

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Chaplain, Lutheran Social Services, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O mighty God, the seasons of the year are ordered by Your will and there is a time for everything under the sun. Wisdom teaches us that there is a time to plant and a time to grow, a time to harvest and a time to lay fallow.

We know also that the seasons of our lives are part of Your divine order and their rhythm is like the ebb and the flow of the tide, the springtime of youth, the summer of labor, the autumn of maturity, and the winter of reflection.

O God, by Your goodness, we make a living by what we earn. But we make a life by what we give. So help us give thanks for Your blessings, give hope to the forlorn, give love to the lonely, and give joy to the disheartened.

And on this day of grace, O God, we pray for the circle of our families, for the circle of our friends, for the circle of our colleagues, and for the circle of our Nation, the United States of America.

Order our days in Your peace, and bless our deeds with Your grace so that, in whatever season of life it is our destiny to live, we may find satisfaction in our past and be awarded courage for the unknown tomorrows. 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 Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VITTER 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 Ms. McDevitt, 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. 76. Joint resolution waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

The message also announced that in accordance with sections 1928a-1928d of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation

to the North Atlantic Assembly (NATO parliamentary Assembly) during the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, November 11-15, 1999—the Senator from Iowa Mr. GRASSLEY); the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT); and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA).

THANKS TO REVEREND DR. RONALD F. CHRISTIAN FOR LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to give my personal thanks and those of the House of Representatives to the Reverend Dr. Ronald Christian, who was our guest chaplain today and has just led us in the beautiful opening prayer.

But in a sense Dr. Christian is not a guest in this Chamber, for during the last 20 years he has served as an unofficial chaplain in the House and since 1979 he has assisted Dr. Ford with the duties of the chaplaincy and participated in all the activities associated with that office. He has given the opening prayer on more than 90 occasions and has been available for pastoral counsel for Members and staff.

Dr. Christian grew up on a farm in Illinois and attended a country church where his mother was the church organist. He was graduated from the Luther College in Iowa and Luther Seminary in Minnesota and in 1979 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Ministry from Luther College. He was the founding pastor of Lord of Life Church in Fairfax, Virginia, and under his leadership the church grew to be one of the largest Lutheran churches in the metropolitan area.

He is married to Judy Christian and they have two children, Matthew and Mary Jo. Dr. Christian is now the Director and Chaplain of Lutheran Social Services in Northern Virginia.

We are honored that Dr. Christian was our chaplain today, and we thank him for the 20 years of faithful service to the House.

APPOINTING REVEREND DR. JAMES DAVID FORD AS CHAPLAIN EMERITUS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I call up the resolution, (H. Res. 373) that immediately following his resignation as Chaplain of the House of Representatives and in recognition of the length of his devoted service to the House, Reverend James David Ford be, and he is hereby, appointed Chaplain emeritus of the House of Representatives, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to my good friend the gentleman from Wisconsin to explain his resolution.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is offered in appreciation and thanks for the 20 years of service to the House, its Members, and its employees by our colleague and friend, the Chaplain of the House, the Reverend James David Ford; and I urge its adoption.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve my right to object, I am very happy to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT), the Honorable Speaker of the House.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Dr. Ford and his devoted service to this House. He is a man of this House. He is a colleague. He is a friend. He is a counselor.

He has touched the lives of many Members in countless ways. He has married us. He has kept marriages together. He has baptized our children. He has visited us in the hospital. He has been with our families as we bid farewell to our beloved colleagues. And, very simply, he has been there when we needed him. He has made us laugh when we did not think we could, and he has made us introspective when we wanted to look elsewhere.

For me personally and the entire House, he was there that tragic day a little over a year ago when a gunman changed our lives in this House forever. He was there for the fallen heroes. He was there for their families. He was there for those of us who knew them well and whose lives were saved by their heroic actions. For that, I will be forever grateful.

Dr. Ford is not allowed to speak on the House floor, and we are not about to break that tradition, even for an emeritus chaplain. But I think it fitting on this occasion to quote him from his charge to the Chaplain Search Committee.

I have been honored to have served you as Chaplain for nearly 20 years, and I leave with deep appreciation for the vital work of the Congress and the people who serve this place so faithfully. I continue with enthusiastic support for this institution, our democracy, and with a sense of thanksgiving for the opportunities that I have been given.

