



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015

No. 103

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Randy Bezet, Bayside Community Church, Bradenton, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, we humbly come before You today, and we thank You for Your love and Your Grace and Your peace that is made available to us all.

God, we ask for Your divine wisdom and guidance here today, for You and You alone know the future and the things that are to come. We ask that You would lead us in the decisions we are a part of and that You would give us boldness to honor You.

Would You empower every man and woman in this room to use the life You have given them for good? Let us be leaders who follow Your example, leaders who love sacrificially, give selflessly, and serve graciously. May we all do our best to impact this incredible Nation of ours for the better.

We ask Your blessing on this House and on our United States of America.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR RANDY BEZET

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to welcome to the United States Capitol a tremendous community and spiritual leader, Pastor Randy Bezet, who led us in the opening prayer this morning.

Pastor Bezet is the senior and founding pastor of Bayside Community Church, which has several campuses located throughout my district. His church has been at the forefront of strengthening, encouraging, and serving the people of Sarasota and Bradenton, Florida. The pastor is an inspirational leader who mentors young pastors who are also passionate about revitalizing and restoring local churches in their communities.

I applaud the work and service the pastor and his church do in southwest Florida. It is a great honor and a privilege for me to welcome the pastor before Congress today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY 104TH BIRTHDAY, EDNA YODER

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a very special occasion, to

wish my grandmother, Edna Yoder, a happy 104th birthday. That is right. She is 104 years of age. The Lord has blessed my grandmother with great health and longevity, and I cannot be more thankful for her or proud of my grandmother on her birthday this upcoming Sunday.

She is a true example of what has made America such a strong and vibrant nation. Born in 1911 and one of 14 children, she worked tirelessly on the farm, milking cows at dawn and bringing in the wheat harvest in the hot Kansas sun.

She has seen hard times, and she has seen good times over the past 104 years with a front seat to the great American century, but through it all, her faith in God and love of family define her life. She is a sweet, caring, and loving woman who continues to inspire me each and every day in so many ways.

Today, Grandma, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I wish you a very happy 104th birthday.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is set to expire in less than 100 days, unless Congress takes action.

We have a generational responsibility to protect our Nation's remaining natural wilderness areas for our children and grandchildren. For over 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been an instrumental tool in this effort, and it has been used in almost every single county in the United States.

LWCF protects and expands access to recreational areas and preserves our treasured natural and historic landscapes. It does not cost taxpayer

□ 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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money or contribute to the Federal deficit. In fact, according to a recent economic analysis, every dollar invested in the conservation of public lands through the LWCF leads to \$4 in economic activity to local communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the permanent reauthorization of the LWCF, ensuring that it remains one of our Nation's most successful conservation tools.

BRINGING HEALTH CARE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to personalize and modernize our healthcare system and bring it into the 21st century.

We have an opportunity through the 21st Century Cures Act to pass bipartisan reforms that will accelerate the discovery, development, deployment, and delivery of lifesaving and life-improving techniques and cures.

The 21st Century Cures Act is the result of bipartisan work to ensure that our regulatory system keeps pace with the advances we are seeing in our science and technology fields. 21st Century Cures will make a difference in people's lives.

For the 10,000 known diseases, there are only 500 FDA-approved treatments. By removing barriers to research and development, by modernizing clinical trials, and by incorporating more patient perspectives, we can more effectively develop treatments and cures to fight cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases that affect millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity to help bring the newest, cutting-edge medical technology to the people who need it the most.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am standing here today because the clock is ticking. Today is the last legislative day to prevent the shutdown of the Export-Import Bank and avoid disaster for our economy.

I have in my hand, sir, a letter regarding dozens of businesses in my district, the 14th District of Michigan, that rely on the Ex-Im Bank. It is clear the dire consequences if Congress does not act.

In 7 years, Ex-Im has supported \$93 million in exports and nearly 600 jobs just in my district. This year alone, more than half a million dollars has been financed for businesses in the 14th District. All of this was done at no cost to our taxpayers.

To reduce the deficit, to create more jobs, to remain globally competitive, we must reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

ELSON FLOYD

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in memory of Washington State University president, Dr. Elson Floyd, who passed away on June 20, after a courageous battle against cancer.

Dr. Floyd was a giant for eastern Washington. He embodied the values we seek in our leaders. He was visionary. He was kindhearted. He was a fearless and passionate advocate for higher education, our region, and our State. He had the gift of making our dreams seem possible and of turning our aspirations into a reality.

It has been my privilege to know him and call him friend. During this difficult time, my prayers continue to be with his wife, his children, and the whole WSU family. Together, Washingtonians are inspired and will carry on his legacy.

Thank you, Dr. Floyd, for your tireless work. Rest in peace.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my many colleagues in highlighting the urgency of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

On Monday, I visited a steel company in New Castle, Delaware, called V&S Delaware Galvanizing. This small business employs 60 hard-working Delawareans. Their jobs depend on the financing provided by the Export-Import Bank. The failure to authorize the Bank would be a failure to support and protect these and many other jobs in Delaware.

If we are serious about making things here in America, if we are serious about providing good middle class jobs to people who need them, if we are serious about creating an economy that is built to last, we will reauthorize the Export-Import Bank before it expires next week.

The Ex-Im Bank creates jobs across the country. It sustains those jobs, and it also reduces the deficit. Last year alone, the Bank returned \$700 million to the United States Treasury, and it supports 160,000 U.S. jobs.

This shouldn't be a partisan issue, and it never has been in the past. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to come together and take action today to ensure that the Export-Import Bank can continue to grow our economy and create jobs across our country.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, in less than a week, the deadline for the administration's negotiations with Iran will pass. Many people, including myself, have serious concerns about the status and the outcome of these negotiations.

Iran's nuclear ambitions are a threat to the Middle East, especially to our closest ally, Israel. I remain skeptical of Iran's commitment to disarmament and transparency.

I believe there are five key issues that must be addressed for this to be a good deal for America and Israel.

One, unrestricted access to inspection locations on short notice—inspectors must be given complete access at any time and at any place for verification inspections.

Two, Iran must disclose the entirety of its previous activities and efforts towards a nuclear weapon.

Three, sanctions must remain in place until Iran complies and proves its compliance, and we must show commitment to a robust response to any violation.

Four, any deal must be long term, and it must not include the development of and access to nuclear weapons.

Finally, any negotiations must include provisions that require Iran to dismantle its program completely with no path to a weapon in the future.

I believe that only if these conditions are met should Congress and the American people even consider a deal with Iran.

SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting equality and dignity for every American regardless of whom one loves.

Very soon, the Supreme Court will make an historic decision about the rights of LGBT couples and families, and it is my hope they will respect that each of us deserves as an American citizen the ability to have a family and to love whom one loves.

The economic downturn illustrated how important it is for all families to access the protections of civil marriage so they can live with more certainty and dignity even in challenging times.

No matter what the Court decides, we will keep pushing so people in loving, committed relationships throughout this Nation can say two simple words with extraordinary meaning: "I do." We will keep fighting to ensure that people don't face discrimination based on whom they love.

Let me close with the words of President Kennedy, who said: "In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country."