



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

No. 113

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 9, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VINCE FONG 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 MY HUSBAND, JOSEPH LESKO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my husband, Joseph Lesko. He is here in the House gallery today, right there.

I am totally convinced that God brought Joe and I together. We met in July in Phoenix at a snow skiing club, believe it or not. For both of us, it was our first time attending the meeting. That had to be fate.

I knew as soon as I saw him that I had to talk to that man, and I made a

beeline over to talk to him. We have now been married for over 30 years.

This will be my last year in Congress. I have decided it is time for me to go home and join my husband, Joe, our children, and our grandchildren. My mother, my sister, my brother, and my entire family lives within 20 minutes of my home, and I am here in Washington, D.C., most of the time, so it is time for me to go home.

I thank my husband, Joe, for being a wonderful husband, a wonderful father, and a wonderful grandfather. He has been there for me and our children through the ups and downs. He has supported me when my opponents vilified me in TV commercials. It hurt him probably more than me.

He has stood by me when I had to be here in Washington, D.C., working. He was at home, and it is hard. It is hard on a family. It is hard on a husband.

I thank Joe for always being there for me. I thank him for being a great husband and father and for being a great man. I love you.

HONORING MY MOTHER, DELORES LORENZ

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my mother, Delores Lorenz.

My mom will be 95 years old this year, and she is still going strong. She lives on her own. She cuts her own grass. I hope I can be like her.

My mom has always been there for me. She stayed home and raised us kids. She worked hard. Believe me, being a mom is hard work. She got up early in the morning because my dad had to go to work very early in the morning, and she would make sure that she would make him breakfast every morning.

She washed our clothes, cleaned up everything, and made our dinners. She was famous for baking pies, although she said she is now retired from baking pies, which makes me sad.

She helped all of us kids with our homework, and when I ran for Con-

gress, my mother stood in the heat in front of the Ace Hardware store outside of Phoenix, Arizona, and walked her whole neighborhood to collect signatures to get me on the ballot.

I love my mom. She made me who I am. I thank my mom for always being there for me. I thank her for everything she does.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

RECOGNIZING PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

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 July as Park and Recreation Month.

It is a fitting month to celebrate, as many Americans visit our Federal, State, and local public parks and recreation systems this summer.

As a lifelong resident of rural Pennsylvania, an avid outdoorsman, and a former recreational therapist, I strongly support our Nation's parks and recreation facilities. Our parks provide countless recreational and educational opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors.

This month recognizes the important role these parks and public facilities play in the lives of Americans and the contributions of employees who work every day to maintain public parks across the Nation.

Our parks create opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community. They contribute to local economies by attracting businesses, jobs, and increasing housing values. Ninety percent of people in the United States agree that public park recreation facilities and activities are important government services. This support spans across all people in the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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country regardless of race, income, or political affiliation.

Nearly 75 percent of Americans agree it is important to ensure all members of their community have equitable access to public parks and recreation facilities. In the United States, local public park and recreation agencies generated nearly \$201 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1.1 million jobs.

The most economically sound areas are those with ample public park and recreation facilities and activities. A key factor in business expansion and location decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate and accessible public parks and open space.

Mr. Speaker, public parks and recreational facilities foster a variety of activities that contribute to a healthier society. Americans living within a 10-minute walk of a park have higher levels of physical activity and lower rates of obesity. People who use public parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve the recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers.

Recreation programs at public parks provide children with a safe place to play, access to healthy foods, opportunities to be physically active, and enrichment facilities that help prevent at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement.

Over the summer, many Americans will visit public parks and recreation facilities to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and neighbors. We are blessed with beautiful outdoor facilities. It is my hope that all Americans get out and enjoy the parks in their areas.

HONORING JUDGE JERRY RELLIHAN

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of Judge Jerry Rellihan, who passed away last month from a heart attack.

Jerry's career in law began as a prosecutor in Kansas City, Missouri. He later founded The Law Firm of Jerry Rellihan, P.C., serving the Kansas City metro area for many years. In 2015, he was elected as associate circuit judge for St. Clair County, based in Osceola, Missouri, in the Fourth Congressional District, where he served with fairness, compassion, and integrity.

