



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

No. 5

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 10, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARCUS J. MOLINARO 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, 2024, 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.

HONORING MELVIN DANIEL

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Melvin Daniel who will be posthumously inducted into the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame in March.

A Bismarck native, Melvin spent 37 years as an agriculture education teacher and FFA adviser for the Glenwood, Lake Hamilton, and Foreman school districts, including 33 years at

Lake Hamilton where he advised the school's first FFA State officer, first American FFA Degree recipient, and trained 33 State-winning FFA judging teams.

Melvin was a dedicated agriculturalist known not only for his dedication to agricultural education and FFA but also for his passion for raising Black Angus and Limousine cattle and for his time spent as director of the Master Gardeners program with the Garland County Cooperative Extension Service.

Although I never had Mr. Daniel as my ag teacher, he taught at a neighboring high school. I spent much time with him and his students at fairs, conventions, and contests. Mr. Daniel had a desire to see all students succeed, whether they were his students or not. I was one of those who benefited from knowing him.

I am honored to stand today and recognize my friend, Mr. Melvin Daniel, for his lifelong commitment to agriculture. His induction to the Arkansas Agricultural Hall of Fame is well deserved, and I know his family and the community are still inspired by his service.

HONORING THE BRAGG FAMILY

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my condolences to the friends and loved ones of the Bragg family from Monticello. While visiting family in Michigan over the holiday, Hope and Don Bragg, their son Kenny and their daughter, Elizabeth, lost their lives in a house explosion. Their son Stephen and Hope's father, Richard Pruden, made it out but are still in recovery.

Hope was a dedicated Arkansas 4-H instructor, and Don was a renowned scientist, who conducted critical research at the University of Arkansas at Monticello that will forever impact forestry in Arkansas and nationwide.

In fact, much of the research that Don conducted has impacted the work

that I have done throughout my career as both a forester and a Member of Congress.

I am thankful for both Hope and Don's contributions to the agricultural and forestry sectors, but, furthermore, I am thankful for their generous contributions to their community.

I was devastated to learn about this tragedy, as I know many were. Hope and Don's absence will be greatly felt and impact many in Drew County and across the country, but they leave behind a lasting legacy of love for science and public service.

My prayers go out to Stephen and Mr. Pruden as they recover from this disaster and the Braggs' friends and families as they navigate this devastating loss.

RECOGNIZING TOM NICHOLS

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tom Nichols for his distinguished career in broadcast radio. For over 65 years, Tom Nichols has been in the radio business in Arkansas. Since 1958, when he got his start with the Hot Springs DJs, Tom has impacted the Natural State's radio industry beyond measure.

After years of managing KZNG in Hot Springs, Tom and his wife, Polly, became trailblazers in Arkansas radio when they started the first-ever radio station in Pike County in Glenwood. What began as a small AM radio station became the spot for Arkansans in Pike County to receive breaking news and daily entertainment on AM and FM frequencies.

As KWXI grew in Glenwood, Tom and Polly saw a need for quality radio in Hot Springs Village, and, thus, they started KRVE where they still are today. The KVRE call letters mean Village Radio Entertainment, which is exactly what they are all about.

One of Arkansas' last family-owned and operated stations, KVRE is known as being personable and making its listeners feel like friends and family. As

□ 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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someone who has joined Tom on KVRE for several interviews, I can attest to the familiar and personal environment he and his family have curated in Hot Springs Village.

Tom has not only been able to capture and maintain the nostalgia of hometown radio with local personalities and local news, but he has adapted with the times. You cannot only listen at 92.9 locally, but you can also listen worldwide at KVRE.com.

It is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Tom Nichols and his 65 years of service in radio broadcasting.

HONORING JOSE DE SOSA

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion for community empowerment and civil rights in the San Fernando Valley and beyond, the incomparable Jose De Sosa.

Jose De Sosa dedicated over six decades of his life to tirelessly advocating for justice, equality, and the well-being of our community. His passing leaves a void that will be felt by all those lives he touched.

Born in Panama City, Panama, Jose later migrated to New York City where he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served our country for over 10 years.

That service was one of the many milestones he accomplished throughout his life.

Jose met his beautiful wife, Juanita, in 1959. They got married and moved to Pacoima where they raised seven outstanding children.

In his life's works, he demonstrated his commitment to justice and equity over the course of his 36 years working for Pacific Telephone Company which later became AT&T.

