



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

No. 29

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 12, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GABRIELE MUCCIARELLI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gabriele Mucciarelli who we lost at the age of 90 earlier this month.

Gabe was an exceptional man whose life was a testament to hard work, loyalty, and the power of the American Dream.

In 1952, at the age of 17, Gabe left all that he had in Italy for Canada in

search of a better life. There, he worked in a collision shop and realized his natural talent for auto repair.

After marrying the love of his life, his late wife, Maria, in 1961, they moved to Buffalo where they built a beautiful family and continued to work hard.

Three years later, his hard work paid off, and he opened up the first Gabe's Collision on East Delavan in Buffalo. Gabe's attention to detail and quality service made the business a success, and it quickly expanded to Genesee Street.

He was well respected in the industry and known around town as an honest man with impeccable talent, who could make any car look as good as new. Just last year, Gabe's Collision, which has grown from one small shop in Buffalo to three locations across western New York, celebrated 60 years in business.

Gabe lived his life no differently than he did his job. Treating those around him with fairness and integrity, he was always there to help and provide his loved ones with selfless, unwavering support.

He is survived by his children, Johanna and Jeff; grandchildren, Cristina Ippolito and Gioia Mucciarelli; as well as many nieces, nephews, and devoted friends.

Gabe's son, Jeff, has followed in his father's footsteps not only in business but in his commitment to honesty and integrity. For 40 years, Jeff was lucky enough to work alongside his father as they built Gabe's dream of a small collision shop into a large operation with that same commitment to quality and great work.

Gabe loved his family, his work, his community, and our country deeply. As we mourn his loss, let us take comfort in knowing how loved he was and his incredible impact on countless lives, and may Gabriele Mucciarelli rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES FRANCIS DOHERTY

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James Francis Doherty, a remarkable public servant and family man whose perseverance and loyalty will continue to serve as an example for all of those who are willing and able to help make changes to this world.

A graduate of Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School and Buffalo State University, Jimmy went into the world wanting to make a difference, and that he did.

Upon graduation, he worked as a special education teacher at South Park High School until he ran for office. Jimmy was the youngest elected at-large councilman in the Buffalo Common Council. During his tenure, he was a fierce advocate for the people he represented, especially the most vulnerable in our community including women, people of color, and anyone who was disenfranchised.

He always kept a picture of his two beloved daughters, Brigid and Leah, behind his desk. Whenever someone came in with a request, he would point to the photo and say: I do everything for those two. So make sure whatever you are asking of me, I can be proud to share with them.

He would go on to be a mentor and a friend to many and remain active in city policymaking, inspiring generations of civic-minded Buffalonians. After retiring from politics, Jimmy led a selfless career in student transportation, holding executive roles at National School Bus, Laidlaw Education Service, and later First Student. Each fall, western New Yorkers could rely on Jimmy to help them usher in a safe return to school.

As president of the Wanakah Country Club, Jimmy was an avid golfer and passionate sports fan. When he wasn't helping others, he could be found on the green with his favorite golf partner and best friend, his brother Jerry.

□ 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.

H647

Jimmy is survived by his beloved wife, Marleah; his devoted children, Brigid Doherty and Leah Roberts; his loving grandchildren, Haley and Sophia Jones and Anna and Harrison Roberts; as well as countless other nieces, nephews, family members, and friends.

Jimmy's loyalty to his family and devotion to his city made him a model leader, one whom all Buffalonians and western New Yorkers can look up to with pride and admiration. He will certainly be missed.

May Jimmy Doherty rest in peace.

SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE STATUS OF ELON MUSK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to remark on the outrage of my colleagues and others over the special government employee status granted to Elon Musk by the executive branch. We are hearing a lot of, oh, he is unelected or he is unaccountable.

Let me remind my colleagues and those voices that the vast majority of government employees who review and authorize grants, disburse billions of dollars, issue rules and laws, or even handle our Nation's pandemic response, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, are unelectable and unaccountable to the voters.

How about the IRS bureaucrat Lois Lerner?

How can we forget ACORN?

None of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were calling for accountability or investigations when Dr. Fauci was forcing his mandate on 300 million Americans.

None of them were expressing outrage when unelected bureaucrats were forcing 6-year-olds to wear masks or closing down schools or forcing Head Start students to continue to wear masks long after the rest of America had stopped wearing them and closing down churches and small businesses across the country.

