



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1997

No. 37

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. BARTON of Texas].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 20, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOE BARTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As we view our world, O God, we see the ironies of life and the incongruities of our human experience. There is the destruction of the floods and yet there is the beauty of a rainbow; there are the conflicts and the violence of war and the satisfaction of peace; there is the pain of sickness and the enjoyment of health. We pray, merciful God, that whatever our condition and whatever our need, we will know the assurance that Your grace is sufficient for whatever occurs and Your love for us never ends. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. BOSWELL]

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOSWELL 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

OMEGA BOYS CLUB

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to have my friends, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] join me in presenting the Freedom Works Award to the Omega Boys Club of San Francisco.

I established the Freedom Works Award to celebrate freedom by recognizing individuals and groups who promote personal responsibility instead of a reliance on government.

The Omega Boys Club was founded by Joe Marshall and Jack Jackwa in 1987 with a mission to rescue inner city youth from the influence of gangs, drugs, and violence. Since its founding, the club has taken more than 600 children off gang warfare and drug dealing and has pushed them, tutored them, and even raised enough money to send them, 140 of them, to colleges around the country.

The club has enjoyed these positive results without receiving a single penny of Federal assistance. Instead they have relied on the personal initiative taken by Joe Marshall, Jack Jackwa, Margaret Norris, Coach Wil-

bur Jiggetts, and other Omega members.

The success of the Omega Boys Club is based on these four principles:

There is nothing more important than an individual's life;

A friend will never lead you to danger;

Change begins with you;

Respect comes from within.

Mr. Speaker, government alone cannot solve our Nation's problems. That does not mean we simply throw our hands up in frustration. It means every single one of us, no matter what our politics, must roll up our sleeves and do the work each of us is capable of doing to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities. Every day, groups like the Omega Boys Club demonstrate the understanding that with freedom comes responsibility.

Sadly enough, youth violence has taken more than twice as many American lives each year as cancer, heart disease, and car accidents combined.

Today's inner city children need hope, they need love, they need a place to go where they know someone cares. They have found all these things, and more, in the Omega Boys Club.

If we are a great country today, and if we are to be a great country in the future, it will be because of groups like the Omega Boys Club, who have recognized their freedom to dream, and who have voluntarily taken upon themselves the responsibility for making America's best dreams come true.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI].

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the distinguished majority leader, for awarding his Freedom Works Award to the Omega Boys Club of San Francisco. It is a national organization now. As he says, it is about self-initiative, it is about respect for the individual.

□ 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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The Omega Boys Club, and Joe Marshall, who is here today, as the gentleman mentioned, and others, Jack Jackwa, who have been involved in its founding, seek to reduce violence and to provide higher education to children, giving them something to say yes to.

I am pleased to join with the majority leader in giving this high acknowledgment and recognition of their fine work. Nothing that any of us do is more important than the work of the Omega Boys Club.

Mr. ARMEY. With the Speaker's continued indulgence and the kind consideration given by my colleagues, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] for a brief closing statement.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I join my distinguished colleagues, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI], as we come together to present the majority leader's Freedom Works Award to an extraordinary, inspired, and inspiring young man, Joe Marshall, who is the executive director of the Omega Boys Club, that has intervened positively in the lives of over 600 young people, moving them from gang activity and violence and drug abuse to a higher quality of life.

It would seem to me that the extraordinary byproduct of all of this, as the distinguished majority leader picked up the book, "Street Soldiers" and began to read about the inspired work of this extraordinary young man, it says to all of us that when we begin to understand the reality of each of our respective constituencies, it lifts the level of our awareness and it helps us understand that when we are prepared to positively intervene, providing options and opportunities, that young people can move to a higher quality of life.

So it is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I stand here on a bipartisan basis as we embrace the work of this extraordinary young man and this extraordinary agency.

