



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

No. 140

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 10, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG PENCE 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.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ROY DON CASH

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of an extraordinary west Texan and legendary Red Raider, Mr. Roy Don Cash who passed away recently on August 25.

Don was born to Billy Roy and Billie Mae Cash in the little west Texas town of Shamrock, Texas, in 1942. Let me tell you, there was nothing little about

big Don Cash—his stature, his presence, his character, and his love for God and country.

He would make his way to Texas Tech where he met and married another west Texan who would become his wife, Sondra Kay Burleson.

After graduating from Texas Tech, he was blazing a trail in the oil and gas industry, becoming a titan for United States energy and its contributions to our energy independence, and giving our Nation and our people a quality of life second to no other nation in the history of the world.

Don was also one of the most generous supporters and donors of Texas Tech University, not just with his treasure, but with his time and his talents. He gave back by serving on the foundation board. I think he is the only emeritus director of the foundation board, which speaks to how they perceived Mr. Cash.

He gave back in scholarships and professorships and buildings and research and much, much more.

Don was the epitome of a Texas cowboy, and he was passionate about preserving the history and heritage of ranching through his time on the Ranching Heritage Association board of directors.

Don was a dear friend of mine, and I would refer to him as “the last John Wayne.” I was vice chancellor of Texas Tech. He and Kay were integral to the success that we enjoyed over that roughly decade era when Chancellor Kent Hance was at the helm. I think Chancellor Hance would say we wouldn’t have been able to achieve the level of educational excellence, engagement of our community in west Texas and beyond, and scholarship and preparing our young people for their leadership and pursuit of their dreams in this great country if it weren’t for people like Don and Kay Cash.

Don was the last John Wayne in my mind because he was rugged and tough.

He was fiercely independent, humble, and hardworking, and most of all loving and selfless—loving and selfless to his family, to his friends and to the community he gave so much to over the many, many years of his life back in west Texas.

They don’t make them like Don cash anymore, I can tell you that. They don’t make them like Don Cash, and it is a crying shame because we need the character and caliber of men like Don Cash now in this great Nation of ours more than ever.

I guess what I would say to honor my friend is may Don Cash’s cowboy spirit and his west Texas values live on forever, not just in his son, Clay, his sweet daughter-in-law, Ashley, and his grandchildren, but in every single one of us.

If you want to know what made America great and what will keep it great, it is the values of the American people, and nobody embodied those like Don Cash.

HONORING BILL PASCRELL

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor and commemorate BILL PASCRELL. I am a Republican, he is a Democrat, but I don’t know anybody, Republican or Democrat, who loved their country more and fought for the people they represented like BILLY PASCRELL.

He was a tough guy from New Jersey that stood up for the working people in his district and was a loud and proud voice for his constituents. I just respect that. I respect that he was authentic in this place of so many plastic people—and I hate to say that. People just regurgitate the party lines on both sides of the aisle. We hardly have any real debate. It is all sort of choreographed.

Mr. Speaker, God rest BILLY PASCRELL’s soul, bless his family and comfort them. I pray we get more BILLY PASCRELL people who are real and love this country and will sacrifice

□ 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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for it. I am glad and honored to have served with him.

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY AND FIREARM SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, today is World Suicide Prevention Day and Firearm Suicide Prevention Day.

In 2022, almost 50,000 Americans died by suicide. 1.6 million Americans attempted suicide.

More than half of all gun deaths in the United States are by suicide. On average, we lose 74 people to a firearm suicide every single day. The firearms suicide rate among children in the U.S. is growing.

More younger Americans are struggling with their mental health than ever before, and we know that when there is a gun in the home, the risk of suicide death jumps by 300 percent. The result is tragedy.

Each of us here in this Chamber has an enormous responsibility to serve here in Washington and to help Americans, yet Americans are dying, and we are doing little to stop it. Something is seriously broken.

Gun deaths are not just a fact of life we should accept. Every gun death is preventable, including self-inflicted ones. Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of those who survive a suicide attempt never attempt it again. That is a remarkable statistic. Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of those who survive a suicide attempt won't try it again.

Reducing gun deaths in our country isn't a zero-sum proposition. We have to address gun safety and the mental health crisis. It is not getting too political or a copout to talk about both.

First and foremost, reducing firearm-related suicides can be as simple as storing firearms safely and securely, which means locked, unloaded, and separated from ammunition. Simple, practical steps can reduce impulsive decisions and save lives.

The 988 mental health lifeline is already making a huge difference. Not only are millions of Americans calling and texting to get help in a moment of crisis, but even more simply know where to get help if they need it.

We also have to get back to watching out for one another, to building strong, resilient communities where people aren't lonely and isolated behind their screens, and where friends and neighbors recognize the signs when someone is struggling and find the courage to speak out.

We can stand together to create a future where no one feels like they have no other choice. Together we can offer hope, and together, we can save lives.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT PETRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). The Chair recognizes the

gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I rise today to mark the passing of one of my very best friends, a true community and family man and a beloved member of my entire community, Dr. Robert W. Petry.

One of my dearest friends, Bob and I bonded over so much—our love for the outdoors, fishing, hunting; of food and travel; and most importantly, our bonding over family.

Bob was a loving husband to Rosie and father to Katie, Robbie, and Denise. Yet, for a man who lived such a full life in the nearly 73 years the good Lord provided him, Bob's greatest prize on this Earth may have well been his grandchildren, who he spent a great deal of time with, and he took a great deal of pride in being with them.

All those who knew and loved him will forever miss Bob Petry. His legacy, the Petry way, will live on in those who served in his practice, those he loved, raised, and inspired throughout his life like he inspired me.

□ 1015

Madam Speaker, as we say farewell for now to this wonderful man, we will keep Rosie, Katie, Robbie, Denise, and the entire Petry family close by and embrace them in our own families. We will forever be grateful for the life of Robert Petry, and one day we will see him again.

May God bless him.

HONORING JOYCE FLEMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime staff member of my office, Joyce Fleming, and to offer her most heartfelt congratulations on her retirement.

Joyce embodies what it means to be a public servant. As an outreach and constituent caseworker in my Beaverton office for the past 12 years, she treated all Oregonians with courtesy, respect, and empathy.

Like most of our best congressional staff, Joyce understands that advocacy for our constituents often takes more time and effort than one letter or phone call.

She patiently navigated Federal agencies, looked for creative solutions to complex problems, and she explored every avenue possible to find a positive outcome for the people we serve in northwest Oregon. In fact, during the last townhall meeting I hosted, it seemed that more constituents showed up to see Joyce and seek out her assistance than to talk with me.

I am grateful for her work serving the First District of Oregon for the past 12 years, but Joyce's career in public service began well before my service in Congress and has spanned decades. She began her congressional

career in the office of U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield before we had email and iPhones. Senator Hatfield was a former Governor who spent 30 years in the U.S. Senate where he ultimately chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee. He was a special kind of public servant, a statesman who worked across the aisle and focused on getting things done for Oregonians.

Joyce's service has followed this model. She also spent more than 12 years in the Oregon office of my friend and colleague, Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER, and took a brief hiatus from Federal service before coming to work in my Oregon office in 2012.

A talented professional, Joyce was always one of the first staffers on my team who has always conducted herself with kindness and integrity. She has helped guide and mentor many new staff members and has been a steadfast advocate for the people of northwest Oregon.

In closing, and on behalf of my entire team and the people of northwest Oregon, I would like to reiterate my gratitude and appreciation to Joyce Fleming who made it possible for me to do my job well and to help the people I am so honored to represent.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Joyce on her retirement and on her exemplary career serving the people of our State and country.

MISHANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY THE FBI

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a recent report from the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General putting the Biden-Harris two-tiered justice system on full display.

The recent report reveals that the FBI inadequately handled sensitive and classified materials. I repeat: the FBI mishandled classified documents according to their own inspector general report.

According to the memo: "Electronic storage media slated for disposal are not physically secured. Nonaccountable assets slated for destruction were stored on pallets without sufficient internal physical security for an extended period of time. For example, a pallet containing extracted internal hard drives marked nonaccountable had been stored for 21 months and had wrapping that was torn and left open."

This you can see on the poster, Madam Speaker.

The report continues: "This facility is shared with other FBI operations, such as logistics, mail, and information technology equipment fulfillment, and had almost 400 persons with access as of May 2024, including 28 task force officers and 63 contractors from at least 17 companies. Both the FBI supervisor and contractor confirmed that they would not be aware if someone was to