



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

No. 56

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 7, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, 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 1:50 p.m.

HONORING RETIRED STATE SENATORS ALLEN PAUL AND JOHNNY NUGENT

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of two extraordinary Indiana State legislators: Senators Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent. These two close friends have served the State of Indiana for decades.

I want to personally thank them for all of their hard work and recognize them for their many accomplishments.

First, let me tell you a little bit about Senator Allen Paul. Allen volun-

teered for the U.S. Army in 1967 and is a decorated Vietnam veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star for saving a man's life and also earned a Combat Infantry Badge and four Air Medals.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Allen was elected to the State senate in 1986, where he was a tireless advocate for military members and their families. He passed important legislation to help veterans receive a college degree and supported legislation to offer in-state tuition for veterans.

Senator Paul has the distinction of being the first legislator from eastern Indiana to serve in a leadership position within his caucus. During his 28-year tenure in the senate, he served as majority whip, chairman of the Insurance Committee and chair of the Financial Institutions Committee. His political savvy and institutional knowledge will certainly be missed by his colleagues in the State legislature.

Senator Paul's dear friend Senator Johnny Nugent has also decided to retire after more than 30 years in office. He too is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

At the age of 26, Johnny was elected Dearborn County commissioner, the youngest commissioner ever elected in Indiana. As a State senator, Johnny Nugent held numerous leadership positions, including majority floor leader, chair of the Agricultural and Small Business Committee and ranking member of the Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.

Senator Nugent has been a tireless defender of the Second Amendment and served two terms on the NRA's board of directors. During his tenure in the senate, he successfully sponsored Indiana's "Castle Doctrine," as well as the Nation's first lifetime concealed-carry permit.

Senator Nugent is also known for his involvement in his local community. He is a member of the Dearborn County

Chamber of Commerce and the southeastern Indiana Shrine Club. He also served on the Dearborn County Hospital board of trustees.

Both Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent serve as shining examples of what it means to be a public servant. I ask the entire Sixth Congressional District to join me in recognizing these two outstanding Hoosier legislators.

I have no doubt these great men will bring the same commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm that they have had during their service to their constituents and their communities, and apply that in the next chapter of their lives.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on two core principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion, both of which are contained in the First Amendment of the Constitution. No one in America is arrested for criticizing elected officials, including the President. No one in America is imprisoned for going to a mosque on a Friday, a synagogue on a Saturday, or a church on a Sunday.

The fact that we as Americans can express ourselves so freely and choose to worship whenever and wherever we want are at the heart of America's greatness. That is why I am so troubled by the recent events surrounding the high-tech entrepreneur and Mozilla co-founder, Brendan Eich, who, despite his unquestioned professional credentials, was forced to resign because of a \$1,000 personal donation he made in 2008 in support of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative in support of traditional marriage.

Regardless of your views on marriage, any American who values the

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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First Amendment should be deeply troubled that this man was essentially driven from his job because of his personal beliefs. I want to stress his personal beliefs, not his company's, but his own.

Nowhere have I read that Mr. Eich ever discriminated against coworkers. In fact, by all accounts, he is a fair and honorable employer. Yet, because of his private beliefs about traditional marriage, which I share, he has been demonized and his livelihood has been compromised.

As troubling as this particular incident is, the chilling effect it will have on the broader issues of free speech cannot be overstated.

I find it notable that Andrew Sullivan, a leading activist in the gay community, has come to Mr. Eich's defense. Mr. Sullivan has been widely quoted as writing:

The whole episode disgusts me, as it should anyone interested in a tolerant and diverse society. If this is the gay rights movement today, hounding our opponents with a fanaticism more like the religious right than anyone else, then count me out.

Yes, public opinion on gay marriage has shifted since 2008, when both then-Presidential candidates Barack Obama and JOHN MCCAIN supported defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. But America has never been defined by mob rule.

Even if just 1 percent of the country supported defining marriage as between a man and a woman, which is hardly the case, that 1 percent still has a right to hold that view, particularly when it is a view based, in many cases, on one's most deeply held faith convictions.

I understand that reasonable people can disagree on issues. In fact, robust debate in the public square is itself an American hallmark. What happened last week was not debate. It was stifling of the debate. It was the silencing of dissent. It was compromising of our Nation's most cherished principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

The implications are vast and deeply troubling. We should all be concerned. I know I am.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

We ask that You send Your spirit upon them, giving them the gifts of patience and diligence. With all the pressures for action that cry out each day, and with all the concern and worry that accompanies any responsibility, we pray that they might know Your peace, which surpasses all human understanding.

May Your voice speak to them in the depths of their hearts, illuminating their minds and spirits, thus enabling them to view the tasks of this day with confidence and hope. All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to the pressing issues facing our Nation.

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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

OBAMACARE IS HURTING SOUTH CAROLINA

(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. Madam Speaker, when Mary West purchased insurance through the government health care Web site, she didn't expect to lose access to her doctor.

Ms. West struggles with diabetes and high blood pressure. Because of these health concerns, she has developed a relationship with the doctors she trusted at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

She was devastated when she realized that her policy was not accepted by her

local hospital. Trying to obtain an alternative policy that would be taken at Spartanburg Regional has been even more difficult due to the lack of communication between the provider and the hospital.

This story, highlighted over the weekend in the Spartanburg Herald Journal, reveals the nightmares South Carolinians and millions of Americans are experiencing as a direct result of ObamaCare's failures.

This unworkable law is tragically flawed. It is not fair that the President's broken promises have created barriers when making a trip to the doctor.

ObamaCare will continue to hammer down on our families if it is not repealed and replaced with a common-sense solution that maintains the doctor-patient relationship, instead of Big Government's dictates destroying jobs.

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

THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th day that unemployed Americans have been cut off the Federal unemployment insurance program.

Let me give voice to how they have spent the last 100 days. A woman from Pennsylvania wrote:

It's scary, Mr. Levin, not knowing what will happen from day to day. My landlord has tried to be as patient as he could, and now, he had no choice but to serve me an eviction notice. It is scary to think that my America is this cruel.

Carol from New York:

I have been in the medical field for over 25 years and unable to find work. I can't pay my rent, electric bill, phone bill, no money for gas, no money for food. I can't even print out my resume for a job because I can't afford to buy ink for my printer.

This is the first time in my life I had to go to a food pantry. I was ashamed. Never in a million years would I imagine this is where I would be. I am not looking for a handout. I just need a little help to get back on my feet until I find a job.

Tonight, the Senate will pass a bipartisan UI extension. This House must not ignore these stories. We must act.

ABILITYONE PROGRAM

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding work of the AbilityOne Program and Bosma Enterprises in my district, in Indiana.

AbilityOne is an outstanding program committed to providing employment opportunities for people suffering from vision loss. Since 1915, Indiana's very own Bosma Enterprises has been a