Thank you, Dr. Ford, and may God bless you in the years ahead.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am very happy to yield to my colleague the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me just echo the eloquent remarks of our Speaker in appreciation for the many years of service by Dr. Ford.

This institution is in many ways family. It is certainly a community. And it gets beyond a community because of the connectiveness that we have with each other. In any family and in any community, it takes someone with exceptional skills and kindness and goodness to help nurture that community.

Reverend Ford has been absolutely magnificent in that role. As the Speaker said, he has married us, he has baptized our children, he has counseled us in difficult times, and he has been there for us when we have needed him. He is a lovely man with a beautiful family, and we are going to miss him deeply.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to, on a personal note, say to Dr. Ford how much I appreciate all the good, kind things that he has done for me. Dr. Ford married Judy and I. My wife Judy worked for Dr. Ford for a number of years.

And in the spirit of full service chaplainship, if that is such a word, Dr. Ford and I happened to be in the hospital on the same day and actually happened to have been scheduled for an operation the very same hour. And as we were being wheeled out of our rooms down the corridor to get on our respective elevators to go down to the operating room, he yelled over to me, "Now, Bonior, this is really what I call full service chaplainship."

I will always remember that, and I will always take that with me through the years, as it was a very relaxing and a memorable comment in a very difficult time in my personal life.

So Dr. Ford, thank you so much. We wish you and Marcy and your family all the best in the years to come. Thank you for your service, and thank you for your goodness.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, continuing to reserve my right to object, I am pleased to yield to my colleague the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) yielding to me.

To my friend and colleague, Jim Ford, let it be known that for 18 years he served as chaplain of West Point, 20 years here in this body.

As a member of the Chaplain Search Committee, I thought it was necessary to go back to the Bible and look at the qualifications. And paraphrasing I Timothy 3, Bishops should be blameless, sober, given to hospitality, apt to teach, rule at his own house, not a novice, and of good report.

Jim Ford embodies all those principles of I Timothy, with the added benefit of a love for his country, his military, this body, and West Point.

Of all the great leaders he has known, and he has known many of those, his greatest love has been to his God, his family, this body, our armed forces, and West Point.

□ 1015

Like General MacArthur, I think Chaplain Ford's final words will be

these: "But in the evening of my memory, I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and reechoes: duty, honor, country. Today marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the corps and the corps and the corps."

I bid you farewell, Chaplain Ford. The House, the corps, and this great Nation bid you a fond farewell.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I want to welcome this opportunity for myself to say a few words about our dear friend, Chaplain Jim Ford.

I will not of course object to this resolution. I support this resolution with a full heart. I commend the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) for offering it.

Mr. Speaker, this House is a remarkable institution. It is the People's House. We, the 435 Members, represent different geographical areas. We have starkly different ideologies. We have different political agendas. Often our debates are heated, even rancorous. But if there is one person among us who truly represents goodness and decency and humanity in this place, it is our chaplain. For two decades, Jim Ford has been a powerful voice for unity, compassion, and love in this place. In his service to the House, Chaplain Ford has truly served the American people.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, I have been honored to serve on the Speaker's search committee to find a new chaplain. This process has reminded me yet again of the incredible skills that Jim Ford has brought to this job. He has infused this House with spiritual strength in times of triumph and in times of tragedy. He has spent countless thousands of hours providing pastoral care to Members and staff who desperately needed his guidance. He has taught us to respect and nurture the diversity of our own religious faiths and in so doing has reminded us that one of our Nation's greatest strengths is our religious pluralism. He has carefully avoided entering our legislative debates and has remained a truly nonpartisan adviser and mentor to the entire House. And through it all, Jim has always shown such warmth and wit. His jokes, the good ones and the terrible ones, are a fixture on this floor.

Mr. Speaker, my late husband, Walter, was so proud to have served in this House with Jim Ford, a fellow Lutheran, a fellow Swede, and a fellow graduate of the Augustana Seminary. He loved Jim Ford very much. I will never forget what the chaplain said at Walter's memorial service. Quoting Martin Luther, Jim said: "Send your good men into the ministry, but send your best men into politics." Our chaplain is both. He is a good man and he is one of the best of men. He has walked the delicate yet vital line between faith and government with unparalleled skill and devotion.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution to appoint Jim Ford Chaplain Emeritus of the House; and I hope and pray that he will be working with us and serving the American people for decades to come.

