



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

No. 3

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Remind us again, eternal God, that in You all things were created, in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible. Allow that awareness to touch our very beings, that we would realize that all that is, and we ourselves, find life and purpose in You.

Whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through You and for You. As we come to appreciate Your majesty, may Your authority penetrate our consciousness in such a way that we desire nothing more than to yield to Your will in all that we do or decide.

Grant that we would also find not just comfort in Your omnipotence, but courage in Your omnipresence, that as we venture into the day You have laid before us, we would find that in You all things are held together.

Into Your hands we commend our prayers as we pray them in Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CORREA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

A NEW PATH FORWARD

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives met yesterday to certify President Trump's electoral victory.

Over the past 4 years, President Biden's administration has imposed needless regulations on the American energy industry, has spurred record-high inflation, and has left our southern border wide open.

The election results in November were a message from the American people that they want a new path forward, and that path begins today. It is now time to get to work to secure our border and to lower prices for the American people.

Together, with the House and with the Senate, I am confident that President Trump will be able to continue the progress that was made during his first administration to once again make America great.

PROTECT BANGLADESH'S RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

(Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the violence and persecution of Hindus and other religious minorities in Bangladesh.

During Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971, an estimated 300,000 to 3 million people were killed, mostly Hindus. Hindus in Bangladesh continue to be targeted today, with their homes and businesses being destroyed and their temples vandalized.

Since the ousting of the former Prime Minister last August, these attacks have increased again, with over 2,000 incidents reported in August alone.

I have engaged with the State Department and called for action in upcoming Senate confirmation hearings, but we must do more.

I urge my colleagues to act now to protect Bangladesh's religious minorities. The world is watching, and we cannot let history repeat itself.

IN RECOGNITION OF DECKER PLOEHN

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a true leader from my district, Mr. Decker Ploehn, Bettendorf's city administrator, who has recently been named the Quad Cities Most Influential Leader for 2024.

Decker's leadership is defined by his dedication to his community and his remarkable ability to build relationships that foster growth, collaboration, and positive change.

His work has helped transform Bettendorf into a thriving city, with impressive developments like the I-74 bridge and the TBK Bank Sports Complex. His tireless efforts have been instrumental in securing funding and advancing projects that benefit the entire region.

Decker's impact extends beyond the city's infrastructure. He is a passionate mentor, a devoted volunteer, and a trusted resource for countless organizations.

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.



Printed on recycled paper.

Whether he is emceeding a fundraiser, advising local leaders, or volunteering his time to nonprofits, Decker consistently proves that his success in leadership is rooted in service to others.

Decker's contributions have truly shaped our community, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

I congratulate Decker on this well-deserved recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I take this moment to wish my older sister, Marianne, a very happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JULIO FRENK

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate UCLA's next chancellor, Dr. Julio Frenk.

Having served as president of the University of Miami and dean of Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Frenk is bringing decades of experience to UCLA.

Dr. Frenk was born in Mexico, where he discovered his passion for public health and service and spent 6 years as Mexico's secretary of health.

I am excited to see Dr. Frenk bring his leadership and experience as he serves the Bruin community and keeps UCLA as a top public university in the country.

We welcome Dr. Frenk to the Bruin family, and I look forward to working with him on behalf of our constituents, our students, our educators, and our community. I look forward to continuing to do more good things.

I thank Dr. Frenk for his service to the Bruin community.

IN RECOGNITION OF PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Penn State women's volleyball team's victory in the national championship.

Penn State made history with its 3-1 win over Louisville in the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in front of a record crowd of over 21,860 fans. This was the Nittany Lions' eighth national title in the program's history.

This victory didn't happen by chance. It is the result of relentless hard work, discipline, and teamwork. These women showed us what it means to commit fully. At every practice, every set, and every match, they gave their all.

This success is possible because of the incredible leadership of the coaching staff, whose mentorship has shaped this team not only into champions, but also into outstanding young leaders.

Penn State Coach Katie Schumacher-Cawley became the first woman coach

to win the NCAA Division I volleyball title.

The road to the championship wasn't easy for Coach Schumacher-Cawley. In October, she announced she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

This championship win isn't just about a trophy. It is about a story of strength, resilience, and the values that define Penn State. These women make us all proud to wear blue and white.

I congratulate Penn State women's volleyball on their national championship. We are.

HONORING CARLSBAD MAYOR DALE JANWAY

(Mr. VASQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and an honorable New Mexican, Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, who passed away on December 30, 2024.

Mayor Janway served Carlsbad with integrity and distinction as mayor for 13 years. He was deeply involved in his community and made remarkable progress during his tenure. He worked with leaders of all political stripes to improve the city's infrastructure, including the Double Eagle water project, which we worked on together.

Although we came from different parties, Mayor Janway was a good friend and was always willing to work together for the good of his community. He had a passion for educating youth so that they would become thoughtful, engaged citizens. He helped to create jobs, improved the lives of Carlsbad families, and protected critical industries.

The mayor also proudly served his country in the Army National Guard. Mayor Janway exemplified leadership, leaving behind a legacy that reminds us all to serve with kindness and with purpose.

I thank Mayor Janway for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR JAMIE MELCHERT

(Mr. ALFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor our December Veteran of the Month, Major Jamie Melchert, who was born in Sedalia, Missouri.

Major Melchert enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1998 and completed two combat tours, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also completed additional overseas missions in Guatemala and Germany.

Jamie says his most memorable service was in Afghanistan, where he led a group of 170 soldiers into a harsh combat zone for a year of duty, enduring frequent attacks during over-the-road convoys.

He is most proud of bringing every soldier there home to their families.

He received many honors for his service and retired in 2017. He now lives in Columbia, Missouri, with his beloved family, working full-time for the State of Missouri's Office of Administration, helping veterans find employment.

I thank Major Melchert for his dedication and service.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, a peacemaker, environmentalist, and humanitarian, President Jimmy Carter's work left an indelible mark on our country and the western New York community.

He was no stranger to my district, visiting for speeches at the University at Buffalo and Canisius University, campaign rallies in Cheektowaga and Tonawanda, and even making a stop at Niagara Falls State Park while celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary with his beloved wife, Rosalynn.

During his Presidency, he established the Superfund program, supporting the cleanup of toxic sites across western New York, including Love Canal.

Following his term in office, he set the standard for the post-Presidency and saved millions of lives by advancing global health, including through his efforts to end childhood malaria fatalities and destigmatize HIV.

He was a man of faith who loved his family and loved our country.

Let us mourn our Nation's loss, celebrate a life well lived, and learn from his legacy of always putting country before self.

May President Jimmy Carter rest in peace.

JEOPARDIZING NATIONAL SECURITY WITH MISGUIDED POLICIES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in another one of the eleventh-hour, thumb-the-nose-at-the-American-people moves, the Biden administration has decided to transfer 11 Guantanamo detainees from the war on terror back to Oman, which is a reckless move that puts American lives at risk and is an insult and a slap in the face to those who have fought for freedom in that area and who have tried to stop the likes of al-Qaida. Our soldiers, our fighting people, and everybody who has cared at all about that has to be taking this as a slap in the face because justice never was done.

These detainees, many of whom have ties directly to terrorism, are being resettled without facing justice. This action weakens our national security and