



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

No. 182

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 8, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DON BACON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

PUERTO RICO 6 WEEKS AFTER HURRICANE MARIA

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, Monday I returned from my third trip to Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria devastated the island almost 2 months ago.

I wish I could report that a lot of progress is being made, but I can't. It is still a disaster, and it is a stain on the reputation of the United States of America.

Most places don't have power. Generators, the sound you hear humming

in every corner of the island like metallic coquis, are running ragged from overuse.

In many places, the water is not on because the power is not on to pump it, and drinkable water mixes with sewer water all over the island. As you can see from this picture, people are tapping mountain springs and, in this case, are using it mostly for laundry, thank goodness, because the mountain water in many cases is contaminated from humans and animals.

This man is a police officer, first responder, but he is learning to make do just like every other Puerto Rican family. Everywhere you go, you see Puerto Ricans making do.

So think about your life without power, cell service, water, lights, fans, in some cases food. Imagine the dialysis patient or the elderly man in an electric wheelchair who uses oxygen tanks to breathe. I met those people in Puerto Rico.

How do you get to physical therapy or regular prenatal visits when there are still roads and bridges that have simply vanished?

On the one hand, when I am in Puerto Rico, I am confronted by the very best of mankind, the people who are helping strangers, feeding their neighbors, and pitching in wherever they can.

On the other hand, when I am in Puerto Rico, I am confronted with the human tragedy of people who, like all of us, depend on the government for basic assistance and help after a major disaster and have received nothing.

Yes, the damage is massive, but there is no task Americans cannot accomplish if we put our minds and backs into it.

Mr. Speaker, this is the Head Start building in Loiza. As you can see, the roof is torn up and there is metal sheeting that was blown around. The people in Loiza are forming a brigade to rebuild the structure so they can reopen the Head Start building.

One of the things I was doing in Loiza was bringing money to get them started, raised by the Puerto Rican Agenda in Chicago from the people of Chicago. Individuals in Chicago are investing in the well-being of people in Loiza. They have never met them, but they are investing in them.

They are not calling in expensive contractors or companies from Montana, and they are not waiting for the folks from FEMA or the U.S. military. They are not waiting for Donald Trump to grant Puerto Ricans a little more time now that he has made it clear that he will not personally give them his grade A help forever. Nope. The people of Chicago are getting help to the people of Puerto Rico before any official resources are coming to their rescue.

It boggles the mind that it has come to this.

Here is another more difficult case. A bridge and a road were washed away by the storm. This is near Jayuya, Puerto Rico, but it could be almost anywhere on the island. More than 6 weeks after the storm and nothing, not even orange cones or a guardrail to keep people from driving off into danger.

If you live up the side of this hill, you are not going anywhere any time soon until something changes, because the Army Corps of Engineers has decided just to not show up and are missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, I should not have to give this speech almost 2 months after the storm. We should have accomplished much more. The people of Puerto Rico pretty much understand that President Trump doesn't want to help them and really doesn't care.

The passports and documents that they have that say citizens of the United States should have been printed with small print that says: Yes, Puerto Ricans are citizens of the U.S. for the purposes of being drafted and going to war, but not when it comes to being helped.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8599

Puerto Ricans are coming to grips with how little they can expect from the President and his administration.

They are finding ways to make do, just as the people of Chicago are making do by sending their own help in their own way. It shouldn't have had to come to this, but it has.

Puerto Ricans are learning to make do, just like these two young women who are getting married on the beach in Vega Alta, Cerro Gordo. I met them. They let me take this picture.

Life goes on, even when the government has turned its back on them.

VISITING PREGNANCY RESOURCE CLINIC DURING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I had the opportunity to visit the Pregnancy Resource Clinic in State College, Pennsylvania, Centre County, Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

The Pregnancy Resource Center is the only community-funded medical clinic in State College that specifically addresses unplanned pregnancy in a Christ-centered atmosphere. Through education and encouragement, the Pregnancy Resource Center empowers both men and women to make informed life choices.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet with Executive Director Jenny Summers and many members of the Pregnancy Resource Center staff to see, firsthand, the important services that it provides to the region.

The Pregnancy Resource Center, importantly, upholds the sanctity of life. It encourages clients to continue the pregnancy to full term rather than choosing abortion for their unborn child.

Mr. Speaker, this is always important, but even more so this month during National Adoption Month. Each year, loving families adopt thousands of children and provide them with the love and support of a family and their forever home.

I commend the Pregnancy Resource Center for the essential services it provides and celebrate the gift of adoption to both children and parents alike.

