

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE GREAT MEN OF GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, with the Fourth of July having just passed, I wanted to reflect on some of the thoughts I had and shared with people in Glynn, Wayne, and Pierce County, GA, this past week. I started out by saying, you know, one of the big thrills of Washington is to occasionally go up to the top of the dome, and when you do that it is kind of a special feeling. You duck into an unmarked and inconspicuous door, you climb up about a story, some spiral steps in an old roundhouse that used to contain some sort of a heating turbine, and then you go on an 1865 catwalk in between the skin of the new dome and the limestone of the old dome. You go up, round and round, for maybe 20 minutes on a set of steel concrete and cables, about 200 feet. Finally you get to the top, and on the top you see one of the best views of some of the most significant monuments in our country. You can see the Washington Monument, the reflecting pond, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, Robert E. Lee's home, and hidden in the trees, you know, the Korean and the Vietnam Memorials are also there. Each one of these monuments contains a special chapter in American history, and if you look beyond these monuments, you can see a glimpse of America herself.

On the Fourth of July we celebrate our Nation's birthday. It is fitting that we reflect on these monuments and the great souls that they immortalize. We can think about from Concord and Lexington to Vietnam and Desert Storm we seek to understand more of our own history. We look inside ourselves, if you will.

Standing on the balcony of the dome of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, to the far left you see Thomas Jefferson's monument, the third President, founder of the University of Virginia, and author of the Declaration of Independence. His work formally began when Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution for independence in the Continental Congress. Congress, even then being Congress, decided to form a committee, and a committee was formed consisting of Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and the 34-year-old Thomas Jefferson. In the nearby draffhouse he worked late into the Philadelphia nights, these words:

"When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them to another" and so forth.

As he labored, surely he knew the death warrant that would become not just for him but for so many, the strife, the hardship and inevitably war.

What guided Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Benjamin

Franklin? They were smart, they were enlightened, they were visionaries, but did they also pray? I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that like so many of our great American leaders that they did indeed pray, because I think that our Founding Fathers were guiding them.

I also believe that they were men who were ready as this whole Nation to sacrifice for this thing called freedom, and I think, third, that they knew that freedom is fragile.

Let us talk about the godliness. We always hear about Thomas Jefferson being a deist, which seems almost a buzz word for atheist, yet on his monument Thomas Jefferson says: Can the liberties of a Nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just and that his justice cannot sleep forever. End of quote.

Very explicit words, Mr. Speaker, and indeed a warning.

Likewise, Benjamin Franklin admonished delegates at the Constitutional Convention to pray to break a deadlock. His words were in the beginning of our war with Britain, we prayed daily for guidance. Our prayers were heard and were answered. Have we now forgotten this powerful friend? The longer I live, this I know to be true. God governs the affairs of men. For if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable a Nation can rise without his aide?

And George Washington on his tomb, rather than pontificating about the many, many achievements he has, he instead merely quotes the gospel of John.

I submit to you that our Founding Fathers were great men and women of God, and they had divine guidance in that America was not just born by luck or by accident. Second, Mr. Speaker, we can rest assured that they had made many, many sacrifices and were willing to, just as millions of Americans have also done, follow in their example. Indeed Thomas Jefferson and George Washington would be much happier spending their time at Monticello and Mount Vernon.

Robert E. Lee, as we look at his, the Custis mansion across the river, Robert E. Lee lost this to Arlington Cemetery; and adjoining him by way of Memorial Bridge, Abraham Lincoln lost his life because of the Civil War, as did 360,000 Union soldiers and 135,000 Confederate soldiers.

Their examples were followed in every war. The Revolutionary War, 25,000 died; the War of 1812, 2,300 died; the Mexican War, 13,000; the Spanish American War, 2,300; World War I, 117,000; World War II, 408,000. And while their monuments cannot be seen from the top of the Capitol, Mr. Speaker, there are two very significant monuments. One consists of 19 life-sized figures. In the morning mist they seem to move. The wind catches their ponchos, their faces strained to the sky, their bodies bent in fatigues. They are Amer-

ican soldiers in the Korean conflict, a conflict that claimed 3 million Koreans and 1 million Chinese citizens. These soldiers are tired, hungry, cold. Their sunken eyes search for a sniper and surely for hope. They move slowly and eternally toward a black marble wall that merely says four words:

Freedom is not free.

They should know. Over 54,000 of them died. Their figures haunt us, but as we turn around through the trees across the reflecting pond and over the berm, there lies another wall. Here we face 58,211 names of other great Americans. This wall is still sober and forceful. Each name is a story.

Brantley, David Watson: Born 1946, Kite, GA; graduated 1964, Glynn Academy; died June 7, 1968 from an exploding mine in the Huz Nghiz Province.

