



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

No. 119

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 10, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable MAC COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Reverend George S. Dillard III, Peachtree City Christian Church, Peachtree City, GA, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are our sovereign. By Your divine providence this Nation was born. On Your principles, this Nation was founded. On Your precepts we have modeled our rules of law. To this honorable body of men and women You have entrusted the well-being of our fellow citizens. Let us never forget that, as Jesus taught, it is better to forgive and serve than to be served. Help us, our Father, to remember always, we are here to serve You through service to our fellow man.

Perhaps, like no other moment in history, to this body has been given the opportunity to influence the affairs of all mankind. Grant to us, Father, the wisdom and compassion to rise above those issues which so easily divide us and help us to focus on Your will, for this body, for this great Nation.

Forgive us for our sins this day, and grant us the desire to return to Your truth. Bless this Nation, Oh Lord, we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. TIERNEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIERNEY 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 75. Joint resolution to confer status as an honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces on Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1139. An act to reauthorize the programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes from each side.

### WELCOME TO THE REVEREND GEORGE S. DILLARD III

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the pastor of the day, the Reverend George S. Dillard.

George has been a friend of mine for over 10 years. I met him when he was a resident of Georgia's First District, and after many years of good representation in the First District, he had the misfortune of moving to the Third District and being represented by the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS]. But he does keep in touch with the First District, and we are happy to have him back with us today. He is doing great work up in that area.

George was a graduate of Campbell High School. He was born in Fairburn, GA, and received his bachelor's degree from Atlanta Christian College. He received his master's degree, magna cum laude, from the Evangelical Theological Seminary, and this year will get his Ph.D. from that same institution.

George is a minister of evangelism and preaching at the Peachtree City Christian Church in Peachtree, GA. George is listed in Who's Who in Religion and was selected as one of the

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H7121

most outstanding young men in America.

George is also here with his beautiful wife, Renee, who is with us in the gallery today. Renee is a schoolteacher at Cannongate Elementary School, and their mascot, Nellie, is with them in Washington today, so Nellie says hello to you from all the fourth graders back home. We will be going back to report on how well we are doing, so watch us today.

Their children, Tiffany, age 6, and Alexis, age 3, are not with them, but they do travel with them frequently.

They are good folks, and George has proudly been proclaiming the gospel wherever he goes. As we heard today, he is a man of God. Please welcome my friend, Rev. George Dillard.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to remind Members not to refer to guests who are in the gallery.

#### A LOT OF SOUFFLES

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, what has been going on at the White House? First, we had "Travelgate." That is the scandal where the First Lady wrongly fired hard-working civil servants because she wanted to hire cronies from Arkansas.

Next we had "Goregate." That is the scandal involving the Vice President and his questionable fundraising activities in the White House.

Now we have "Chefgate." Apparently the First Lady did not like the French chef who cooked at the White House, so they not only fired him, but also gave him \$37,000 in hush money. This chef can barely speak English, and they paid him hush money. So even if he would talk, most Americans would not know what he was saying.

Mr. Speaker, \$37,000 is a lot of souffles. I urge the White House to go on a fiscal diet. In this era of balanced budget, we simply cannot afford to pay hush money to chefs that can hardly speak English.

#### WE MUST CARE FOR THE COMMANDOS

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, Congress approved legislation to finally pay a 30-year debt. The South Vietnamese Lost Army Commandos will finally have their United States Government contracts honored by the Pentagon for their years of service to the United States Army.

But accepting their long overdue pay would mean the loss of something even more important for many of the commandos, their health care benefits. The medical problems resulting from years in torture require long-term health care, care they will not be able to receive if they accept their compensation.

After years of torture by the North Vietnamese, the callousness of being declared dead by the United States Government, and years of anguish over not receiving their rightful compensation, these brave men are faced with another obstacle in their 30-year struggle. I urge my colleagues to support these men who fought and bled in Vietnam for the United States cause.

As the House goes to conference on the Labor-HHS bill, I urge my colleagues to accept the Senate position exempting the commandos' compensation from Medicaid eligibility.

#### KANSAS PROUD OF 1997 MISS AMERICA

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize another in a long line of outstanding Kansans, Miss America, 1997, Tara Dawn Holland. Tara's 1-year reign as Miss America officially ends this Saturday. Tara has worked extensively in the past year as an advocate of the importance of literacy, and she has directed a considerable spotlight on this issue.

Tara has been a literacy advocate for over 7 years, and she is currently the national spokesperson for the Library of Congress' Building of a Nation of Readers campaign. During the past year, she has visited dozens of schools and communities, stressing the importance of literacy.

The number of Americans who live in a world without literacy skills many of us take for granted is alarmingly high. This presents an ever-increasing dilemma in our advancing society. Tara's efforts to emphasize these literacy skills is important, not only to those who lack these skills, but to our entire society. Those who cannot read start each day at a disadvantage, and Tara has dedicated herself to reaching out to those most at risk, including children and the incarcerated.

Tara Holland has fulfilled the Miss America motto of style, scholarship, service, and success on wonderful levels. We are very proud of her in Kansas.

#### REPEAL BAD LEGISLATION LIMITING FLUSH WATER IN TOILETS

(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, a flush is not a flush. The old standard toilet flushed away 3.5 gallons of water,

so Congress in its inimitable wisdom passed a new law that said all toilets in America must use only 1.6 gallons of water. Since then, Americans are flushing, flushing, flushing like mad, wasting more water than ever, recklessly trying to remove all of that void.

Mr. Speaker, it has gotten so bad there is literally a black market for the old toilet. The American people, Mr. Speaker, are a flush away from a major movement. Beam me up. I say, if Congress can repeal prohibition, Congress can repeal this toilet. That is right, think about it. From the conservative movement to the progressive movement, Congress can reach out and touch the American people where they need it the most, in the bathroom. After all, one good flush deserves another.

I yield back whatever in Members' minds they believe needs to be yielded back.

#### OUTSTANDING SCHOOL BAND LEADER RETIRES

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a true gentleman and educator from the 20th District in my hometown of Collinsville, IL. This man is Neal Strebel, who, after 37 years of teaching music and directing school bands, has retired from his profession.

Mr. Strebel dedicated nearly 40 years of his life to directing the "Marching Kahoks" band, leading the Illinois High School Association concert bands, and instructing some of the best student musicians in the State of Illinois.

He has instructed over 100 all-State band members, and his students are consistently rated among the best in the State. During his 37 years, Mr. Strebel directed 500 pep band and more than 200 concert band performances, splitting time between the elementary, junior high, and high school bands for many years.

As band director, he also raised nearly \$500,000 for band trips and music equipment. In his first 25 years, Mr. Strebel devoted himself and his time without winning a single trophy or award. As he said in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "That wasn't the motivation. I think you can learn more about music with the emphasis on fundamentals and concert band."

Mr. Speaker, every one of us can learn a few lessons from Mr. Strebel's attitudes and ideas about music, and I commend him for his service.

#### SCHOOL VOUCHERS ARE A DRAIN ON RESOURCES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have made education a top priority this Congress, and our emphasis has