



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1997

No. 82

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Robert Baggott III, Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata, MN, offered the following prayer:

Will you pray with me.

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home. We pause in these early morning hours to offer our prayer to You and to ask that You bend an ear and listen.

We come praying for the people of this great country, America. Those who work, study, love, and play from sea to shining sea. As decisions are contemplated by this esteemed body, may we remember the faces of these people who punch the timeclock, drive the tractor, write the brief, and teach a child. It is their passion, their hope, and vision that keeps America great. May we never forget them.

We would also pray for our dream of America, entrusted to us by our Founders to guard, exercise, and live the dream that all would live in harmony and justice would prevail. That individuals would not be judged by race, religion, or economic plight, but rather would be judged by who they are as children of God.

And we would also pray for these wise Members empowered with the awesome responsibility of keeping our American dream alive. Grant them courage when the road is rough, clarity when confusion reigns, but most of all, wisdom and decisiveness when decisions call.

We would ask these things in Your name, O God, the one who inspires us all. 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 Texas [Mr. TURNER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TURNER 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 twenty 1-minutes on each side.

THE REVEREND ROBERT BAGGOTT III, GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, we are privileged to have the Reverend Robert Taylor Baggott III of Wayzata, MN, as our guest chaplain today. Bob Baggott is the senior minister of my home church, Wayzata Community Church, and a close personal friend. Bob is a highly respected member of the clergy and a person of great spirituality who has touched many lives throughout our Nation.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Bob Baggott was brought up in a Baptist church in Georgia. Bob is well known for his inspirational and insightful speaking. He is a product of one of the great preaching seminaries in our Nation, New Orleans Seminary. Reverend Baggott has a remarkable record of community outreach and religious stewardship across this land, from New Orleans and Atlanta to Chicago and Miami to Minnesota.

Bob Baggott started his ministry at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, then received his masters of divinity degree and served as associate pastor at a

Baptist church in Atlanta. From there he accepted a call from Plymouth Congregational Church in Miami, where he founded the New Life Family Shelter.

Also in Miami, Reverend Baggott served as trustee of Miami Interfaith Counseling as well as community services, Christian Community Services, that is, on top of chairing the United Protestant Appeal in Miami.

Little wonder then, Mr. Speaker, that Bob Baggott was voted Man of the Year by the Miami Christian Community Agency.

Reverend Baggott was also chosen as guest preacher at the National Cathedral here in Washington in 1989 to speak at the anniversary service for the victims of the Pan Am flight 103 tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Baggott came to Wayzata, MN, our community, after serving as senior minister at First Congregational Church in Naperville, IL. Bob also currently serves on the National Clergy Advisory Board for the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Bob and his wife Beth, who is visiting with us today and sitting in the gallery, are both children of ministers. Bob's father is a retired senior minister of a large Baptist church in Birmingham, AL. Beth's father is a retired Lutheran pastor. Beth and Bob are the proud parents of Taylor who is here today on the floor. Taylor is an 11-year-old hockey player who is going to be a great one in Minnesota, and Peyton, who is with Beth in the gallery, his beautiful 6-year-old sister.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure and privilege for me to welcome the Reverend Robert Taylor Baggott III and his family to the House today, and we offer him our heartfelt thanks for serving as our guest chaplain.

□ 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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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR of Georgia). All Members are reminded that rules of the House prohibit recognition of visitors in our galleries.

REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP ON
FLOOD AID NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. GINGRICH. I want to report to the House on the negotiations on flood aid, but before I do, I must report that I just learned to my great delight that Reverend Baggott was in fact a high school student of mine at Newnan where I taught a class. I was teaching in west Georgia and I taught a class in the afternoons for high school students. And it is probably a sign of how long I have been hanging out that he is now a pastor. But we are glad to have his son and daughter with us. That was an additional delight here this morning.

I want to say to all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that we are making progress. I have been deeply committed to getting flood aid to the victims I visited in Minnesota and North Dakota. I know how important it is to get them the aid.

I was very disappointed when the President vetoed the flood aid on Monday. We believe we are very close to having it worked out and hope in the next few hours to announce and then move a supplemental appropriations bill to provide the flood aid.

