



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015

No. 175

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: Father of us all, thank You for giving us another day.

In so many ways, the world is exploding with crisis after crisis. We ask Your blessing on the people and city of San Bernardino, but also upon this Nation, which seems plagued by so many problems of violence and resulting death.

We ask Your blessing upon Syria and the Middle East, where the threats and dangers of terrorism are confusing to nations who now find themselves, as traditional foes, vulnerable before a ruthless organization professing a twisted, violent religious fervor.

And we ask Your blessing upon our planet itself, which we all share. No matter the cause, we are well aware of extremes in weather systems which threaten populations in many parts of our world.

All of these are great and complicated problems. As the Members of this assembly consider them, give them the grace to see one another as brothers and sisters, rather than as foes, who must work together for the love of our Nation and our world.

May everything done in this place 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 Georgia (Mr. CARTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia 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.

HONORING TOM COFFEY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember journalist and community leader Tom Coffey.

Last week, Tom Coffey died at the age of 92. He was one of the old-time newspaper guys. He never missed a chance to speak and listen to people he encountered.

Mr. Coffey entered the news business as a copyboy when he graduated from Savannah High School in 1940. With the exception of a short time away to serve his country in World War II, where he was wounded in the Philippines, and a brief stint from 1969 to 1974, when he served as acting city manager of Savannah twice, he was a journalist until he retired as editor of the Savannah Morning News.

More than 20 years ago, when Mr. Coffey retired in 1989, Representative Lindsay Thomas, my predecessor, referred to Tom as one of the most respected journalists in Georgia.

During his life, Tom wrote about national news, including civil rights and desegregation, but he also wrote about the thrill of playing stickball in the

backyards of Savannah and the local bootlegger who bribed local law enforcement.

Tom's extraordinary career as a journalist and his work over the years has made life better for many people. He will truly be missed.

TAX EXTENDERS

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to state my opposition to the \$800 billion of unpaid tax extenders now being discussed in Congress.

It is incomprehensible to me that Republicans and Democrats would entertain adding \$800 billion to the \$19 trillion debt that we already have, a debt that our children and grandchildren will end up having to pay.

Just as every well-meaning program should be paid for in these tough times, so should every tax incentive. This is especially true when those incentives are being expanded beyond their original purpose and made permanent.

What we really need, colleagues, is having a more comprehensive discussion on tax policy and entitlement reform. We probably have too many tax breaks. We should broaden the tax base, frankly, and reduce our tax load.

We must deal seriously with the long-term debt and deficits. Adding this additional burden to the out-of-control debt we already have is absolutely destructive to our country's future.

As one of the former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, the greatest threat to our Nation is not from abroad, but our national debt.

SUPPORT FOR THE CRADLE ACT

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

□ 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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