



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

No. 204

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 12, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID KUSTOFF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*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 1:50 p.m.

### HUMANITARIAN AID FOR GAZA

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the safe, timely, and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The actions that Hamas took on October 7 were horrific and led to the tragic loss of life and displacement of millions.

When I talk to the families of victims of the October 7 tragedy who were killed or taken hostage, you can hear

the agony and despair in their voices. I also hear that same agony and despair when I talk to my constituents who are Palestinian Americans who have lost relatives in this war.

Now, I can't change the prosecution of this war. Israel has a right to defend itself. Israel has a right to make sure Hamas no longer presents a security threat to its civilians. It also has the right to degrade Hamas' ability to be a viable governing and political entity if we ever want to find a lasting peace.

That is the horror of war. I can't prevent that. What we can do is prevent what we are watching unfold in front of our eyes right now.

I am a doctor, and I am hearing horrific reports of the humanitarian and public health crisis that is taking place—the lack of clean water, the lack of food, and the starvation that is unfolding in front of us. Winter is coming.

We must do everything we can to prevent the humanitarian crisis if we ever want to find eventual peace in the region. That is something that we can do. That is not about war. That is about relieving the suffering of individuals and civilians. The folks who are most vulnerable are infants and the elderly. Let's get them that clean water.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing my resolution calling for the safe, timely, and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip.

This resolution urges the Biden administration to facilitate a scale-up of the safe and continuous flow of aid to civilians that includes medications, food, and clean water. It asks for the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver this aid in Gaza without impediment or interference. It encourages the distribution of fuel to humanitarian organizations working in Gaza and for the proper oversight to ensure the aid is appropriately delivered and not commandeered by Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize the urgency of passing President Biden's sup-

plemental funding because it does contain funding for humanitarian aid.

We have to get this done. We must do everything we can to pass this funding request to support our allies and prevent this humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, in this time when many religions and faiths are reflective, let's do everything we can. We are all God's children here.

We can do this. This is not about war. This is about saving lives. This is about allowing humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza on a continuous basis to provide food, clean water, medications, fuel to keep hospitals operating, and energy to make sure we save these lives.

### CONGRATULATING CAMPBELL STEWART

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Campbell Stewart, a student from Pusch Ridge Christian Academy in Oro Valley who was named to the 2023 National Youth Orchestra.

Campbell's passion for the timpani, also known as the kettledrum, started when he was just in third grade. This program allowed Campbell to perform at Carnegie Hall with 89 talented students over the summer.

This is not his first prestigious recognition. Over the years, Campbell has earned numerous awards for his accomplishments with the timpani, including receiving gold medals from the Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Tucson, and the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra.

Additionally, Campbell also had the privilege of participating in the 2021 Juilliard Percussion Seminar, the Hilton Head Jazz Camp in South Carolina, and the Brevard Music Center festival.

□ 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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Once again, I congratulate Campbell Stewart for his achievement and for being part of the National Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. His unwavering dedication and commitment to the world of music does not go unnoticed.

#### CELEBRATING LOU-ANN PREBLE

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life and achievements of Lou-Ann Preble. Born in 1929 in South Carolina, Lou-Ann's life has been nothing short of inspiring.

After completing her high school education, Lou-Ann went on to become a registered nurse, where she met William Preble, a young Air Force pilot stationed at the nearby Shaw Air Force Base.

As Bill's Air Force career took off, Lou-Ann raised their 11 children, creating a warm and loving home wherever they were stationed.

Upon retiring in Tucson, Arizona, Bill and Lou-Ann did not slow down. Instead, they immersed themselves in their community and church, embodying the spirit of service that defined their lives.

In 1992, Lou-Ann Preble was elected to the Arizona House, where she served until 2001. Her passion for healthcare and a commitment to the unique health challenges faced by those living in rural areas of Arizona set her apart from anyone else.

As the vice chair of the Arizona House Health Committee, Lou-Ann played a huge role in the creation of the Rural Health Committee.

Lou-Ann partnered with the University of Arizona Health Center and Dr. Ronald Weinstein to create two programs, the Arizona Telemedicine Program and the Rural Health Professions Program. The ATP connected remote and prison clinics with healthcare professionals at the UofA, revolutionizing healthcare access for those in underserved areas. The Rural Health Professions Program sought to address the shortage of physicians in smaller communities by establishing rotations for medical students throughout various Arizona locales.

