



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

No. 85

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 16, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER 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 11:50 a.m.

HONORING JULIE ZERWIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's very own Julie Zerwic, recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Advocate of the Year award.

Julie Zerwic is a committed advocate for nursing education, currently serving as a professor and dean at the University of Iowa's College of Nursing.

Passionately supporting both students and faculty, Dean Zerwic emphasizes the importance of strong leadership within the nursing profession.

She ardently believes in nurses advocating for their patients, communities, and the profession itself. As a former nurse, I can testify to the importance of the dean conducting herself in these endeavors.

Under Dean Zerwic's guidance, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the University of Iowa has consistently ranked among the top 10 in the Nation by U.S. News and World Report for three consecutive years: 2022, 2023, and achieving an impressive number four ranking in 2024.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing appreciation for Dean Zerwic's unwavering advocacy and in congratulating her on receiving the Advocate of the Year award.

ROCKET CHALLENGE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate the exceptional achievement of Maharishi School students moving on to the finals in the American Rocketry Challenge.

Among 5,500 talented students competing, Maharishi's team has risen to the top, showcasing unparalleled dedication and skill.

Their mission is no small feat, carting a large egg to 820 feet, maintaining flight for 43 to 46 seconds, and safely returning, but I am confident in their design and precision.

The Maharishi students' rocket journey has been marked by hours of hard work, creative problem-solving, and an unwavering dedication to STEM excellence. Iowa's aerospace partners stand behind you, cheering you on.

For those that are interested, there will be some demonstrations tomorrow in the Rayburn foyer. Madam Speaker, they are not just competing for prizes. They are shaping aerospace innovation.

Once again, congratulations to the bright minds of the Maharishi School.

Their achievements inspire us all. Best of luck to them in the national finals.

CELEBRATING POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today and this week has been Police Week here in Washington, D.C. We saw how hundreds of police officers came to the Nation's Capital to be recognized and to be honored for their service across neighborhoods and cities and States of this great Nation.

Police officers respond to crises, to a violent situation, to a family conflict, and to someone brandishing a weapon.

It is not often that a police officer responds to a friendly situation. They respond to conflict, so they put their lives in harm's way for all of us in America.

Neighborhoods across the country expect police officers to show up when they call upon them to protect them.

This week is the week where we stand up here in the Nation's Capitol and recognize the men and women in uniform that protect our families, our neighborhoods, our cities, and our States.

For us here in the House of Representatives, and for me in particular, I am forever grateful to the heroic officers who protected the Capitol.

I will forever remember the 140 officers who were injured and the five who lost their lives as a result of the attack on January 6 right in this Chamber.

They didn't determine whether the Member was a Republican Member or whether the Member was a Democrat Member.

They came to protect our lives, and in many ways, they also showed up here confronting a violent, racist mob to protect democracy, to protect the House of Representatives, and on the other side, to protect the Senate.

□ 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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I take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to recognize the officers that lost their lives: Brian Sicknick, a Capitol Police officer who died from causes the day after the attack; Howard Liebengood from the Capitol Police as well; Jeffrey Smith from the Metropolitan Police Department; Gunther Hashida from the Metropolitan Police Department; and Kyle DeFreytag from the Metropolitan Police Department.

I am grateful for the brave officers also that testified in front of the January 6 committee: Officer Michael Fanone; Officer Harry Dunn; a New Yorker, Brooklynite, Police Sergeant Aquilino Gonell; and Officer Daniel Hodges.

It has been more than a year since Congress agreed to install a plaque to honor the officers who defended this very Capitol during the January 6 attack. I brought a poster of that plaque that has not yet been installed.

We can talk all the fanfare we want about how great the police department is here in the metropolitan D.C. area and across the country, but we have failed for over a year to properly recognize the Capitol Police officers and the local police departments that protected our very own lives.

We have failed to install the plaque, and that is why I bring this poster of it to show the American people that we want to honor not just all the police officers across the country but also the ones that defended this Capitol and protected us from an angry, violent mob whose intent was to kill NANCY PELOSI and whose clear intent was to assassinate Vice President Pence.

They made no distinction on our political affiliation here in this Chamber. They weren't going to ask us for our pin or our voting card and whether we are a Republican or a Democrat. They will have made no distinction.

