



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

No. 59

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 12, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE CHABOT 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 8, 2018, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

OBSERVING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Holocaust Remembrance Day to honor the memory of those who were murdered during the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was the systematic, government-sponsored persecution and murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

We honor the resilience of survivors, and we rededicate ourselves to uphold the promise of "Never Again."

This week marks the Days of Remembrance for the Holocaust. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the Nation's annual commemoration. Each year, State and local governments, military bases, workplaces, schools, religious organizations, and civic centers host observances and remembrance activities for their communities.

These events occur during the Week of Remembrance, which began Sunday, April 8, and runs through Sunday, April 15.

The events and results of the Holocaust were so devastating and so extreme that we can barely imagine how such a horrendous event can even take place.

But we remember because it is an unthinkable scar on humanity. We not only remember, but, more importantly, we say: Never again.

Today, we mourn the lives of those we lost, and we celebrate those who saved them, and we honor those who survived.

The Holocaust was a tremendous blight on the history of humanity, but also a time when we honor those who were brave enough to put an end to it; those who stood in the face of such evil and refused to turn a blind eye.

Our American soldiers were fighting to win World War II and liberated concentration camps and the horror that ensued there. It was an incredible task carried out by members of the Greatest Generation.

By looking back, we can understand how important it is to defend those who are defenseless. We recognize the sufferings that took place and the lives that were shattered, but also the efforts that were made to put an end to such destruction and suffering.

We have seen such hatred and genocide occur again in places like Bosnia,

Rwanda, Darfur, and Syria. There are still millions of people being persecuted because of their ethnicity, because of who they are.

We must eradicate hatred and never become indifferent to the sufferings of others. On the Day of Remembrance, the most important thing to remember is the humanity that exists in all of us. May we always remember and always pledge: Never again.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

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

Ms. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust to commemorate National Minority Health Month and to challenge Congress to take bold action to end health disparities that continue to plague our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad fact that in America your race, class, and ZIP Code very much determine how long you will live and how healthy you will be; whether you will die of a heart attack in your forties or develop type 2 diabetes and lose a limb.

These three factors speak volumes about your life and health. That is just wrong, and it is up to us to change that.

From cradle to grave, and at every stage in between, people of color, low-income people, rural Americans, Native Americans, and first-generation Americans are sicker, receive less care, have less access to care, and, tragically, die sooner.

In 2010, we took a major leap forward with the passage of the Affordable Care Act. This law has started to reduce these disparities by increasing access to care, ensuring mental healthcare, expanding research, and creating a

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.

H3151

pipeline of doctors and medical professionals from underrepresented communities.

A major result of the ACA has been to cut the excessive risk of cancer death in half for African-American men. The same risk factor for Black women was reduced by seven points, according to the American Cancer Society's 2017 report.

They clearly state: "Increasing access to care as a result of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act may contribute to a further narrowing of the racial gap across all population groups."

However, the ACA is not just fighting cancer. It is improving other aspects of care and increasing access to care.

While the Affordable Care Act has made major strides, disparities remain deeply entrenched in our society and our healthcare system today.

Today, I would like to talk about several of them. The first and most entrenched is access to care. Far too often, the sickest among our neighbors are those with the least access to the care they need. They cannot see a provider because they can't afford it, can't get the time off work, can't find transportation; or there is simply no care available in their community.

Let's work together to make sure that everyone can get the care they need, no matter where they live, whether in a city, the suburbs, or on a farm.

This Minority Health Month, we must also address the challenge of mental health being stigmatized in communities of color.

We know that African Americans are 20 percent more likely to report serious psychological distress than their White counterparts, but just 25 percent will seek care, compared to 40 percent of White Americans.

Thankfully, there are some great organizations, like New York City's First Lady Chirlane McCray's Cities Thrive Coalition, working to deconstruct the stigma and improve access to care, but much work remains.

Just like with mental health, another health subset, maternal health, shows stark differences between different demographic groups.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame and a tragedy that America is the only developed nation where women die from childbirth now more than they did in the recent past.

Despite technology and innovation, it is becoming more dangerous to have a child, especially for women of color. Growing your family shouldn't mean putting your life on the line.