Judge Rellihan's contributions to our community extended far beyond the courtroom, though. He was a mentor, leader, and friend to many. His wisdom and kindness touched the lives of countless individuals, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Today, we remember Judge Rellihan not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his humanity and the positive impact he had on everyone he met.

Our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn this great loss.

CELEBRATING CARLA AND BEN FORD'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 60 years of marriage between Carla and Ben Ford. Carla and Ben are Missouri District Four constituents living in Johnson County who met on a blind date at the stockyards.

They are not only strong in their marriage but also in the family they have created and in upholding their American values. Their 60 years together have brought many things to be thankful for, the most important being their two children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

What started out as a blind date turned into six decades of love and the beginnings of future family lines. They say that trust, communication, and laughter have kept them together all these years.

I congratulate this Missouri District Four couple on the lovely marriage they have had and built. We wish Ben and Carla many, many more happy years.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN WALKER AND ALY PRENTZLER

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, we have started a contest much like the art contest where you can see the art displayed in the gallery just down the hallway here, but we started a speech contest. We wanted to rebuild patriotism in America, and we are starting with school-age children in the Fourth Congressional District. The topic: What does America mean to you?

We have two more winners today, Mr. Speaker, of this contest.

I begin with Megan Walker from Buffalo High School, Buffalo, Missouri, Dallas County. She says: "America to me is a place where I can choose who I want to be and am given the opportunities and resources to do it. America is my home, where I can feel safe expressing who I am no matter what I believe. I am given every chance possible to achieve my goals and build relationships with people that I choose. Americans are encouraged to be creative individuals by our country's leaders. I am able to feel safe and protected by my country and the people in it. We are allowed freedoms that many others are not, and I will forever be grateful for America."

Our next speech contest winner is Aly Prentzler from Glasgow High School in Glasgow, Missouri, Howard County. "America to me means freedom, freedom that has been fought for by brave men and women who serve in the military. It means even more to me since I have family members who have been part of the military. My papa served in the Army to make sure I have the right to make my own choices. My oldest brother is currently serving to make sure I continue to have this right. I am proud of this freedom and those who have fought for this right."

Mr. Speaker, I thank these students for being a shining example and a light in the classroom, sharing what America means to them.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize how important the situation is in California right now across the board with our resources: our water supply, our timber, our mining, and our agriculture.

Right now, of course, you are probably reading a lot of headlines about the fire situation, how much of our forests and open lands are in big trouble, and you are going to hear that side of the aisle talking all day long about climate change.

I throw back at them, if the climate is changing, what are we actually doing as people on the ground about it besides figuring out who we are going to tax or whose car we are going to take away or whose gas stove we are going to take away?

What are we doing, practically, about making our forests more fireproof or firesafe?

What are we doing about our water supply to make sure that there is more water stored so that people, agriculture, and, yes, even the environment can use it?

What are we doing to ensure we have a stronger electrical grid?

What is it we have happening? We see they want to tear out part of the electrical grid in the form of hydroelectric dams in northern California as well as up in Oregon and Washington, et cetera. It is just one after another.

Hydroelectric dams provide CO₂-free electricity, if you want to worry about the CO₂. Now, CO₂ only makes up 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, but they are using it as a weapon in order to force us to change our lifestyles.

□ 1015

Let's store more water so we have it for agriculture, so we have it for hydroelectric power, and so we have it for all manner of things that we need water for, for human use and environmental use. Let's move the ball on that.

In my own district, we have a project called the Sites Reservoir that has been talked about for 50 years. It seems to be coming close to fruition of actually getting started to be built, but there are still roadblocks that could be thrown up. There could still be weaponized lawsuits to try and stop the building of the Sites Reservoir, which would be 1½ million more acre-feet of storage for California, as well as its positive flood control benefits when you are pulling the water out of a flooded river system into that reservoir. Why can't we think ahead a little more about these issues with our infrastructure?