

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

someday my two sons will be to theirs. Fathers like it simple. So to mine and all of ours, I simply say, thanks, Dad.

FATHERHOOD PROMOTION TASK FORCE

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member from North Carolina, it is a high honor to serve the people in the House. Yet an even more important role in my life is that of being a father. As I approach my 14th year of being called "Dad," we must all realize that fathers do make a difference in the home.

The statistics speak for themselves and are staggering. Four out of ten children in America will go home tonight without a father. The time a father spends with a child averages, one on one, only 10 minutes a day. Violent criminals too often are males who have grown in a home without a father. As leaders of our country, we must do better.

I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Fatherhood Promotion Task Force. We will explore ways to challenge fathers to that type of commitment, not just another law or another government program, but encouraging fathers to fulfill the calling that they have in their lives.

The future of our country lies in the hands of our children. Through this task force, we will ensure that those hands are properly prepared with persistence and purpose and ready to lead. Please join us in this important mission that we not fail.

PROTECTING THE SACRED SYMBOL OF THIS NATION, THE AMERICAN FLAG

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of Flag Day, in strong support of House Joint Resolution 54, a constitutional amendment to prohibit the desecration of the American flag.

More than 1 million men and women have sacrificed their lives defending this country and the freedom that it represents. It would be a great dishonor for us now to turn our backs on those who gave so much to protect the American flag and what it symbolizes. We must now fight for them in protecting the sacred symbol of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of both Vietnam and the Desert Storm wars, I proudly support this legislation and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

PROMOTION OF FATHERHOOD IS CRITICAL

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach this Father's Day, many of us are fortunate to reflect upon the positive influence of our own fathers and to feel the sense of joy that comes from being a father. We understand that the experience of having a father is critical to shaping our lives, and we know that there are numerous studies that have been done that point out that loving, committed fathers help children get a better start in life.

According to the Journal of Family Issues, interaction between children and their fathers improves the child's early mental development and physical well-being. We know that children who grow up with committed fathers are less likely to get involved with gangs and drugs and turn out to be better parents themselves. That is why the Book of Proverbs tells us to train the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

A group of Members in this House have joined together to form the Fatherhood Promotion Task Force for the purpose of examining Government policies to ensure that those policies promote, encourage, and support families. Every child deserves the love and care of a responsible adult, and the promotion of fatherhood is critical to our future.

REDUCING THE TAX BURDEN ON FATHERS

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, Sunday is Father's Day, and I would like to start by paying tribute to my father, who has done such a great job in helping myself and my brothers and sisters in getting to where we are in our lives today. Certainly, without his support as we were growing up, we would not be here and would not be able to be doing the things we are doing here today.

I also have to think about in the society that we live in how many fathers are forced to work two jobs because of the large tax burden. And I have to hope that the work we are doing out here this week in Washington, working to reduce that tax burden on our American families by providing a \$500 per child tax cut and by providing a college tuition tax credit, let us hope that that work and that effort that we are going through this week out here in Washington will somehow allow our fathers to not have to work that second and third job out there in America so that they can in fact spend more time at home with their families and spend more time with their children, providing them the guidance to make this a bet-

ter nation in the long term for everyone.

CLEAN DISASTER RELIEF BILL

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the 20 Republican House Members who sent a letter to the Republican leadership to urge passage of a clean disaster relief bill. These brave Members are acknowledging what the American people already know, that the Republicans have played politics with the lives of flood victims.

One Republican said that she is exasperated with the her party's leadership. Another Member admitted that the Republicans have made a mistake and that this should only have been a disaster relief bill. Another accused the Republican leadership of acting irresponsibly.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have spoken. Some brave Republicans have spoken. But more importantly, the American people have spoken. Please let us send the President a clean disaster relief bill and help those in need. They must not be made to wait any longer.

CUT TAXES, HELP RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American dream is not a dream about more government. It is not a dream about higher regulation or higher taxes. No, Mr. Speaker, the American dream is about freedom and opportunity. It is about having your children do better than yourself. It is about having your own business and handling your own responsibilities.

For the first time since 1969, this Congress is taking steps so that literally millions can again dream the American dream by having a balanced budget. For the first time in 16 years, we will have tax cuts. Cutting taxes is perhaps the most fundamental thing we can do here in Congress to help every American, no matter how much money they make, no matter where they are in life, to dream their dreams with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, we will hear that tax breaks will only go to the rich. But remember, the same people that make that untrue argument are the same people who raised taxes in the first place. Let us cut taxes and help restore the American dream.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

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