



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

No. 8

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 15, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONICA DE LA CRUZ 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 3, 2025, 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.

REMEMBERING THE TRUTH ABOUT JANUARY 6

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, last week the House and Senate oversaw the certification of the 2024 election. It was a quick, smooth process. There were no riots, no violence. We completed the peaceful transfer of power as the Founding Fathers envisioned it.

Now compare last week's election certification with what we witnessed 4 years ago. Thousands attacked the

Capitol. They shattered windows, smashed down doors, assaulted police officers. It was a violent mob and people died as a result. It was all in an attempt to stop the certification of a legitimate election.

The insurrectionists and rioters threatened Vice President Pence and referred to him as "dead man walking" if he didn't illegally reject the election results.

Directly following January 6, leaders on both sides of the aisle spoke out against the antidemocratic acts of the day. Former Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY said the violence, destruction, and chaos we saw earlier was unacceptable, undemocratic, and un-American. It was the saddest day I have ever had serving as a Member of this institution.

Former Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL was even more clear in his condemnation and assignment of blame. He said: "There's no question, none, that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day," and, "It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power."

Now, 4 years later, there is a concerted effort to rewrite history. Our incoming President has called January 6 "a day of love," and others have claimed it was a legitimate form of protest.

Well, I was here. I saw the violence with my own eyes, and the scenes we witnessed will haunt this institution forever.

We need a clear accounting of what happened and a clear accountability to ensure this never happens again. Unfortunately, under this incoming President, it appears we will get neither.

The President-elect has said he wants to pardon the rioters. These are folks who have been convicted in a court of law. In a dark twist on accountability, the President-elect is threatening retribution against Democrats and Repub-

licans who served on the committee that investigated January 6. They should go to jail, he said, of Members of Congress who sought to uncover the truth about January 6.

Let's recap. The people who broke into the Capitol, and injured 147 officers, and threatened to kill the Vice President should be pardoned, and the elected officials who performed their constitutional duty to investigate the largest mass assault of law enforcement officers and the greatest assault on our democracy should be jailed.

This is a perversion of the truth and justice.

For those of us who were here on Capitol Hill that day, who saw the violence, smelled the pepper spray, and heard the screams, we have an opportunity to remember that day for what it was: a dark stain on our Nation's history.

We have an opportunity to commemorate those in uniform who bravely stood up to the rioters. They didn't just protect me; they protected our Republic.

In 2022, Congress commissioned a memorial to be installed on the front of the Capitol listing the names of those who defended the Capitol on that fateful day. Three years later, it has yet to be mounted.

We should expect more. If we can't be honest about what happened on that day, if we can't, at a minimum, come together to put up a plaque commemorating those who protected us and some who gave their last full measure of devotion, then perhaps we should install a plaque like the one from "Dante's Inferno," "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."

HONORING JANUARY VETERAN OF THE MONTH MICHAEL "MIKE" TRACY

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

☐ 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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H151

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor our January Veteran of the Month, Michael "Mike" Tracy.

Mike entered the Air Force Delayed Entry program in 1975 where he reported to basic training, Air Force leadership school, and Air Force Security Police School at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

After graduation, he was placed on orders to the 20th Security Police Squadron RAF Upper Heyford, England, home to the F-111E, NATO, and USAFE nuclear deterrent to the former Soviet Union.

When he returned to the U.S., he maintained his service after being discharged in the inactive reserve. In 1982, Mike rejoined the military as a private in the USAR in Spokane, Washington. He attended drill sergeant school and U.S. Armor School. He served as a preventive medicine specialist in Germany and participated in Operation Desert Storm.

Throughout injuries, surgeries, and reassignments, Mike served his country in many different roles. His final assignment brought him to Missouri at Whiteman Air Force Base in our district.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mike for his dedication and service. We appreciate him, and we are so glad that his journey brought him to the great State of Missouri. We salute him today.

HONORING JANINE'S FLOWERS, SMALL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor our January small business of the month, Janine's Flowers.

This fantastic business in Camdenton has been serving the lake area with floral artistry through weddings, proms, first dates, and so many other special occasions.