Today, Lou-Ann Preble enjoys a well-deserved retirement in Tucson, surrounded by the love and warmth of her children.

I thank Lou-Ann Preble for her tireless service throughout her life. It has been an honor for me to know her and to be able to call her a friend and an inspiration, as well. God bless her.

#### CONGRATULATING NAMI OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southern Arizona as they mark four decades in operation.

NAMI of Southern Arizona was founded in 1983 to focus on bringing awareness to mental health while providing invaluable assistance to individuals struggling with their mental health. Their mission is to educate and support anyone affected by mental illness.

In February 2021, a staggering 40 percent of Arizonans reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression, with 27 percent unable to access the help they needed. On a bigger scale, one in five people across the United States face challenges to their mental health.

NAMI provides an array of support groups in both English and Spanish that focus on almost every area of mental health, from postpartum depression to teen and adolescent concerns.

NAMI of Southern Arizona has been a beacon of hope, helping individuals in managing their mental health effectively. We need more nonprofit organizations like this in the world. The impact of NAMI's efforts over the past four decades is truly remarkable. I am honored to highlight all the good work they do to help our community thrive today.

#### CONGRATULATING PHYLLIS SMITH

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been told that service is the rent that we pay for living in a free and democratic society.

Such has been the life and the legacy of Ms. Phyllis Smith, regional commissioner of Social Security for Region 5, who is retiring after 45 years of service with the agency.

Commissioner Smith has worked with thousands of individual clients, and her supervisory and leadership roles have placed her in positions to positively impact the lives of thousands of others.

Commissioner Smith started work for Social Security in 1978 as a title 16 claims representative in the Chicago East Field Office. She stated that her initial plan was to work with SSA until she could decide what her long-term work plans were. She stated and has written that, "When I saw firsthand the impact of SSA on people's lives, the fact that we are the country's financial safety net, and my hardworking, dedicated, compassionate co-workers, I was hooked," and she was. As a matter of fact, she moved through the ranks to become the regional commissioner.

If you can imagine working 45 years for one agency, you come in contact with many clients, and she also had a great impact on improving and enhancing the quality of life for thousands of individuals.

Commissioner, you have done exceptionally well. You have done your job—more than your job. You have given unselfishly of yourself for the benefit of others.

I commend you for your outstanding career, and as you leave, I ask that you take with you an Irish prayer. It says: May the sun shine warmly upon your face. May the wind always be at your back. And until we meet again, may

the good Lord hold you in the hollow of his hands.

Congratulations. It is time. You have done well.

#### HONORING CHARLES STEWART

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles "Charley" Stewart, who passed away this past October in Brunswick, Georgia.

Charley was born here in Washington, D.C., where his life of service began. He spent time here working in the National Science Foundation.

After college, he joined the Air Force Reserve and was based at Andrews Air Force Base, where he achieved the rank of sergeant.

Charley eventually moved down to St. Simons Island in 1975, where he continued his military service in the Air National Guard and achieved the rank of master sergeant.

In addition to his service in the military, Charley also served his community through time in government. Charley served as the finance director for Glynn County, and he served as a Glynn County administrator for a combined two decades.

Charley will be remembered for his life of service. Whether it was the country, community, or his family, he always put others first. He is an example we should all strive to emulate.

#### CELEBRATING RON ADAMS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of my friend Ron Adams. Ron is retiring after a fruitful career as clerk of Glynn County Superior and Magistrate Courts.

When Adams first took office back in 2017, it was a very difficult time for the courts as a former clerk had stolen more than \$1 million. Ron ensured that the court continued to operate smoothly under his leadership while efforts to secure the money were made.

Throughout his career, he overcame challenges, including the high-profile Ahmaud Arbery murder case.

□ 1015

Adams' hard work made sure that this very emotional case could proceed smoothly and effectively.

Adams' dedication and loyalty to his community will continue to serve as a blueprint on how to be an effective clerk, a position that is essential to our justice system's success.

I congratulate Ron on his achievements and on his recent retirement.

#### COMMEMORATING WADE BENSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Wade Benson as he retires after 27 years as a Young Harris College chief financial officer.

Wade began at Young Harris College in 1986, coming to the college as an