



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

No. 30

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 16, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

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,
February 15, 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, 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 ALLEN POLICE CHIEF BRIAN HARVEY AFTER 44 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Allen Police Chief Brian Harvey as he retires after 44 years of dedicated service and leadership in the field of law enforcement.

Chief Harvey took the oath of office as the Allen Police chief on February 7, 2012. During his tenure, he demonstrated steadfast leadership, strategic guidance, and an unyielding commitment to public safety.

Prior to leading the Allen Police Department, Chief Harvey contributed 32 years of valuable law enforcement experience as the deputy chief of police with the Dallas Police Department.

Chief Harvey's leadership has been characterized by stability, innovation, and a commitment to the growth and efficiency of the police department.

During his tenure, Chief Harvey enhanced community outreach and transparency, and implemented vital police recruitment initiatives, including expanding the school resource officer program and providing imperative mental health training and resources for the department.

Chief Harvey continually spearheaded efforts to keep the department updated on the latest technological advancements, setting a precedent that other departments emulated.

Chief Harvey's leadership during critical moments, including during the May 6, 2023, active-shooter incident at the Allen Premium Outlets and the subsequent weeks, demonstrated exceptional bravery and courage among his responding officers, saving lives and showcasing the resilience of the Allen Police Department.

Chief Harvey's retirement provides an opportunity for reflection on his remarkable achievements and lifetime of service. For that, I extend my gratitude.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACOB CARTER

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Jacob Carter, a dearly beloved husband, brother, son, and co-owner of Howdy Bagel in Tacoma, Washington.

Jacob was tragically and senselessly killed while vacationing in New Orleans with his husband, Daniel, just after the new year.

Jacob and Daniel opened their bagel shop, Howdy Bagel, in May 2023, a milestone accomplishment that began with at-home experimentation during the pandemic lockdowns. Howdy opened to immediate and sustained success in Tacoma, with lines week after week, stretching far past the front door.

With Howdy, though, Jacob brought so much more than good food to Tacoma. The store, proudly queer-owned and -operated, has provided a warm, inclusive gathering spot to the LGBTQ+ community, yes, but also to anyone willing to make new friends with their neighbors while waiting in line for lox.

Jacob was a light in Tacoma and cultivated this community intentionally. As Howdy's motto goes, "Y'all Means All." The saying is a tip to his Texas

□ 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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roots and a reflection of his efforts to always ensure everyone had a seat at the table.

Whether it was his work selling bagels, helping resettle asylees and refugees, or aiding community development in the Middle East, Jacob never faltered in spreading kindness and inclusivity.

He was the kind of Good Samaritan we all strive to be.

Madam Speaker, I join our Pacific Northwest community in grieving the loss of a burgeoning leader.

Like far too many others in our Nation, Jacob was the victim of the epidemic of gun violence, a uniquely American scourge that cannot be accepted as a fact of life.

I join Jacob's husband, Daniel, and the rest of his family in grieving the loss of a uniquely generous and loving soul.

Madam Speaker, I stand here on the House floor to recognize that the city of Tacoma will forever be better because Jacob made it his home.

BRING OMRI MIRAN AND ALL HOSTAGES IN GAZA BACK HOME

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Omri Miran, a 46-year-old husband and father of two small daughters.

On October 7, Omri was 1 of more than 240 men, women, children, and elderly who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists.

He and 134 hostages are still held captive in Gaza, enduring unthinkable torture and trauma.

I stand here today to demand that Hamas release Omri immediately, along with all the remaining hostages.

Those who have been released have shared horror stories of abuse, children being forced to take drugs, and inhumane conditions.

We must stand with Israel as it works to destroy Hamas and free its citizens wrongfully held by the terror group.

Israel has proven its willingness to pause the fighting for hostages to be returned home. Despicably, Hamas broke the first hostage deal just as it broke a cease-fire that was in place before October 7.

I call on all nations with ties to Hamas to increase the pressure on the terrorist group to immediately free all of those it is holding captive.

Hostages like Omri Miran have endured horrific abuse, sexual assault, torture, and heavy drugging from their Hamas captors. It is time to bring Omri home. It is time to bring them all home now.