Who can forget the government employee who leaked the pending Dobbs court decision?

No conservative has forgotten Lois Lerner of the IRS denying 501(c) status to those volunteer citizens wanting to protest the Obama administration.

These government employees yield tremendous power with no oversight, often making decisions behind closed doors that affect millions of Americans. Elon Musk was hired by the President of the United States, or brought on, to undercover waste, fraud, and abuse in our government. That is it. Every move being made by him and DOGE is being made in the public eye as an audit and not in the shadows.

Let's be clear because this really is not about accountability. It is about the fear of a system that might be held accountable and expose corruption.

CONGRATULATING THE DOVER POLICE DEPARTMENT ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Dover Police Department on 100 years of service to the capital of Delaware.

Beginning in 1925, with a mere two-room office in the basement of city hall, over the past 100 years, the department has grown to more than 100 officers, as well as professional support staff divided over three divisions and nine functional units.

Led by their 15th chief, Thomas A. Johnson, Jr., these dedicated public servants put their lives on the line every day to protect public safety and support victims of crime in Delaware's second largest city.

In all they do, Dover Police are ingrained in the community, working alongside our educators, health professionals, nonprofits, and business partners, as well as regional, State, and Federal law enforcement partners. Their commitment to community policing and their behavioral health unit reinforces their compassionate and holistic approach to public safety.

On the centennial of the Dover Police Department, I thank the heroes who have donned the badge with honor, courage, and unwavering commitment to Dover.

A grateful State wishes the Dover Police Department a happy centennial.

RECOGNIZING PAUL CALISTRO

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment of a dedicated community leader, Paul Calistro, to the State of Delaware. A former mayor of Newport, Delaware, Paul has been the executive director of West End Neighborhood House in Wilmington since 1991, working tirelessly to provide direct programs, services, support, and advocacy to Delawareans, their families, and our broader community.

For more than 140 years, the West End Neighborhood House has empowered generations of Delawareans to become and remain self-sufficient. Under Paul's leadership, West End has grown their impact, helping over 10,000 Delawareans each year. They provide meals, place people in long-term employment, secure stable housing, and teach critical skills to community members.

While the backbone of that work is the dedicated team of staff and volunteers at West End, at the heart of that work is the big heart of Paul Calistro. When being honored several years ago, Paul said that somebody has got to stand up and be an advocate for people who can't speak.

Whether they are a youth aging out of foster care or a single mom trying to get a good-paying job, Paul is an advocate for those too often left behind. Ever the selfless leader, as Paul cele-

brates his birthday this week, instead of asking for anything himself, he has asked people to support youth in foster care.

While Paul celebrates his birthday by supporting others, a grateful State celebrates Paul for his ongoing commitment to making Delaware a place that more fully lives up to our values as a State of neighbors.

WATER FOR CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in this ongoing conversation about government overreach and last-minute regulations that have been so damaging, I want to bring up how that has affected the water supply for California and for the West. For everybody that enjoys American-grown food, it affects them.

What we have seen happen is that there is an ongoing effort and an onslaught, really, to remove dams, especially in the Western States and in my own district in northern California.

What are the results of that? In order to somehow believe that they are seeking fish passage and greater fish populations, for example, with this government overreach, with these false pronouncements based on really faulty, fake data, what are we getting?

On the Klamath River we have thousands of dead fish and other wildlife after the removal of the dams that have happened. The silt loads that are behind that dam that we warned them about have been flowing down the river of the Klamath ever since. Massive amounts of fish are killed, and other wildlife are getting caught in that silt. We warned them about that.

They are pronouncing it nirvana. It is heaven because the water is flowing through there, and we have lost that hydroelectric power that the dams used to generate. It is becoming someone else's problem farther down the stream with the silt. If it doesn't wash out within 3 years, that is an entire salmon life cycle. It will actually wipe out the population of water that is sourced from what is actually a warm lake and is not ideal for salmon.

We see it time and again. The government overreach is affecting the smart use of water in California. Right now they are dumping water out of Shasta Dam and Oroville Dam in northern California. The water coming out of Shasta is actually flooding part of the town of Redding and then areas of Glenn County farther down the line along the Sacramento River because there is so much water going out. Yet there is still ample storage space behind Shasta. There is 600,000 or maybe 700,000 acre-feet behind that.

The problem is they don't use up-to-date weather forecasting in order to determine whether we should dump water or could we keep some of it a little longer because we are not going to get