



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019

No. 2

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 4, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for the joy, excitement, and ceremony of yesterday when the 116th Congress was convened. It was a celebration of the ongoing American experiment of participatory democracy.

Today begins, if not in full force, the work of the Congress, when the difficulties facing our Nation, and some communities especially, come into focus.

We ask again an abundance of Your wisdom for the Members of the people's House.

May we be forever grateful for the blessings our Nation enjoys and appropriately generous with what we have to help those among us who are in need.

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.

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

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

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HASTINGS 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, as I did my very first speech in 2013, and again in 2017, I rise today to sound a clarion call for the urgent action by this new Congress to address the senseless gun violence that continues to claim too many innocent lives across our country.

Sadly, since my first speech 6 years ago, Americans continue to be gunned down in schools, workplaces, houses of worship, community gatherings, and even while sitting comfortably in their own homes.

Time and again, Congress pauses for the standard moment of silence and yet, so far, has failed to take real action.

Newtown, Parkland, Las Vegas, Mother Emanuel AME, Tree of Life synagogue, the Capital Gazette—these names are but a few of the grotesquely long list of mass shootings and lives cut violently short. And for every mass shooting that captures the headlines, countless other victims are killed or maimed in shootings across our country each and every day.

But as we turn the page on this new Congress, I have hope, hope that this year we will finally take action to make our community safer: actions such as passing universal background checks, banning high capacity magazines, and making trafficking of weapons across State lines a Federal crime.

We have the power to save lives. Let us now find the courage to act and build a safer future for our children.

U.S.-POLAND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

(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, 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States.

□ 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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