United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020 *No. 198*

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:

God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Bless the Members of the people's House as they return to their home districts. For the first time in our lives, families will be gathering, or not gathering to celebrate what we have to be thankful for as Americans. We are so aware of what we have lost. Have mercy on us.

We do thank You, and thank all those in our country who have labored through these months to provide services to our communities, to teach our children, to care for our sick. In these seasons of gathering, keep us safe, and help us to be mindful of so many who have not the benefits we enjoy as Americans.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EVANS 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.

PHILADELPHIANS NEED MORE COVID RELIEF NOW

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

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, my constituents in Philadelphia need more COVID relief now. Many of them are worried or scared, but the Republican Senate is still focused on confirming more Trump judges.

The House passed the Heroes Act, which gives us more of what we need, an extension of the $600 of weekly unemployment subsidy, not more Trump judges;

Urgent relief for small businesses like restaurants, not more Trump judges;

Emergency rental assistance and protection from eviction or foreclosure, not more Trump judges;

Help for airline workers, not more Trump judges;

Funding, testing, tracing, treatment to crush the virus and reopen safely, not more Trump judges.

I urge the Senate to pass the Heroes Act now.

CONGRATULATING JIM GALLOWAY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Jim Galloway on his retirement from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

He most recently served as AJC's political columnist and has been a writer and editor there for over 41 years.

Jim knows Atlanta like the back of his hand, and he covered some of its most prominent figures and events.

He was responsible for creating the AJC's Political Insider Blog, which is one of the south's most influential political news sites.

Starting in 1992, Jim led the newspaper's Presidential coverage. He also covered various topics on religion, and even led the AJC foreign desk.

I am thankful for Jim's many years of dedication to reporting in an honest and balanced manner, and I wish him the best as he begins his retirement.

AMERICA NEEDS TARGETED ASSISTANCE

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, nearly 8 months ago, our lives changed dramatically due to the COVID–19 pandemic. With cases surging across the country and in Minnesota, the devastation to our small businesses is significantly increasing.

Main Street businesses are the backbone of our local economies. They bring value to our communities and to our lives. We must act with urgency to support those most impacted by this pandemic.

We have legislation to do this. My bill, the Prioritized Paycheck Protection Program, would allow small businesses with 100 or fewer employees who have sustained significant losses due to COVID–19 to receive a second PPP loan.

In addition, we need to provide targeted assistance to specific industries. I have cosponsored the RESTAURANTS Act and Save our Stages Act, which would create grant programs so our restaurants and independent entertainment venues can survive these unprecedented and unpredictable times.

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