



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

No. 29

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 12, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, 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 time equally allocated between the parties 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 11:50 a.m.

SUPPORTING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, the great poet and pioneer of righteous rage, Audre Lorde, once said: "I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own."

The year is now 2020, and here we women are, still in so many ways not fully free, still shackled.

Today, I rise to affirm the humanity and the dignity of all women. I rise in strong, unapologetic, righteous support of H.J. Res. 79, which will strike the arbitrary deadline for ratification of the equal rights amendment, an amendment that should already be the law of the land.

Women are strong, hardworking, bright, and resilient. We are the backbones of our families, our communities, and our democracy. We do not live in checked boxes; we live in an intersectionality of lived experiences and identities. Our issues are everyone's issues, because our destinies are all tied.

Tomorrow's vote on H.J. Res. 79 is a vote for the preservation of our collective humanity.

Despite our commitment to hard work, both within our households and on the job, we are still paid less than our male counterparts. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, women are paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man; but nationally, women are paid only 80 cents for every dollar a man is paid.

Even worse, the modern-day wage gap disproportionately impacts women of color, with Black women earning 61 cents, Native women earning 58 cents, Latinx women earning only 53 cents, and AAPI women making as little as 50 cents per dollar paid to a White man.

In addition to pay discrimination, we face pregnancy discrimination, discrimination in the criminal legal system, sexual and domestic violence, and inadequate healthcare access.

But this isn't an accident. The American Constitution is sexist by its very design. This country's laws have historically treated us like second-class citizens, depriving us of the right to vote, to enter most jobs, and to own property.

While some of these injustices may cease to exist, we still face tremendous barriers to our full participation in so-

ciety. With tomorrow's vote, we have an opportunity to right this country's wrong and to take a stand in the name of equality.

I am honored to be serving and representing the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District during these unprecedented times, where we have a record 127 women serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. These women are some of the fiercest table-shakers, justice-seekers, and truth-tellers that have ever served in this august body, and it is my privilege and joy to call them my sisters in service.

My sister in service Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who has faithfully served the people of Washington, D.C., for 29 years and continues to lead in the fight for D.C. statehood;

My sister in service Congresswoman KATIE PORTER, who is fighting for economic justice for domestic violence survivors who are financially dependent on their partners;

My sister in service Congresswoman DEB HAALAND, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna Tribe, who continues to shine daylight on the silent crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women;

My sister in service Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB, whose unique experiences as a Palestinian American have given a voice to unheard Palestinians around the world fighting for their humanity;

My sister in service Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD, who remains clear-eyed in her fight for healthcare justice as both a nurse and someone living with a preexisting condition; and

My sister in service Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, for her leadership on this issue and for introducing this critical joint resolution.

Tomorrow's vote is a vote for equality. It is a vote for fairness. It is a vote to actualize the movements built on the backs of women.

□ 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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H1049

HONORING THE LEGACY OF FRANK LOSONSKY

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the legacy of the last remaining AVG Flying Tiger, Frank Losonsky, who passed away last week at 99 years of age.

Mr. Losonsky was one of 300 men who comprised the American Volunteer Group, which sailed to China in 1941 to defend against the Imperial Japanese in World War II.

Mr. Losonsky was the crew chief of the Hell's Angels Squadron, where he was responsible for maintaining three to four, maybe five, aircraft at a time.

The Flying Tigers were a unique unit because most of their pilots and support personnel were enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Marine Corps, but they flew under Chinese colors.

This elite group was devised and commanded by Louisianian and LSU graduate Lieutenant General Claire Chennault. On his recommendation, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an order allowing American regulars to be lent to the Chinese Air Force. They first flew combat 12 days after Pearl Harbor on December 20, 1941.

Mr. Losonsky's legacy lives on at the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum in Monroe, Louisiana, and we are proud to host it.

Please join me in honoring the contributions of Frank Losonsky and the rest of the AVG Flying Tigers to the liberation of the Pacific from Imperial Japan.

STARTING OVER ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, we will soon be voting on H.J. Res. 79, which attempts to remove the deadline for ratification contained in the equal rights amendment, which passed Congress in 1972.

Over the decades, we have made great strides in our Nation in promoting and protecting women's rights. This year, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote across our country.

