



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

No. 123

## 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: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House, as they return home to meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day 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.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MITCHELL 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.

### ILLINOIS FLOODING

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, it has been a difficult week in northern Illinois. A little over a week ago, torrential rains fell on Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Four Illinois counties have been named disaster areas: Lake County, McHenry County, Kane County, and Cook County.

As difficult as it is, it is an incredibly impressive thing to visit these communities, particularly Algonquin, Port Barrington, and Fox River Grove, among others, all in the Sixth Congressional District. What you will witness is literally hundreds of volunteers following through and filling thousands of bags of sand to help their neighbors.

Municipal employees, first responders, local leaders, the Governor of Illinois, and members of the Illinois delegation have all come together in order to meet our neighbors' needs at this time.

For those of you who are people of faith, I ask that you would pray for these families as they are going through this difficult time. Also, I commend those at home who have lent a hand.

### HONORING REVEREND DR. HOWARD W. PARKER, JR.

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the Reverend Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., who

has served as pastor of historic Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church located in Greenville, North Carolina, for more than 35 years, and will soon retire.

The son of Howard and Bernice Parker, Dr. Parker excelled academically, attending Shaw University, Winston-Salem State University, Wake Forest University, and United Christian College, ultimately receiving a master of divinity degree and an honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Under his devoted leadership, Mr. Speaker, Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church has grown in membership and has become a giant in the Greenville community. In addition to leading his congregation, Dr. Parker served as president of the North Carolina General Baptist State Convention, which represents more than a half a million Missionary Baptists in 1,700 North Carolina congregations.

Dr. Parker's commitment to the community has stretched far beyond the pulpit. He was twice elected to the Pitt County Board of Education and served as the board's chair. He serves as associate chaplain of the Greenville Police Department and is a member of the Greenville Initiative on Gang Violence.

Dr. Parker is married to the former Ruby LaVerna Grantham from Goldsboro. They are the proud parents of two adult children, Kelly and Andrea.

His distinguished career and life of unselfish and dedicated service to mankind has positively impacted the lives of so many. His contributions to the community are far and wide, and too numerous to mention.

I ask my colleagues this morning to join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., and thank him for his important service to God and humanity. We wish him well in the years to come.

□ 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.

H6045