



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022

No. 188

## *Senate*

### ANNIVERSARY OF TORNADOES IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

Almost one year ago, on December 10, 2021, multiple tornadoes touched down all throughout Western Kentucky, including one historic supercell tornado that affected multiple states and ended in Kentucky. Lives were upended as homes, businesses, and towns were completely destroyed. In many places, the destruction was total and absolute. At a time when families were to be preparing for a joyous holiday season, they were instead greeted by sorrow and loss; while being surrounded by an uneasy reality of wreckage and despair.

Immediately, local citizens, Kentuckians around the Commonwealth, and people from across the country converged on Western Kentucky to help in any way they could. Disaster relief teams sprang into action to meet the needs of those who were impacted and who had lost everything. I am grateful that Kentuckians rose up in the face of this crisis to do whatever was necessary to help and to provide care for our neighbors.

While outside organizations and ministries provided essential services, the real heroes of the story are the communities themselves that were destroyed by the tornado. Through this historic crisis, the men and women of Western Kentucky have demonstrated resilience and compassion as they care for the communities they call home. From the first responders to the local officials to each man, woman, and child involved, there was remarkable strength demonstrated in the face of adversity. Communities have grieved together, served together, hoped together, and rebuilt together. Today, almost one year later, we look back on what has been lost; but also resolve to look forward to what can be achieved together.

As we pause to reflect on the destruction of December 10, 2021, we can see the hope that now shines through as towns are rebuilt and communities regain shape. Even in tragedy, Kentucky has shown itself to be resilient and unified. We will continue to press forward and care for our communities.

Rand Paul — Kentucky  
United States Senator