But I would say for the country and for all my colleagues that insisting that the Government stay open is not a small thing; that if Senator DASCHLE will give his word today and get a unanimous consent agreement in the other body to bring up at an appropriate time a continuing resolution to keep open the Government, that he will have guaranteed that the aid will go through much more rapidly, and he has it in his power to do so; and that, frankly, ensuring that Americans are counted in the census by enumeration as the Constitution requires is not a small thing.

I believe that we will have language worked out this morning with the administration to require the census to develop a track of being able to enumerate every citizen, not just have somebody make an estimate, which can easily be politically manipulated. That is a constitutional requirement that goes back to 1790, and we have an obligation.

These are not minor issues, these are not political games. Keeping open the American Government and ensuring that every citizen is counted are important to the people of this country. We believe we have an agreement. We hope to be able to bring this bill to the floor sometime late today.

CONGRESS SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR
SLAVERY

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, generations have passed since the end of slavery. In that time, Congress has done much to undo the effects of that horrible wrong, but we have never apologized. And I was stunned to learn that fact from the Congressional Research Service.

Today I will introduce a resolution apologizing to the African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. My resolution will not fix the lingering injustice resulting from slavery, but reconciliation begins with an apology. I hope this apology will be a start of a new healing between the races.

Though no one alive today is responsible for slavery, all Americans share our shameful heritage and we all suffer from the consequences of a divided Nation. Therefore, it is fitting for the Congress, as the representatives of the American people, to offer this apology. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to admit we were wrong and ask for forgiveness.

DADS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN
OUR HEARTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is that time of year again when America honors its dads. This Sunday, we will celebrate Father's Day, a day to acknowledge the special place which dads hold in our hearts, a day to recognize the role dads have played as father, husband, teacher, mentor, provider, caregiver and friend.

Mr. Speaker, every American has a father, but not every American has a dad, one whom they know, love, spend time with and trust. Because of this fact, our country has suffered. Indeed, the United States is now the world's leader in fatherless families. This has taken its toll in our society.

We know men across America struggle to be good dads, and Members of this House know the sacrifices we have to make to live up to our responsibilities as fathers. Many of us are co-laborers in the struggle. Mr. Speaker, this is why several Members have joined me today to establish the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion.

With colleagues from both sides of the aisle, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. MCINTYRE], the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN], and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TURNER], I have established the Fatherhood Promotion Task Force, first as a result of the unsavory fact that fatherlessness is a reality for far too many American children and, second, because it is time that men who hold

high places be the ones to mold a new reality. We must lead by example.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for fathers to take hold of and be proud of their role as dad.

I wish every father a happy Father's Day and ask you: Have you loved your children today?

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO
PREVENT BURNING OF OLD
GLORY

(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, in America it is illegal to burn trash, but we can burn the flag. In America it is illegal to remove a label from a mattress, but we can rip the stars and stripes from the flag. In America it is illegal to damage a mailbox, but we can destroy the flag.

Scholars say the Constitution allows it. Maybe so, but the original Constitution allowed slavery and treated women and Indians like cattle. Mr. Speaker, it is time to change the Constitution.

A people that do not honor and respect their flag is a people that does not honor and respect their neighbors or their country. If individuals want to make a political statement, they can burn their bras, burn their pantyhose, burn their BVD's, but they should leave Old Glory alone.

It is time to amend the Constitution.

FATHERHOOD

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

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the fathers who do it right. A good father should first be a good husband and show his children by example the love and respect that their mother should receive. A father is one who is there, who quietly and faithfully sees needs and fills them. From diapers to bicycles to homework to growing to adulthood, fathers must be powerful forces of leading by quiet example.

Fathers keep things strong and solid, but they keep it simple. My father set an example for hard work. He came home for dinner. He stayed with the family in the evening, but he had his own business to build and he went back to work late and would work until midnight and then be back home. He set an example.

My father helped me through college, the first to my knowledge in my whole family tree, to get a college degree.

When I married, my wife's father took it on himself to stock our kitchen and our pantry with its first set of food and supplies for us. Simple but significant.

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I hope and pray that I will be as good a father to my five children as my father has been to his five children and