Janine's is a one-stop destination for all floral arrangements, special gifts, tuxedos, event supplies, and much more.

Back in September, Janine's celebrated their 45th anniversary where Janine Bullock, the original owner, shared captivating stories about the humble beginnings of this business.

It is now owned by Cassidy Dickerson, and Janine's Flowers will continue to make special occasions even more special. Janine was thrilled to pass the torch to Cassidy and knows she will build upon the strong foundation that was established.

Madam Speaker, I thank Janine's Flowers for providing Missouri's Fourth Congressional District with the highest quality floral arrangements and event services. I ask Missourians to not forget about Janine's as Valentine's Day is coming up.

Again, I congratulate Janine's Flowers as our January small business of the month.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BRENDA LOVELADY SPAHN

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

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Brenda Lovelady Spahn, the founder of The Lovelady Center in Birmingham, Alabama, who passed away on December 18, 2024, at the age of 75.

Miss Brenda founded The Lovelady Center in 2004 to rehabilitate women involved in the criminal justice system. Beginning with just seven inmates, the program rapidly grew into what is now the only State-supervised reentry program in Alabama and the largest faith-based recovery facility for women and children in the Nation.

Through the work of The Lovelady Center, Miss Brenda has touched the lives of more than 20,000 women and children, helping them to walk forward with faith-driven hope for the future. Guided by her abiding faith in God and her steadfast belief in the value of human life, Miss Brenda made it her mission to spread empowerment, hope, and redemption among the women she served.

Throughout her extraordinary life, she has received numerous awards and honors, including an honorary degree in humanitarian studies from Tennessee Temple University in 2012.

On a personal note, I am forever grateful for the opportunity I had to partner with Miss Brenda on behalf of the women and children of Jefferson County, Alabama, including the \$2 million investment that we secured for The Lovelady Center in the fiscal year 2023 from the Federal budget.

I will always remember the warm, selfless, and kindhearted nature of Miss Brenda, and above all, her devotion to serving the most vulnerable members of our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Miss Brenda Lovelady Spahn. May her legacy live on in the many lives that she touched.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. CHARLES STEELE, JR.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., as he celebrates his retirement after 17 years as the president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

A true trailblazer, Dr. Steele has an accomplished career in both public service and civil rights advocacy. A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, he was elected to the Tuscaloosa City Council in 1985, a position he held for 2 years before being elected to the Alabama State Senate in 1994.

After serving three terms, Dr. Steele stepped down in 2004 to take over as the head of the SCLC. As the organization's president and CEO, Dr. Steele raised over \$10 million and oversaw the groundbreaking of SCLC's new inter-

national headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Steele's reputation has always been one of great purpose and great passion. He is an honorable man, guided by an abiding faith in God and a love of country.

While his retirement will allow him some well-earned rest and time with loved ones, I know that his commitment to service will continue for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., after 17 years as president and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMISSIONER GREG SEIDENBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Guadalupe County Commissioner Greg Seidenberger on his well-deserved retirement after a lifetime of extraordinary service to our country and community.

Greg began his career with 20 years in the United States Air Force, serving as a command pilot during the Vietnam war and leading the squadron operating out of Seguin Auxiliary. He then served as a pilot for American Airlines for 18 years.

For the past 12 years, Greg has dedicated himself to Guadalupe County as commissioner for precinct 1, transforming the county and ensuring the foundation for a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Commissioner Seidenberger a joyful retirement.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, just 5 days into my tenure as a Member of the House of Representatives, several large wildfires broke out across Los Angeles County: the Palisades fire, the Eaton fire, and the Hurst fire, which broke out in Sylmar on the northern end of my district.

I was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, and I consider myself incredibly fortunate to represent it in Congress. The valley is a special place to so many people, including my own family, which makes the heartbreak of seeing images of it in danger sting deeper.

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I flew home last week as soon as I saw the images of footage coming out of Los Angeles County to be home with my community and be helpful in any way that I could.

I have immense gratitude for the Los Angeles Fire Department, the first responders, and the firefighters who arrived from across the country and from