



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

No. 66

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 28, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, 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 each party limited to 1 hour 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.

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as National Donate Life Month.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Caucus, I believe it is important to help people understand that, while organ and tissue donation is serious, just like any other medical or surgical procedure, there are many misconceptions and myths surrounding the donor process, and it is important that we educate the public about them.

Technology today allows us to do amazing things in the donation of organs and tissues, and new drugs have advanced the opportunity to ensure that these organs, these tissues, are not rejected.

My hope today, as a member of the caucus, is to encourage Americans to get educated and understand the dire need for tissue and organ donations. This is an opportunity to save lives.

Sadly, there are over 120,000 men, women, and children who are on waiting lists for lifesaving organ donations around the country. For these patients, an organ donation simply is a matter of life and death.

I would like to commend the organizations that raise awareness and that are on the front lines about these important issues every single day throughout our country.

I would like to thank the National Kidney Foundation and the American Liver Foundation for their efforts to raise awareness, support patients, and support funding for advancements in this field. They are always trying to advance the opportunities for lifesaving organs that will make a difference in our communities throughout the Nation.

SUPPORTING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced House Concurrent Resolution 129 along with my south Florida colleague and friend, Congressman TED DEUTCH, urging Germany to honor its commitments and moral obligations to Holocaust survivors by providing for their unmet needs.

There are an estimated half-million survivors worldwide, about a quarter of whom live here in the United States.

Nearly 15,000 survivors call the great State of Florida home, and I am proud to represent so many of them in my south Florida district.

But the sad reality and, really, humanity's great shame is that about half of all Holocaust survivors live at or below the poverty line. Tens of thousands of survivors, if not more, are suffering without basic, life-sustaining services and care that they need in their advanced years.

Many live alone or without family support and lack the funds for home care, from medicine to hearing aids, to food, to utilities, to rent.

What a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, that so many Holocaust survivors are unable to maintain even a modest and dignified standard of living.

These individuals have suffered for nearly three-quarters of a century from the physical and emotional scars that they have endured and carry with them to this very day. They have lived through the torture, the experiments, the labor camps, the loss of loved ones, and even the murder of their entire families.

Because of all of this, Holocaust survivors' needs are unique. They are more extensive and more complex than the needs of other elderly individuals.

The time for justice, Mr. Speaker, is now. The time for action is now because there may not be a next year or even a next month for many of these Holocaust survivors.

That is why the German Government must honor Chancellor Adenauer's pledge from 1951, that Germany would take care of all of the needs of every survivor. That is why this resolution is so important, because time is of the essence.

But it is not as though our friends in Germany have done nothing to fulfill this pledge. The German Government has over the years provided some support through income assistance programs and has sought ways to improve and address the needs of the survivors.

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.

H2069

Germany has even doubled its funding for home care services in the past 5 years, but that, unfortunately, does not match the reality of what is required.

The German Ministry of Finance itself has admitted that the level of care financed by its government has been vastly insufficient to date, especially for those who are in dire need of intensive, long-term care.

The real issue of concern, one that is exacerbating the severe lack of funding and one where I think we can press the German Government and work with it to find a fair solution, is the inconsistent manner in which existing funding and care is being disbursed.

The current system places an undue burden on the Holocaust survivors and their families, forcing them to jump through bureaucratic red tape, causing harmful delays and waste.

This resolution is a simple one. It is straightforward. It is noncontroversial. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Congress is in a unique position to work for and fight on behalf of Holocaust survivors, many of whom are our constituents. We have a long history of working on behalf of Holocaust survivors and seeking out their long-overdue justice.

Next Wednesday, May 4, is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. As we remember and honor the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, we are all compelled to do everything in our power to help those who have lived through those unconscionable atrocities.

These survivors, Mr. Speaker, have seen the worst that humanity has to offer. Let us show them now the best of humanity by ensuring that they can, indeed, live out their days in dignity.

FLOOD INSURANCE MARKET PARITY AND MODERNIZATION ACT

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2901, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this bipartisan bill, which represents a positive step towards much-needed flood insurance reform.

This legislation provides clarity to States and private insurers and, in doing so, clears the way for competitive firms to play a much greater role in the flood insurance market.

For my constituents back home, the 705,000 western Pennsylvanians who sent me to Washington to look out for their interests, this means more choices, more competitive rates, and more innovation. Passing this legislation would be a win for western Pennsylvanians eager for change.