REBOOT COMBAT RECOVERY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, the Nation celebrates Veterans Day, a day where we honor all those who have served in the Armed Forces.

As we pay tribute with ceremonies and parades, we must remember that freedom is not free. Many of our veterans live with the effects of war long after they have been discharged.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to learn about a group that is helping combat veterans heal the wounds of war. REBOOT Combat Recovery is a Christian-based program

structured in a 12-week course for veterans and their spouses to share their struggles and to begin the healing process.

Many of our vets suffer in the form of anger, anxiety, depression, social withdrawal, and, most tragically, too often, suicide.

The REBOOT Combat Recovery program is free. It has more than 50 locations in 23 States and more than 1,600 graduates. REBOOT communities are safe, private, and mostly led by veterans.

As we honor our veterans this weekend, let us remember that every veteran's story is different. Let us help them find the answers to heal and to recover from the effects of war.

HONORING 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDMUNDITE MISSIONS

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Edmundite Missions at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Selma, Alabama.

For 80 years, the Edmundite Missions has faithfully served poor and underprivileged communities throughout the Deep South. The Edmundite Missions is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and focuses on providing food, clothing, and shelter to poor and marginalized children and families, young adults, and seniors of all faith traditions.

While the Edmundite Missions in Alabama is headquartered in Selma, their outreach area includes the Alabama counties of Butler, Dallas, Lowndes, Monroe, Perry, and Wilcox, as well as New Orleans, Louisiana.

The inspiring story of the Edmundite Missions began with a call to action when, in 1936, Pope Pius XI appealed to the Society of St. Edmund to go minister to the African Americans of the Deep South.

The Edmundites responded by selecting two young priests, Father Casey and Father Paro, to take on the assignment. They wrote to the bishop, Thomas Toolen of Mobile, who invited them to set up a "colored mission" in Selma.

When Fathers Casey and Paro arrived in Selma on July 6, 1937, they discovered thousands of people living in extreme poverty, similar to that of a Third World country. In response, they began their outreach by conducting door-to-door evangelism in the Black community and building a small chapel, St. Elizabeth's Mission. Initially, they were met with skepticism by both the Black and White communities in Selma, but their services to the poor gradually won them the respect of both races.

The work of the Edmundite Missions helped to transform the communities of Alabama's rural Black Belt during some of the most turbulent times of race relations in American history.

In the 1940s, the mission welcomed the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Roch-

ester, New York, who came to Selma to provide education and social ministry. The Sisters of Saint Joseph started St. Elizabeth's School in 1941 and the Holy Infant Inn, a nursing home, in 1943.

In 1944, the Edmundites purchased the Selma Good Samaritan Hospital, a rundown infirmary for African Americans, and the sisters set out to transform that facility into a modern-day one. They established the Good Samaritan School of Nursing, the first medical training program for African-American women in the area.

Then, in 1947, Father Nelson Ziter launched the Don Bosco Boys Club, named after the patron saint of youth work. For the next 19 years, until 1966, the Don Bosco Boys Club helped hundreds of young Black youth prepare and win financial assistance needed to attend college. Father Ziter devoted countless hours and days to ensuring the success of every youth who came into the program.

On a personal note, I can attest to the transformative power of the Don Bosco Boys Club. My dad, Andrew A. Sewell, and many of his close friends credit the support, love, and guidance of Father Ziter for changing the trajectory of their lives. My dad and many of his teammates received athletic scholarships to Historically Black Colleges, becoming the first generation of college graduates in that area.

The club and its ministry helped to break the cycle of poverty for these African-American boys such that they became teachers, doctors, lawyers, and even priests.

The Sewell family is forever indebted for the generous support and assistance the Edmundite Mission has given the communities of Selma and throughout the Black Belt for over 80 years.

The Edmundites found themselves the center of controversy during the 1960s when they were the only Whites in Selma who openly supported the voting rights movement. During the 1950s and 1960s, the mission and its priests and sisters worked with Selma's Black and White leaders, its business community, and its White ministers to open the lines of communication between the races.

During the march from Selma to Montgomery, the Edmundites, led by Father Ouellet, played a very critical role. On March 7, 1965, the brutal confrontation at the Edmund Pettus Bridge caught the attention of the Nation. Scores of wounded marchers poured into the emergency room at Good Samaritan Hospital, where doctors, nurses, and sisters worked around the clock to address their medical needs.

Good Samaritan Hospital won national praise for its treatment of the victims of the infamous Bloody Sunday confrontation, including providing medical treatment, Mr. Speaker, to our beloved colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS.

Father Ouellet left Selma in June of 1965 on the orders of the Archbishop of