CONGRESS STANDS SILENT IN THIS HOUSE

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we leave today a day early. We essentially have 4-day weeks. That is, 25 percent of the work that we were planning to do, we are not going to do. We leave, I think, because we either can't do our work or we won't be allowed to do our work.

Madam Speaker, I rise again, as I have so many times when we were leaving without doing the critical business of America and the world. I rise, again, for our allies in Ukraine and Israel. I rise for the defense of democracy and freedom of people who are fighting for their very survival as a democracy.

The other week, I read a story, Madam Speaker, about the desperate situation on the front lines outside Kharkiv in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Air Defense soldier positioned outside the city spotted a salvo of Russian missiles rising over the horizon. He stood there helplessly. His unit lacked the equipment and ammunition necessary to shoot missiles down.

Within minutes, the missile struck a residential complex, killing numerous civilians. Yet, we stand here ready to walk out of this Chamber, our work undone.

The soldier later told the journalist: "I understood they would fly and hit people and that I couldn't do anything to prevent it from happening."

He was right. There was nothing he could have done because he did not have the weapons that were necessary.

The Congress, of course, cannot say the same. We can do something. We must do something. This Congress stands silent in this House. The Senate has acted late, but it is never too late to do the right thing.

This Congress remains silent. For 413 days, our Congress has failed to secure additional aid for Ukraine. For 131 days, we have failed to do the same for Israel.

This inaction is born not of a lack of consensus because we have over 300 votes on this floor for either one of those bills and, I think, the Senate bill.

Instead, we see Trump's and the far right's astounding sympathy for Putin. Just the other day, Senator TUBERVILLE said to blame America first, that it is our fault, that we made Putin, a war criminal, invade Ukraine.

All seven times supplemental aid for Ukraine came to the House floor in recent months, over 300 Members supported it. So, it is not that we do not have consensus. It is that the Speaker will not allow consensus to be spoken.

The Senate just passed a bill to provide this aid to our allies with 70 votes. Seventy percent of the Senate sent us a bill. The question is not whether this legislation would receive enough votes to pass this House. The question is whether Speaker JOHNSON will give us the opportunity to vote on it at all. The Speaker's refusal to do so is causing Ukrainians to die.

The Speaker is preventing the people's House from working its will as the Senate did. The Speaker should

give the victims of Putin's war crimes a vote and hope. Tell Putin: "Nyet." Every minute that we don't signals retreat instead of a resolve.

Incomprehensibly, Trump amplified that dangerous message over the weekend, explicitly saying he would not only refuse to defend our NATO allies but would encourage the Russians "to do whatever the hell they want."

Is that America? Is that the leadership we want to portray to the world? Is that the leader of the free world? Mute. That, Madam Speaker, is aid and comfort to our enemies.

Those aren't the words of someone who seeks to lead the free world. They are the words of someone who would turn his back on the free world. Every Republican, no matter what office they hold or seek, ought to go on record and condemn those comments.

Governor Christie would agree with that statement. Putin salivates, Madam Speaker, at this inaction and division sown by the isolationist, authoritarian-loving factions of one of our parties that leads this House. That is why he recently sat down with Tucker Carlson.

The Speaker should give us a vote. We have the votes. Ukraine and Israel cry out for America's help and leadership.

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BRING RAN GVILI AND ALL HOSTAGES HOME

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Ran Gvili. Ran is a 24-year-old who loves playing guitar and, like me, has a passion for motorcycles.

On October 7, Ran was waiting for an operation when he heard what was happening. He left the house to go help and became one of the more than 240 men, women, children, and elderly who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists.

He and 134 hostages are still held captive in Gaza, enduring unthinkable torture and trauma. I stand here today to demand that Hamas release Ran immediately, along with all the remaining hostages.

Those who have been released have shared horror stories about sexual abuse, children being forced to take drugs, and inhumane conditions.

We must stand with Israel as it works to destroy Hamas and free its citizens wrongfully held by the terror group.

Israel has proven its willingness to pause the fighting for hostages to be returned home. Despicably, Hamas broke the first hostage deal, just as it broke a cease-fire that was in place before October 7.

I call on all nations with ties to Hamas to increase the pressure on this terrorist group to immediately free all