Now it is my pleasure to yield to my colleague from New York.

Mr. McNULTY. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. Jim Ford is Swedish? I thought he was an Irish monsignor.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that when I first came here in 1988 and met Jim Ford, I thought he looked like an Irish monsignor so I referred to him as monsignor. Little did I know that for years before I came to the House of Representatives, Tip O'Neill also called him monsignor. So over the past 11 years, I have carried on that tradition. But whatever the title, we are all very grateful to you, Dr. Ford, for your advice and counsel and friendship through the years.

We thank you for Marcy and your great family and the tremendous support they have also been to us. I particularly thank you for the service of your son Peter who has protected me in Sudan and Kuwait and various hot spots around the world. I think if we sum it all up, we could use the words of scripture to describe your service here in the House of Representatives over the past 20 years: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am happy now to yield to my colleague from Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this resolution. When I first came here 13 years ago as a Member of Congress from the State of Georgia and met the Reverend Dr. James Ford, I wanted to refer to Dr. Ford not as Dr. Ford or Reverend Ford but, like my colleague from New York, I wanted to call him Father Ford. For this man, this good and wise spiritual leader, is a blessing not just to this body but to our Nation and to all of her citizens.

For 20 years, the Reverend Dr. James David Ford has started our session with the most important motion each day, a motion to the Congress and all Americans to pray and give thanks. Reverend Ford also reminds Congress every day that it is through faith, hope, and love that we serve. Through his selfless counseling and pastoral services to all Members and staff and his spiritual service as a new pastor in 1958 at the Lutheran Church in Ivanhoe, Minnesota, Reverend Dr. Ford, you have personified the very best that public service has to offer.

I will miss you, Dr. Ford. We have traveled many roads together. We traveled together to a free and unified South Africa. You kept us calm. You prayed with us. We had good food together. We shared some good times together, but we shared some very high

and lofty moments together. We traveled to Selma, Alabama. We have crossed many racial and religious bridges together. In the journey down the road less traveled together, my friend has made all of the difference to me and to many that you continue to touch and inspire each day.

Dr. Ford, God bless you. May God keep you, your lovely wife, and your five children. We are going to miss you. But we will never ever forget you. Reverend Dr. Ford, my brother, and my friend, thank you for being you. Godspeed.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Chaplain Jim Ford is a good man. In God's eyes, he is undoubtedly a great man. Humble of personality but proud of faith and strong of intellect and spirit, he has given us all an example of how life should and can be lived. Gandhi said that your life is your message and Jim Ford's service is his statement of faith. We thank you, Jim, for what you have meant to all of us individually and collectively as an institution.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am happy to yield now to my colleague from Minnesota.

Mr. SABO. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. If one could object to this resolution and it meant that our friend Jim Ford stayed chaplain, I would; but I gather that is not an option, so I will not object. It is a great privilege to rise in support of this resolution.

In 1979, I came to Congress, and I noticed that there was a new chaplain; and I read his bio and I discovered that he had a background in my district, Minneapolis. I had not heard of him. He had served out in Ivanhoe, Minnesota, in western Minnesota, and then had gone on to West Point. I needed to find out some things about him. He was a full-blooded Norwegian, it was tough to forgive him for being a Swede, but we gradually overcame that. I heard all these things today about this great intellect, but I found out other things about this gentleman. This person of great intelligence went off a ski jump in my district backwards. He survived. He went on. He has lived life to its fullest, sailing across the ocean in a small boat with one other person. I discovered last night they ended up in the middle of a cyclone. Again, that great caution that is evident in his life. He has served us well. He has lived life to its fullest. I have no idea what he has in mind after he leaves us. He has been flying one of these little planes that sounds sort of crazy to me. I do not know what he is going to do. He drives cross-country with his son on a motorcycle. What adventures he has planned we will find out in the years ahead. He has been a great friend to all of us. He has made an incredible contribution to this institution. We wish him and his family and his wife, Marcy, the best.