In fact, he was a leader in pushing the Pacific Telephone Company to recruit from the Los Angeles Unified School District's Skills Center, improving economic opportunity for Black and Brown students and enabling hundreds of people to secure work and provide for their families in those good-paying jobs.

But Jose's biggest impact on the San Fernando Valley was through his positions with the NAACP, where he served as president of the local chapter, and his various roles as a board member in regional and State-level organizations.

He was the first Afro-Latino to be elected president of a local and state-wide NAACP, and he used his Black and Latino heritage to build working relationships between both communities and beyond.

In challenging times during the 1980s, when Pacoima grappled with issues of police brutality from the Los Angeles Police Department, Jose De Sosa emerged as a fearless leader. His un-

wavering commitment to justice was instrumental in banning the use of the carotid choke hold by the LAPD, a pivotal step towards safeguarding the rights, safety, and dignity of all individuals.

He worked with many of my colleagues, such as the legendary Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and also Congresswoman Diane Watson to hold LAPD accountable.

It is these examples of his incredible leadership that makes Jose De Sosa's impact felt both locally and nationally. This advocacy on behalf of the safety of his community even led to a landmark Supreme Court decision sharply limiting the use of battering rams by law enforcement.

His dedication to protecting the civil rights of all people reverberated throughout our community and set a precedent for justice.

Even in his later years, Mr. De Sosa continued to serve his community with passion and vigor. He remained accessible and responsive to our community, making phone calls and sending emails whenever his assistance was needed to help a good cause.

These efforts included actively informing people about programs that save money through solar energy, demonstrating his commitment to both the environment and sustainability and economic empowerment for all communities.

He also continued to serve on various boards, such as the Valley Interfaith Council, Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center, Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley, Greater San Fernando Valley Optimist Club and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County.

In fact, the Neighborhood Legal Services' community room in Pacoima is named in his honor.

Mr. De Sosa's legacy is one of resilience, determination, selflessness, and service to all. His life's work has left an indelible mark on the landscape of civil rights and the community and advocacy overall. As we reflect on his contributions, let us remember Mr. De Sosa as an inspiration to us all—a true force for positive change.

May his memory be a guiding light for future generations as we strive to continue the fight for justice and equality for all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to know this remarkable individual.

I had the honor of recognizing Mr. De Sosa last year right here on the United States House of Representatives floor to commemorate Black History Month as one of our leaders in Pacoima and the San Fernando Valley.

A few years later, we honored him in the community at the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley. We shared stories and laughed and even cried together.

Mr. De Sosa was married to his wife and partner, Juanita, for 61 years. She

passed recently. They were world travelers, and they instilled that in their children and their descendants.

He leaves grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, friends, and acquaintances. We all miss him. May his legacy endure and inspire us to build a more just and compassionate society for everyone.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight how President Biden's open-border policies and Senator SCHUMER's inaction and refusal to pass our Border Security Act is resulting in everyday Americans dying.

In 2023, the overdose death rate topped 112,000 individuals, setting a new record.

Fentanyl is still the number one killer of Americans aged 18 to 45. Mr. Speaker, 70 to 80 percent of all fentanyl in the U.S. comes from the southern border. That is not just me saying it, that is what the Drug Enforcement Administration is saying.

Drug cartels are making \$32 million a week smuggling individuals into our country. Yes, every asylum seeker, migrant, illegal immigrant, whatever you want to call them, that is coming through our southern border is paying the drug cartels, who, in turn, then use that money to continue to poison our children by selling drugs.

The DEA seized 384 million doses of fentanyl. That is enough to kill every single American. The DEA stated that in December of 2022, most of the fentanyl being trafficked was from two cartels, and it is being mass produced at secret factories in Mexico with chemicals being sourced largely from China.

In May of last year, the DEA conducted an operation that resulted in over 3,000 arrests, the seizure of almost 44 million fentanyl pills, more than 6,500 pounds of fentanyl powder, more than 91,000 pounds of methamphetamine, roughly 8,400 firearms, and more than \$100 million.

Yes, the DEA is doing a great job, but look at the pressure we are putting on this agency simply because the President insists on having an open border, and Senator SCHUMER refuses to do his job.

We passed legislation here to add fentanyl and all its analogues to schedule 1, and he refuses to do it over there. We passed the Border Security Act in May, and he has been sitting on it since then. We took action to halt and put sanctions on Chinese entities that are manufacturing and producing this fentanyl, and, yet again, the Senate refuses to take action.

□ 1015

According to the DEA, Mexican criminal organizations are now the