A few months ago, I visited the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum in Adams, Massachusetts. It is a small but powerful museum that tells the story of Susan B. Anthony and her work, along with other suffragists, for the right to vote and for other rights for women.

When talking about how far we have come in equal rights for women, I can't help but think of my own mother, who is now in her eighties. When I graduated from eighth grade, she fulfilled

her goal of graduating from college, which she had never had a chance to do. When I went off to college, she fulfilled a lifelong dream and went to law school; and, in 1988, she graduated from Georgetown University Law School with her law degree. It took her a long time to finally have these opportunities, but she persevered and succeeded.

So I am thinking about my mother as well as my wife, who is an actuary, and my sister, who is an attorney. I think about them when I work on protecting women from discrimination and harassment in the workplace, when I work for legislation for equal pay for women and for other bills to guarantee equal treatment for women.

The equal rights amendment, as we now consider it, was passed by Congress in 1972. There was a 7-year deadline placed by Congress on States for ratification, just as there had been on a number of other constitutional amendments. At the deadline, three-fourths of States had not ratified it.

This week, Congress will be considering H.J. Res. 79, which retroactively removes the deadline for ratification. There is much controversy over whether this is constitutional. In addition, H.J. Res. 79 also requires a simple majority to pass.

Article V of the Constitution gives Congress the power to propose constitutional amendments but requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate. The original resolution introduced in the House this year to remove the ERA deadline, H.J. Res. 38, required a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate.

In addition, we know that the Senate is highly unlikely to take up this resolution. So, if Congress is interested in the equal rights amendment being added to the Constitution, we should be considering H.J. Res. 35, which would restart the process.

Just a couple of days ago, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a longtime supporter of the ERA, said Congress should do just this. Justice Ginsburg said:

I would like to see a new beginning. I'd like to start over.

She added:

There is too much controversy about latecomers. Plus, a number of States have withdrawn their ratification. So, if you count a latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard States that have said "we've changed our minds"?

H.J. Res. 35, which would restart the process, could go through committee, where it could be debated, potentially amended, and then brought to the floor for further debate and possible amendment. In doing so, we can clear up any points of contention about the impact of the ERA and raise a consensus.

If we truly want to support the addition of the equal rights amendment to the Constitution, this is what we should do. I support doing this. Otherwise, we are simply casting a message vote.

This week when we vote on H.J. Res. 79, my message is yes. I will be voting

"yes" to demonstrate my support for protecting equal rights for my wife, my mother, my sister, and for all women.

HONORING BRANDON RENZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the departure of a long-term servant of the House, Brandon Renz.

Brandon has served the House of Representatives for nearly two decades and has been a trusted leader of my staff for well over a decade. Most recently, he has worked with me and fellow Members on the Education and Labor Committee as Republican staff director and has provided trustworthy counsel and excellent organizational prowess.

He also served as my chief of staff during my time in leadership as House Republican Secretary and was a respected liaison for me and other Members, staff, and House offices over my eventful time in that office.

While Brandon has been a tremendous asset and key contributor in all those significant positions, he did some of his best work in the same trenches that many of our staff do, in positions and in rooms that do not receive attention from C-SPAN or grab headlines.

Brandon started as a staff assistant for a Member from his home State of Iowa, Representative STEVE KING, reluctantly coming to Washington on the recommendation of a friend and only after committing to himself that he would stay only 1 year.

In less than 3 years on Capitol Hill, Brandon earned a reputation as an astute legislative mind with bedrock conservative principles and became my legislative director. In him, I found a partner who shared my commitment to accurate, grammatically correct documents of all types.

He labored with me on constituent letters and on many important legislative projects, including providing the Puerto Rican people with an opportunity to express all their preferences when considering their territory's future, developing legislation to lessen unfunded mandates, and expressing Congress' disapproval of the bailout funds expended on the TARP program.

He also worked as a rules associate with the House Rules Committee, sitting through interminable hearings at all hours of the day and night. He did important work there, ensuring Members' voices were heard and that the House could work its will on legislation considered on the House floor.

After several years guiding my legislative staff and agenda, he accepted my request to serve as chief of staff and used his terrific skills to benefit constituents and ensure my offices paid back the trust given to them by America's taxpayers.