Cameron, James Frederick: graduated Glynn Academy; shot down over the Tan Kieu Hamlet, September 13, 1969.

Smith, Russell Lamar: Born March 26, 1948; graduated Glynn Academy 1966; married, one unborn son; killed by small arms fire; DaNang, November 28, 1968.

Honaker, Raymond Kermit: Born February 16, 1949; graduated Glynn Academy 1967; helicopter shot down, August 31, 1968.

Armstrong, Atwell Asbell: Born August 19, 1947; killed by small arms fire, October 25, 1968 at Song Be.

Miller, Hebert: Killed April 21, 1971, near Quang Tri Province.

Rabb, Robert of Darien, GA; his loving mother Doris Rabb is with us today.

Grina, Thomas: Born November 16, 1949; killed December 19, 1967 by a ground explosion trying to rescue his fellow marines pinned in a killing field.

From Brunswick alone: Leonard J. Peacock, Roger E. Mathis, Carlton Amerson, Larry Williams Bailey, John Devvin Bell, and Rayford H. King.

The names go on and on and on from coastal Georgia, from the entire East Coast of the United States and all through the United States, each soldier a hero, each paying the highest price for this ideal we call freedom.

And on this national birthday let us proudly and sincerely appreciate their lives and their family. Let us recognize the high and significant advancement they gave the cause of freedom. The Vietnam war was to stop the growth of communism so we can say loudly: Mission accomplished.

Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, all once in great peril of Communist rule, are now out of danger and democratic nations today, and 179 out of 192 or 93 percent of the world's countries have free elections. And in the last 10 years 69 nations for the first time in their history have had free elections, and that includes five from the former Soviet Union.

Would this have happened without Vietnam? Hardly. Again I say: Mission accomplished.

But, Mr. Speaker, as we go back and review these monuments, let me close with this: Last summer when the Olympic torch came through Washington I asked one of the Olympic leaders, what happens when the torch goes out? He said, we merely relight it. And I said, is that it, you just relight it? He

said yes, that is it. What a shame that freedom's torch cannot be so easily relit. I believe that the torch of freedom that we pass down from generation to generation is more like a candle than a torch and it is a stormy night and the wind is blowing.

Edmund Burke said this, Mr. Speaker. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and the name of the great soldiers whose names are on the monuments and the names who are not on monuments, let us never forget that Americans have sacrificed a lot for this ideal we call freedom. Freedom is indeed fragile.

On the field of Gettysburg, Lincoln put it this way:

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Let us remember that, and I will close with the words of Edmund Burke. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Let us remember that on this Nation's birthday.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today before 6:30 p.m., on account of airline delays in Chicago.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) until 6 p.m. today, on account of travel delays.

Mr. RIGGS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of illness.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) today after 6:15 p.m., on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CAPPS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TIAHRT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PICKERING, for 5 minutes each day, on today and July 9 and 10.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, on July 9.

Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes each day, on July 9, 10, and 11.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HERGER, for 5 minutes, on July 9.

Mr. RADANOVICH, for 5 minutes, on July 9.

Mr. TAUZIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes each day, on July 9 and 10.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, on July 9.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, on July 9 and 10.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MASCARA, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HULSHOF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. PASCRELL.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

Mr. ETHERIDGE.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts

Ms. NORTON.

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. VISCLOSKY.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. HINCHEY.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

Mr. KLINK.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mr. PASTOR.

Mr. STRICKLAND.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TIAHRT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FORBES.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. GINGRICH.

Mr. KELLY.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.

Mr. LEWIS of California.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina.

Mr. EWING.

Mr. BEREUTER.

Mr. PITTS.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.

Mr. COMBEST.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. SHAYS.

Mr. COBLE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KINGSTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.

Mr. WAXMAN.

Mr. KINGSTON.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that

committee did on the following date present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On June 27, 1997:

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 to extend the authorization of the Assassination Records Review Board until September 30, 1998.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, July 9, 1997, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4039. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington: Amended Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV97-946-1 FIR] received July 8, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4040. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Milk in the Eastern Colorado Marketing Area; Suspension of Certain Provisions of the Order [DA-97-05] received July 3, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4041. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State Designation [Docket No. 97-041-1] received June 30, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4042. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebufenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300500; FRL-5719-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received July 1, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4043. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of violations of the Anti-Deficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

4044. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Report on Accounting for United States Assistance Under the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program," pursuant to section 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996; to the Committee on National Security.

4045. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting notice of Final Funding Priorities for Fiscal Year 1997-1998 for a Knowledge Dissemination and Utilization Project Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4046. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting Final Regulations—Impact Aid Program, Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, pursuant