rolled back unnecessary State government regulations.

Nebraska is fortunate to have his experience working for us now over in the Senate. The Nebraska delegation is excited to have him on the team, and we look forward to fighting together for the Cornhusker State's priorities here in Washington.

### MARK THESE WORDS AS MY FIRST IN THIS CHAMBER

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

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I am GREG CASAR, and I represent the heart of Texas.

Today, thousands of my constituents are freezing without electricity. As Texans try to survive the cold weather and the climate crisis is being ignored in our State, they are also worried about paying for housing. They are worried because they have had their workers' rights stripped away, reproductive rights stripped away, and voting rights stripped away. They are worried that their kid could be shot in school.

These are the concerns of the people. But Republican leadership here is working on none of these issues. Instead, they are trying to redistribute wealth from working-class families to their biggest corporate donors.

But even though Texans may be without electricity today, we are far from powerless. We have a history of organizing for change in Texas.

The same electricians who are getting the lights back on, the same medics caring for our sick, are sick and tired of right-wing extremism. These working families will be the ones to organize and create a true democracy

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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where the people lead and the politicians follow.

Mark these words as my first here in this Chamber.

#### PRAYER WORKS

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to thank the Lord Jesus Christ, my constituents, and my colleagues for your thoughts and prayers and tender mercies that you have showed my family over these last trying months.

I am here today to report to you that prayer works. As of yesterday, our daughter's cancer is in remission.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget the kindness shown to me by both sides of this aisle, and I humbly remain your servant.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Gun Violence Survivors Awareness Week.

A decade ago, in this spot, I gave my first speech in the House about the epidemic of gun violence in our Nation. I could not then have imagined two things: First, that Congress would fail to take significant action to address gun violence in our Nation; and second, that mass shootings would continue to grow as an epidemic. Last year alone, there were 647 mass shootings in our country, including in my community of Highland Park.

For all the hundreds of communities that are affected and part of this tragic union from the devastation of gun violence, the effects are permanent.

Seven months ago, in my community, at 10:14 a.m. on July 4 at the Independence Day parade in Highland Park, a monster with an assault rifle climbed a ladder and fired 83 bullets in less than a minute into the festive crowd below. He murdered seven wonderful people, wounded dozens more, and traumatized an entire community.

The devastation and damage to a human body from these weapons are inconceivable. We have to address gun violence. We have to pass an assault weapons ban that was introduced this week. I call on our communities to act.

#### PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL SAW HIS SHADOW

(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. Mr. Speaker, today is a big day in the

15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Specifically, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, our most famous resident had his day in the sun, literally.

To quote Bill Murray: "It's Groundhog Day, again."

Early this morning, Punxsutawney Phil, our weather expert groundhog, saw his shadow. For those of you who know the old German legend, this means we are in for 6 more weeks of winter.

Punxsy Phil has been forecasting the weather since the 1800s. Records going back to 1886 show that Phil has forecasted a longer winter 107 times and an early spring just 20 times.

Crowds gathered on Gobbler's Knob before sunrise today for the 137th celebration.

Phil has proven himself a devoted prognosticator year after year and is a true icon in the world of weather forecasting.

For these reasons and many more, Phil was inducted into the 2023 Meteorologists Hall of Fame by the Weather Discovery Center.

So don't pack up your winter gear just yet. Phil says we have 6 more weeks. Happy Groundhog Day.

#### A REPUBLICAN POLITICAL STUNT

(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. Mr. Speaker, once again, House Republicans are prioritizing extreme political stunts over problem-solving for the American people.

Speaker MCCARTHY's purely partisan move to strip Representative OMAR from her committee is not only a political stunt but a blow to the integrity of our democratic institutions and solves no problem.

In modern American history, the punishment of stripping Members of Congress of their committee assignments has been reserved only for the most egregious wrongdoing, including threats to colleagues. Congresswoman OMAR has neither threatened a colleague, nor has she committed any egregious wrongdoing.

If Republicans want to degrade the integrity of the House and its committees, it will be up to Democrats to stand up against these efforts. We will always stand for integrity in our House.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the efforts today by the extreme MAGA Republicans in this political stunt that solves no problems.

#### FENTANYL CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the dangerous crisis

our Nation is experiencing on our southern border.

Two weeks ago, on a tour of my district, I had the honor of meeting law enforcement officers in Clay, Madison, and McDowell Counties. These counties are in very different parts of North Carolina's sprawling 11th Congressional District, yet these officers all shared with me that the number one problem they face every day—number one—is the flow of fentanyl into our mountains.

Keep in mind that western North Carolina is a thousand miles away from the southern border. Yet, because of the Biden administration's lax border policies, every State is now a border State, and we are all suffering from the consequences.

Since day one, this administration has ceded control of our southern border to drug cartels and dangerous gangs.

In addition to fentanyl, we have seen a flow of unlawful migrants and illicit contraband pour into our country at rates never seen before, and China is a key source of the ingredients used to make fentanyl that is killing our children and fueling this crisis that is affecting so many. There needs to be a change.

#### NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the survivors of gun violence during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Sandy Hook, Parkland, Buffalo, and, yes, even Detroit, and Chicago. So many now are impacted—various names and memories of loved ones seared into our memories—in places where gun violence has traumatized our communities and taken far too many of our loved ones.

Every day in our country, more than 110 people are shot and killed and more than 200 people survive gunshot wounds. We are 33 days into the new year, Mr. Speaker, and there have already been 54 mass shootings. To every survivor of gun violence, from classmates who have witnessed their friends die to families who have dinner at the table with an empty seat there, we honor you always with action.

So I call on my colleagues to stand up to the corporate gun lobby and send the assault weapons ban to President Biden's desk. There is no reason to have weapons of war in our communities. There is no reason that anyone needs a weapon of war that can fire up to 60 shots per minute.

#### IT IS TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK

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