Although some tend to think of flood insurance as a concern for coastal States like Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, many Pennsylvanians are close-

ly monitoring the ongoing debate about the future of flood insurance.

Many of my constituents live alongside rivers and streams and in valleys with a history of flooding. My district is also home to many older cities and towns like Johnstown that are filled with properties that predate the National Flood Insurance Program. People have lived in these places for generations and have a deep sense of community.

Rightly, my constituents who live in these flood-prone areas worry about the future availability of affordable flood insurance options in the marketplace. They want to remain in their homes, in the places where multiple generations of their families have lived and worked and built lasting connections with their neighbors.

My constituents need access to affordable flood insurance. As this debate continues over the next year, I will make sure that their concerns are addressed.

H.R. 2901 is a strong step in the right direction as we seek to reform Federal flood insurance policy.

I hope that H.R. 2901 will receive the same broad, bipartisan support it received in the Financial Services Committee when it comes up for a vote later today.

I look forward to working with my colleagues at the committee and on both sides of the aisle as work continues on flood insurance reform.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORMAN F. KYLE

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Norman Kyle, an Aliquippa native who passed away at the age of 95 this past Sunday, for his brave service to our Nation.

Norman served as a U.S. Army infantryman during World War II and, after being captured by the Nazis, was a POW for over 700 days.

He was born on August 24, 1920, in Aliquippa and was retired from J&L Steel Corp., where he worked for more than 40 years. Norman was a John Wayne fan, and he collected more than 100 trains.

In addition to his parents, Norman and Sadie Kyle, he was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Kyle, two sons, Robert and Kenneth Kyle, and a grandson, John Scheeler, Jr.

Norman is survived by his 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

It was men like Norman Kyle who made their generation great and who were a big part of making this country the leader of the world. His life, legacy, and service will not be forgotten.

“I AM JAZZ”

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, all across the country today, teachers, librarians, and parents will be reading the book “I Am Jazz,” a children’s book about

transgender youth, co-written by Jazz Jennings, pictured here, and Jessica Herthel.

Last year, legal threats from the anti-LGBTQ hate group forced a school in Wisconsin to cancel plans to read this book to support a transgender student. The local community rallied, holding a reading at the library that drew more than 600 attendees in support of the student.

Now this is a movement, with readings across the country to increase understanding and to show young people that they are welcomed and loved.

I am proud to join these readers today from the House floor. Now I am going to read this book, “I Am Jazz.”

I am Jazz. For as long as I can remember, my favorite color has been pink. My second favorite color is silver, and my third favorite color is green.

Here are some of my other favorite things: dancing, singing, back flips, drawing, soccer, swimming, makeup, and pretending I’m a pop star.

Most of all, I love mermaids. Sometimes I even wear a mermaid tail into the pool.

My best friends are Samantha and Casey. We always have fun together. We like high heels and princess gowns or cartwheels and trampolines.

But I am not exactly like Samantha and Casey. I have a girl’s brain, but a boy body. This is called transgender. I was born this way.

When I was very little and my mom would say, “You’re such a good boy,” I would say, “No, mama. Good girl.”

□ 1015

At first, my family was confused. They always thought of me as a boy. As I got a little older, I hardly ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes, only princesses and mermaid costumes. My brothers told me that that was girl stuff. I kept right on playing.

My sister says I was always talking to her about my girl thoughts and my girl dreams and how one day I would be a beautiful lady. She would giggle and say, “You are a funny kid.”

Sometimes my parents let me wear my sister’s dresses around the house, but whenever we went out, I had to put on my boy clothes again. That made me mad. Still, I never gave up trying to convince them. Pretending I was a boy felt like telling a lie.

Then one amazing day, everything changed. Mom and dad took me to meet a new doctor who asked me lots and lots of questions. Afterwards, the doctor spoke to my parents, and I heard the word “transgender” for the very first time. That night at bedtime, my parents both hugged me and said, “We understand now. Be who you are. We love you no matter what.”

That made me smile and smile and smile. Mom and dad told me I could start wearing girl clothes to school and growing my hair long. They even let me change my name to Jazz. Being Jazz felt much more like being me. Mom said that being Jazz would make me different from the other kids in school, but that being different is okay. “What is important,” she said, “is that I am happy with who I am.”

Being Jazz caused some other people to be confused, too, like the teachers at school. At the beginning of school, they wanted me to use the boys’ bathroom and play in the boys’ gym class, but that didn’t make me feel normal at all.

I was so happy when the teachers changed their minds. I can’t imagine not playing on