



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2014

No. 147

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 4, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the waning days of this 113th Congress, we ask Your blessing, oh Lord, upon the Members of this people's House, and most especially upon the leadership. It is on their shoulders the most important negotiations of this Congress have been placed.

They have been entrusted by their fellow Americans with the awesome privilege and responsibility of sustaining the great experiment of democratic self-government. Give them wisdom, grace, insight, and courage to forge legislation that allows us all to move forward toward an encouraging future.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was a bright Sunday morning in the islands of Hawaii. America was at peace and unprepared for war. Soon the rising Sun was darkened by hundreds of Japanese planes as they strafed and bombed Pearl Harbor. The American battleships were sunk. Over 2,400 United States military were killed. Most of the United States aircraft was destroyed while still sitting on the ground. It was December 7, 1941.

But in the chaos and confusion and still in his pajamas, Army Air Corps Second Lieutenant Philip Rasmussen and three other fighter pilots took off into the blazing sky. They met 11 Japanese planes head on. Rasmussen was flying an old outdated P-36 Hawk, and he shot down one Japanese plane while enemy fighters attacked him. They shot up his plane with over 500 bullet holes, but he was still able to continue the fight and eventually safely land. Rasmussen received the Silver Star for

his defense of America that day and remained in the Air Force.

As we contemplate on Pearl Harbor and those that were killed, we should remember there were a few who gallantly took to the air to fight those invaders. From the beaches of Hawaii to the beaches of Normandy, those that died and those that survived were America's Greatest Generation. We thank the good Lord that such Americans ever lived.

And that is just the way it is.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues about a mom I met on Tuesday. Maria Pena is from Colombia. She has three kids, started a small business, and has lived here for 14 years, and her Congressman is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE.

Maria's youngest is a U.S. citizen. Her employees are citizens. Maria wants to work and live legally in the U.S. but has no way to do so. She told me, "Luis, I am too scared to leave the house unless I have to, so we drive to school, we drive to church, and we drive to the grocery store, and that is it." Maria knows anything else is too risky because any contact with the police could mean she gets deported and her family is split up.

So, today, I give thanks that Maria and her family in just a few months will sign up for that same peace of mind my family has because she will be eligible for deferred action for parents of U.S. citizens, and I will think of Maria and her children no matter how many times the Republican majority makes me vote on bills to attack the President's actions that he is taking because they will prevent American

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.

H8367

citizen children from losing their parents.

MELISSA CHANDLER MURPHY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to recognize Melissa Chandler Murphy, deputy chief of staff and legislative director of South Carolina's Second Congressional District office. No words can express the amount of appreciation I have for Melissa for her service and compassion for the citizens of South Carolina. Melissa has served the Palmetto State with professionalism and integrity.

Nine years ago she began her career with the office as a legislative correspondent and quickly worked her way up because of her efficiency and exceptional leadership skills that she learned at Wofford College in Spartanburg. Melissa has served as a champion for constituents, going to great lengths to offer assistance to those in need.

On January 3, Melissa will begin a new chapter as she joins Congressman-elect Dave Rouzer as his chief of staff. The people of North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated woman working on their behalf with a Republican office for the first time since 1874.

With great happiness, I wish Melissa and her husband, Ryan, best wishes and continued success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise against the poorly conceived anti-immigration bill that is being considered in the House today. The Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act would paralyze the executive order announced by the President, halting the deportation of families. Families who are working hard and playing by the rules should not be treated like felons.

I urge my colleagues to bring comprehensive immigration reform to the floor with the same expediency that they were able to bring this poorly conceived legislation to the floor today. Our economy, our national security, and our families cannot afford inaction.

Rather than keeping hardworking families together, Republicans are punishing communities by pushing irresponsible legislation like the bill that we are considering in the House today.

Like Republican Presidents before him, President Obama's actions were within the law. If they weren't, Republicans wouldn't need this slapdash bill to roll back the President's authority.

This is a soap opera, frankly, that we have seen too many times. Can we please finally change the channel and pass comprehensive immigration reform? The time is long overdue for a more family-friendly congressional show.

ABLE ACT

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House's work to advance H.R. 647, the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, which yesterday passed the House with broad bipartisan support.

Under the current law, individuals with disabilities face significant barriers to finding and holding employment and living independently because their access to certain safety net programs can be lost once they establish a minimum level of savings and income. The ABLE Act aims to provide families of these individuals with some peace of mind by allowing them to save for their children's long-term disability expenses in the same way that families of able-bodied children can currently save for college through popular 529 investment plans.

As a cosponsor of this legislation and having spent most of my professional career serving those facing life-changing disease and disability as a health care professional, I am proud of this bipartisan effort to empower individuals to live with greater dignity and independence.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Senate will act swiftly to pass this important legislation. These individuals and their families deserve as much.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4329, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 2014, which passed on Tuesday out of the House of Representatives.

Visiting the nine tribes in the district I represent, I have seen the significant challenges that tribal communities face in providing decent and affordable housing to their members, so I know how important this bill is.

One issue that I worked on very closely regards the needs of tribal veterans who disproportionately suffer from homelessness. Last year, I met a man in my district who served this Na-

tion in uniform but was sleeping in his car. We can do better.

Last year, I joined with Representative COLE to introduce the Housing Native Heroes Act, which would expand new authorities and flexibilities to a program called the HUD-VASH program, which better addresses tribal veterans' homelessness. I am thankful to Representative PEARCE and his colleagues for working to include strong provisions in this bill to tackle homelessness among our tribal veterans.

I look forward to continuing to work to address the needs of our tribal veterans, and I urge the Senate to quickly take up and pass this bill.

PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5759, the Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

President Obama's decision to grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is an unconstitutional abuse of power which flaunts the rule of law and opens the door for an exponential influx of illegal immigrants.

Our Founding Fathers risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor against such acts of a monarch, and neither President Obama nor any future President should trample upon their sacrifice.

H.R. 5759 wisely deals with our current crisis while also blocking future Presidents from this egregious abuse. Every American should be concerned by the President's unconstitutional grab of power. If the President can change this law, what prevents him from this abuse of power in other policies?

I urge all of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, to join me in supporting and passing this legislation. I also urge the Senate to stand up for the Constitution and swiftly pass this legislation.

This is not the only action the House will take to restrict the overreach of the President, and I am committed to continuing our efforts in the coming weeks and into the next session of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

GHOST SOLDIERS

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I want to bring to everyone's attention a Washington Post story this week pointing out that the Iraqi Army has 50,000 ghost soldiers.