DEAN SMITH'S ACHIEVEMENT

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 877 victories and still counting, Dean Smith, the basketball coach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has now claimed the title of the all-time winningest coach in basketball history, with 877 victories. And the winning continues. Division I college basketball has changed a great deal since the early 1960's, when Dean Smith became head coach at Carolina. Three decades later Dean Smith is still winning, with class and consistency.

It is an amazing feat to coach in 877 games, let alone to win that many. Dean Smith has proven that you can be

socially conscious, academically serious, you can play by the rules, and still rise to the top. He choose not to bask in the glory of this achievement, but rather, gives full credit to the hard work of others.

Let us all congratulate and honor Dean Smith. His victories on and off the court set an outstanding example for all Americans, and we are as proud as we can be that he hails from the Fourth Congressional District.

TODAY BRINGS THE OPPORTUNITY TO END PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I guess everybody now knows how far the so-called pro-choice movement will go. They will lie, as one top pro-abortionist recently admitted, to sustain the myth that abortion is somehow sane, compassionate, and even pro-child.

Americans will now see that the real extremists are not the people who insist on calling attention to the grisly details of abortion, such as dismemberment of an unborn child, injections of poison, or puncturing the child's skull and sucking out his or her brains. Americans now know that the real extremists are those who actually do these abusive acts, and then lie through their teeth to sanitize and conceal the truth. The dangerous person is not the one who shows the pictures of partial-birth abortion, the dangerous person is the child abuser who holds the scissors at the base of the skull of that baby's brain.

Let us end partial-birth abortion. We have the opportunity today. I hope we have a good bipartisan vote to do so later on this afternoon.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CANNOT POLICE ITSELF

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department cannot police itself. At Ruby Ridge, a 14-year-old boy was shot and killed, and his mother, holding her infant child, was shot and killed, shot right between the eyes; no criminal charges.

At Waco, 83 Americans were killed, including 20 children; no criminal charges were filed.

In Chicago, a court ruled that Justice Department personnel gave sex and drugs and alcohol to a number of informants to get them to offer perjured testimony; no criminal charges were filed.

Mr. Speaker, who is kidding whom? When an unarmed 14-year-old can be shot and killed, his mother shot between the eyes, and there are no criminal charges filed, and the Justice De-

partment says it was simply a mistake, Mr. Speaker, there is no justice in America. It is time for Congress to pass laws that will provide for independent counsel to investigate wrongdoing at the Justice Department.

ARE WE A CIVILIZED SOCIETY?

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, prohibiting barbaric partial-birth abortions is a matter of whether we are a civilized society, not whether we are pro-life or pro-choice. It is a sad commentary on the slippery slope of loss of respect for the dignity of human life in our society that we in Congress once more have to debate whether it is OK to kill babies this way.

Let us understand exactly what is involved in this procedure. Labor in the mother is induced, the baby is turned and then partially delivered, feet first, with its head kept inside the womb. While still living, scissors or a trocar are inserted in the back of the baby's head, its brain is then suctioned out and skull collapsed before the baby is removed from the womb.

If Congress were voting about a method of execution, stabbing someone in the back of their head and sucking out their brains I am sure would not get a single vote in the Congress. If this would be wrong for the most heinous criminals, how can it be right for innocent babies?

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA STEIN

(Mr. DIXON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to pay tribute to Marcia Stein, who retired from this body on January 20, 1997, after serving 15 years with the Official Reporters of the House. Marcia and her husband are here in the gallery this morning, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to commend her for her outstanding service to this institution.

Marcia joined the staff of the Official Reporters in November 1981. She enjoyed specializing in hearings on national security and intelligence. Some of her career highlights included reporting the Iran-Contra hearings and traveling to Bonn, Germany and other parts of the globe for field hearings.

She has enjoyed observing history in the making and feels privileged to have reported on some of the most interesting events taking place in this august body. Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with her also feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with an individual of such outstanding ability and professionalism.

Thank you, Marcia, for your service to your country and to the House of Representatives. I wish you and Bob a long and prosperous retirement.