Yet, the police officers were here, and we have failed to properly honor them.

UNACCOMPANIED MINOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, today I rise with grave concerns over another border record shattered by this administration.

We know that the border crisis has national security consequences and also humanitarian consequences. Just recently, the Washington Examiner reported that under the Biden administration, nearly half a million migrant children arrived in the United States without a parent.

The administration's open-border policies are incentivizing parents to send their children on the dangerous journey to the United States, often-times putting them in the hands of ruthless drug cartels and human smugglers.

Sadly, due to the lack of oversight and protection by the Department of

Health and Human Services, many of these innocent children end up in sickening situations where they are trafficked, forced to work in unsafe conditions, or even worse.

As an immigrant myself who moved to the United States as a young boy and now a father of six, this breaks my heart.

We must protect these vulnerable children and treat them with the care they deserve. There is nothing fair, humane, or compassionate about this.

These children are sent to the U.S. in search of opportunity and a better life but instead end up in harm's way.

This is yet another terrible consequence of the historic crisis at our border. The administration's failure to enforce the laws puts migrant children in danger while enriching cartels and criminal organizations that profit from their suffering.

This is a tragedy, and it is completely unacceptable. We have a responsibility to protect these vulnerable children while enforcing the law to stop this behavior.

I will continue working to secure our southern border and strengthen protections for unaccompanied migrant children.

CONGRATULATING MANDY RHODES

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mandy Rhodes on a well-deserved retirement after 18 years of service to the students and community at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

During her time, Mandy taught students in fourth and eighth grade and served as the grammar school principal for 7 years, an outstanding career as an educator.

As a teacher and principal, Mandy is known best for how she cared for everyone around her. Her incredible smile and positive attitude created a warm environment, sense of community, and a culture of excellence at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy.

She empowered her students to be the leaders and innovators of tomorrow, and I know this firsthand because my own kids experienced it.

She has been a force for good for our students and our community and our family. Mandy has truly embodied the mission of Pusch Ridge in her sacrificial service to others.

I strongly believe that no profession means more to our future generation than our educators. Education is the pillar of the American Dream, and our teachers are its architects.

I thank Principal Rhodes for all she has done and all she has given to the community of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. May God continue to bless her in her new journey.

CONGRATULATING THE SALPOINTE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salpointe High School girls' softball team for winning the 4A State championship.

On Saturday, May 11, they faced off against the CDO High School Dorados

in Hillenbrand Stadium. In an exciting game, they shut out their opponents with a score of 11-0 with the Lancers securing four home runs.

This marks the Lancers' sixth State championship in a row since 2018. Their hard work and perseverance over the past six seasons has been truly commendable. With this State championship under their belt, the Lancers end the season with 31 wins and only 4 losses.

I am proud to represent such dedicated athletes, determined coaches, and supportive parents. We congratulate Coach Tricia Sztan and her talented team for this well-deserved win and this amazing title.

CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, May 18 marks 15 years since the end of Sri Lanka's almost 30-year armed conflict, a war that tragically ended hundreds of thousands of lives. This conflict shattered families and communities, leaving deep scars that are still felt to this day.

This week, I am introducing a resolution that commemorates those lost and aims to protect the Tamil community from future violence and discrimination.

My resolution recognizes the genocide in Sri Lanka and affirms of right of Tamils to self-determination through a democratic process.

The Tamil people have a long history of distinct cultural and political identity on the island now known as Sri Lanka.

□ 1015

Historically, they lived in sovereign Tamil kingdoms that were forcibly merged under a single administration in 1833 by the British. This erasure of autonomy set the stage for decades of strife, conflict, and suppression, culminating in war.

My resolution emphasizes the need for a peaceful and democratic solution to ongoing tensions in Sri Lanka. It advocates for an independence referendum, a process that has been used successfully to resolve similar conflicts in other parts of the world. This approach echoes our commitment to democratic principles and underscores our support for human rights globally.

Additionally, my resolution calls on the United States to strengthen diplomatic ties and support the Tamil people's pursuit of justice and self-determination. It highlights the ongoing challenges in the region, including the militarization of Tamil areas, the appropriation of land, and the destruction of cultural heritage, which continue to exacerbate the grievances of the Tamil community.

Today, as we remember the end of a dark chapter in Sri Lanka's history, we