In the coming weeks, I will be introducing comprehensive legislation to start pushing these numbers down.

Another public health crisis that affects some groups more than others is the issue of gun violence.

Last month, hundreds of thousands of young people and supporters came to Washington, D.C., to challenge Congress to act and save lives. Millions

more marched in their own cities with the same message.

Like all public health issues, people of color, women, and rural Americans are far more impacted by gun violence. In fact, it remains the leading cause of death for African-American men from birth to 44.

We are also tragically seeing spikes in rural and veteran suicides by guns, another public health issue that this House has ignored.

Despite these calls for action and the cold, hard facts, this House has yet to act to save lives.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just spoke extensively about many problems and challenges facing the health of Americans, but I want to close by highlighting some recent successes to end health disparities.

First, this February, this House passed my Action for Dental Health Act, a bill that will better target existing resources to more effectively deliver oral and dental healthcare to underserved communities and populations.

And finally, I want to praise the new leaders in the medical, research, and advocacy professions who are working to end these deeply entrenched disparities.

Next week, I will honor the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 Under 40, young leaders in the healthcare field who are working to support and empower minority communities to live longer, healthier lives.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to challenge this House to follow the example of these young people and come together to improve the health of all Americans, especially those who have been forgotten for far too long.

REMEMBERING ZELL MILLER, GEORGIA'S GOVERNOR

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Georgia's legend in many ways, Zell Miller, who spent the last few years of his life, as he spent all of his life, in Young Harris in my district.

Zell Miller helped shape Georgia into one of the strongest States in the Union. He was a national giant from northeast Georgia, and I looked up to him as a leader who never blinked in the face of a challenge or let politics eclipse his principles.

I will always remember the ways he encouraged me and supported me through many seasons. My family knew and admired and will miss Zell as a true man of the mountains.

In 1932, Zell Bryan Miller was born to a mother who single-handedly built her family's first home with rocks from a nearby stream, which he lived in until his passing.

Zell attended both Young Harris College and Emory University. He put his education on hold in order to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1953.

One year after he joined the Marines, he married Shirley Carver, and they had two sons, Murphy and Matthew.

A few years later, Zell enrolled at the University of Georgia, where he graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in history. His education earned him a teaching position back home at Young Harris College in 1959, and in the same year, the town elected him as their mayor.

After one mayoral term, residents sent him to the Gold Dome as their State senator. In the years following, he worked for Georgia's Governor Maddox, Georgia's Democratic Party, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and, in 1975, he became Georgia's Lieutenant Governor.

In 1990, Zell became the Governor of Georgia, and his positive influence on our State's education system has characterized his tenure.

His vision for brighter futures came to life when voters ratified the State lottery on the 1992 ballot, creating a new fund to support the State's education needs. One year later, the H.O.P.E. Scholarship was created, making higher education accessible for nearly 2 million Georgia students.

In 1999, Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell passed away while in office, and then-Governor Barnes appointed Zell to fill the vacant seat, and Zell came to Washington.

Georgians will remember Zell Miller as one of the State's strongest advocates, a leader who never chose ideology over his duty to the people who elected him, and, in this time of loss, our prayers are focused on his loved ones and the millions of people whom he served.

Zell Miller was an example of a true man of the mountains who was willing to take stands, many times not popular, but he was always willing to take a stand for those that mattered.

Zell Miller will be someone who is missed, whether it be in Atlanta, whether it be in Washington, D.C., all across this country, or basically back home in the Ninth District of Georgia. Zell Miller is someone who we all can look up to and respect. He led in a way that we can try to lead as well.

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I today rise to recognize the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force Reserve, created by President Truman on April 14, 1948.

As a member of the Air Force Reserve, I have been privileged to minister and work with airmen since 2002. I can attest to the courage exhibited by my fellow airmen both here at home and while serving abroad in Iraq together.

Since our country's founding, citizens have awaited and answered the call of duty, accomplishing each mission with valor.

Air Force reservists, known as Reserve Citizen Airmen, perform leading roles in military operations, humanitarian crises, and disaster relief across