



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

No. 84

House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty and merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members disperse to their various districts and our Nation prepares to celebrate Memorial Day, may we all retreat from the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self, and for so many, of life, would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HULTGREN 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF RUTH RICHARDSON

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long and fruitful public service of a member of my staff, Ruth Richardson.

With degrees from Aurora and Northern Illinois Universities, Ruth began her career as an admissions counselor at Aurora University.

In 1990, she started her service to the U.S. House of Representatives as a caseworker in the office of Congressman Dennis Hastert. The caseworker plays a central role in a congressional office as the primary advocate for constituents having challenges with the Federal Government, and Ruth excelled at her job.

For 26 years, she worked tirelessly to help seniors who were having trouble obtaining their Social Security benefits or to help veterans in search of medical care or military acknowledgment of their service, and she spearheaded the U.S. annual Congressional Art Competition to showcase the young talent in Illinois.

To many, Ruth has been a strong ally navigating the intricate and arcane Federal bureaucracy. I was thrilled Ruth joined my team when I first entered Congress in 2011, and she has delivered professional and caring service to the 14th District residents. Everyone who comes in contact with Ruth is warmed by her selfless heart and willingness to help. In many ways, she is irreplaceable, and we will greatly miss her as she retires at the end of this month.

Ruth, it is now time for you to enjoy your family and your next adventure in life. Don't be a stranger to the office. And may God bless you in your retirement.

REMEMBERING AUBURN POLICE OFFICER RONALD TARENTINO

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Officer Ronald Tarentino, a member of the Auburn Police Department in Massachusetts, who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty this past weekend.

Officer Tarentino exemplified the courage and dedication that defines our incredible men and women in blue. His neighbors and friends described him as a "gentle giant," a "great guy," and "always willing to help." He always kept an eye out for the 91-year-old widow living across the street.

Remembering Officer Tarentino this week, Auburn Police Chief Andrew J.

☐ 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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Sluckis said: “He got along with everybody. He was somebody who was always smiling. He was an outstanding guy, and we’re going to miss him.” Mr. Speaker, that is how he will be remembered.

In the days since this tragedy, it has been truly inspiring to see the Auburn, Leicester, and surrounding communities come together to support Officer Tarentino’s wife and three children. My heart goes out to them, and I know I am not alone in saying that Officer Tarentino will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT MEADOR

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local act of courage.

Earlier this week, in my hometown of Newburgh, Indiana, a car wreck at a local gas station quickly turned into a life-or-death situation. In what was described as a scene from an action movie, Boonville native Scott Meador, who was a bystander to the incident, bravely pulled the driver to safety before the car was consumed by flames, saving the driver’s life.

Scott Meador is a hero and an example for us all. Because of his selfless action, a family remains whole. That is what it means to be a Hoosier—to come to the aid of your fellow citizen when they are in need.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to highlight the positive things that happen daily in our country. Regardless of what may be going on around us, events like this remind us what is really important in life.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Platte, South Dakota, September 17, 2015:

Nicole Westerhuis, 41 years old;
Connor Westerhuis, 14;
Michael Westerhuis, 16;
Jaeci Westerhuis, 10;
Kailey Westerhuis, 9.
Piketon, Ohio, April 22, 2016:
Kenneth Rhoden, 44 years old;
Christopher Rhoden, Sr., 40;
Gary Rhoden, 38;
Dana Manley Rhoden, 37;
Hanna May Rhoden, 22;
Hannah Hazel Gilley, 20;
Clarence Rhoden, 20;
Christopher Rhoden, Jr., 16.
Macon, Georgia, December 12, 2014:
Derrick Jackson, 38 years old;
George Henley, 34;
Corey Hollingshed, 25.
Dallas, Texas, January 4, 2015:
Deborah Lou Stanley, 57 years old;
Max Vester McEwen, 54;
Jose Alfredo Lopez, 21.
Norfolk, Virginia, January 1, 2014:
Melvin Alston, 32 years old;

Marcus Deering, 22.

REMEMBERING HILLIARD POLICE OFFICER SEAN JOHNSON

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Hilliard, Ohio, Police Officer Sean R. Johnson, who passed away last week in a tragic training accident.

Officer Johnson’s dedication to public service was evident when he made the decision to join the Air Force right out of high school in 1988. After serving in the military and earning the rank of senior airman, he was hired at the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Department, where he served until 1997.

Officer Johnson joined the Hilliard Division of Police in October 1999 and would stay with the department for the next 16 years. Throughout his 16 years with the Hilliard Division of Police, he was distinguished as one of the most valuable members of the police department. He was awarded multiple achievement citations during his time for his service above the normal call of duty in dangerous circumstances.

He earned his associates degree in law enforcement from Columbus State Community College and was a father of two children, all while working to keep our community safe.

I want to recognize Officer Sean Johnson for his incredible service to our community in Hilliard.

I also want to offer my deepest condolences to his family at this difficult time.

ZIKA VIRUS

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, a new CDC study shows a 13 percent risk that the Zika virus will result in microcephaly, causing incomplete fetal brain development.

Already, nearly 300 pregnant women in the United States have acquired Zika. In light of these risks, how can this Congress continue to obstruct, delay, and deny the necessary funding for a response?

On many issues, this Congress is divided. I get it. But this is our most basic job. This emergency will test us as Americans, and it will test us as an institution. Will we come together to prevent a Zika outbreak? Will we protect these families? Will we act in the common good, or will we continue to play politics, ignore the science, and disregard these serious risks?

The study’s author, CDC biologist Michael Johansson, said: “We need to do whatever we can to help women avoid Zika virus infections during pregnancy.”

Let’s listen to him. Let’s do our job.

IN SUPPORT OF VERIZON WORKERS AND UNITED STATES CALL CENTER WORKER AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 39,000 Verizon workers currently on strike. These hardworking members of CWA and IBEW are on strike for a number of reasons, but the number one reason is to keep their jobs and prevent them from being shipped overseas to the Philippines or India.

What Verizon is doing is not unique. In fact, it has been the experience of too many families in my district in Houston and Harris County and families throughout the country.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to fight for these jobs and improve the lives of average Americans. This spring, I introduced bipartisan legislation, the United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 4604, that would make companies that offshore American jobs ineligible for Federal grants or loans and put them at the back of the line for Federal contracts. This legislation will not stop all offshoring, but it is a strong first step to protect these middle class jobs.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4604.

RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2577, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 751 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 751

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution—

(a) the House hereby takes from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concurs in the Senate amendment with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-56; and

(b) it shall be in order for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to move that the House insist on its amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2577 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Mississippi). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN),