



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

No. 199

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

During these cold, early darkening days, we ask Your special blessing upon those who labor in the Nation's Capitol.

Help the Members of the House, and those of the Senate, to act wisely and carefully in the important work they do. In the waning days of the session, may they continue to heed the voices of all their constituents, both those who voted for them and those who did not.

May all that is done within the people's House 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUDD 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.

12 DAYS OF SALT

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, on the seventh day of SALT, my constituents have said to me that we cannot fix the SALT deduction cap by simply slashing our State and local taxes because these taxes fund critical community priorities like our public school system.

I am incredibly proud that New Jersey's public school system was just ranked number one in the entire country. A number of factors go into that achievement, including student achievement, the success of students once they leave school, and school funding.

Madam Speaker, New Jersey ranks third in the country in the percentage of our tax dollars allocated to education. That is because our residents know that investment in our schools is a downpayment on a bright future. It is why so many families make New Jersey their home.

This investment benefits not only New Jersey. Our students grow up to work, serve, and lead in organizations across the Nation and around the globe.

That includes four—yes, four—NASA astronauts produced by the public schools in my congressional district alone.

We need to restore the SALT deduction cap and stop penalizing States like New Jersey that prioritize investment in our children and the professionals who educate the next generation, investments that benefit the entire country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CAMERON WALTERS

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Cameron Walters, who passed away at the age of 21 on Friday, December 6, during the barbaric attack on Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Originally from Richmond Hill in the First Congressional District of Georgia, Mr. Walters was a pilot in training at the naval air station.

He had recently passed an exam in order to stand watch over the entrances to the station, and when the shots rang out, it was his first time on guard duty.

Before the tragic attack, Mr. Walters joined the Navy to follow in his father's footsteps and build a better sense of purpose in life.

His father remembers that when he graduated boot camp, the grin on his face said it all. He was so proud to have the opportunity to earn his wings as a Navy airman.

For his friends and classmates, his bright personality and sense of humor could light up any room he walked into.

It is truly devastating that Mr. Walters' life was cut so short by this tragic event, a life which had so much enthusiasm to serve his country and make this world a better place to live.

Mr. Walters' family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FLETCHER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 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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