You made life in this place that so many times is filled with pressures and so hectic better for all of us and we thank you.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am pleased to yield to my colleague from New York.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This is a sad morning for me, because all the years that I have been in Congress, Reverend Dr. Ford has been here. Every morning he sort of gently nudges us to remind us of what we are here for and to whom we will eventually report. I hope that his prayers before this House will be published, because they were extraordinary pieces of work. Again it showed his intellect and his deep caring.

I have a personal story I need to relate about Dr. Ford. We all know how he was there for us whenever we needed him. But I asked him for something extraordinarily special, and he was there when I needed him. My youngest daughter graduated from American University. When she was getting married to our great surprise she decided she wanted to be married here in Washington, which caused us no end of grief because we could not find anybody who was willing to do the service. So we got the loan of a church and Dr. Ford very graciously said, "Of course I will do that." The way he said it to me is something I will never forget. He said, "Getting married is a wonderful thing. No one should be troubled by who is going to perform the ceremony." He did it with such wonderful charm and grace again that every word that he said that day at that ceremony is clear in my mind. So my family is grateful to Dr. Ford.

All of us in this House are losing a true friend and champion. Wherever he goes, I hope that he will still gently remind us in some way of why we are here and to whom we report. Thank you for your constancy and for your friendship and for your wonderful guidance which we will miss dreadfully. Thank you, Dr. Ford.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am pleased now to yield to my colleague from Ohio.

Mr. TRAFICANT. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I did not plan to say a few words. We all love Dr. Ford, but I am worried for him. As the gentleman from Minnesota talked about, that just is not a one-man plane; that is a small plane with a lawn mower engine. He puts on his helmet, looks like he is right out of Buck Rogers, gets on a Harley Davidson motorcycle, revs it up so you could hear those exhausts, and passes people up speeding down the road.

□ 1030

I am concerned about him with all this free time.

So I think we all better say a collective prayer for a man whose collective prayers have helped an awful lot of us. Godspeed.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased to join our colleagues in saluting Jim Ford on the occasion of his impending retirement, this is a bittersweet responsibility for me.

For one thing, Rev. Jim Ford is a former constituent of mine, having lived in our beautiful 20th Congressional District of New York throughout his 18 years as Cadet Chaplain at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This has afforded Jim and I with a reference point for many hours of pleasurable reminiscences about the majestic Hudson River and its magnificent valley.

Chaplain Ford has married and buried more Generals than any of us have met throughout our careers.

I also had the honor to share with Jim and his good spouse, Marcie, travel on many of our overseas fact finding missions. Jim made a positive contribution to our works, always being ready with compassionate guidance, spiritual advice, and old fashioned common sense.

When Jim was first proposed for the role of House Chaplain back in 1979, he was one of the few nominees for that position ever to be nominated by both the Republican and the Democratic caucuses. This bi-partisan support and admiration has continued throughout Jim's twenty year tenure as our Chaplain.

Those of us who have come to love Jim especially admire his zest for life, which he manifests through action rather than words. His legendary skill as a skier, his devotion to flying lighter than air aircraft, and his entire philosophy of living life to the fullest has long inspired us all.

Jim became Chaplain at a time when longer sessions and more work hours placed a strain on the family life of many of us in this chamber. He was always ready to lend any of us a helping hand and sound advice. I believe that Jim is the only person I have ever known who has been addressed as "Reverend," as "Father", and as "Rabbi" by Members of this body and our staffs.

Jim Ford, in fact is the first House Chaplain to devote himself full time to that position. This in itself is indicative of what a unique individual we are losing, and how his shoes will be so difficult to fill.

Chaplain Ford has been more than a clergyman, and far more than our House Chaplain. He has been a friend and confidant to many of us, and while we extend our best wishes and good health to Jim and Marcie upon this new venture in his life, we want him to know he will be sorely missed.

Accordingly, I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 373, appointing Jim Ford as House Chaplain Emeritus.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, the House of Representatives has been well-served by our dedicated and beloved chaplain, the Reverend Dr. James Ford.

Seven days a week, year after year, Jim Ford has represented the absolute best in service to God and Country.

Much praise has deservedly been heaped upon Jim Ford as he marks his well-deserved retirement. Jim's many distinguished years of service (19) to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and his earlier years at Ivanhoe Lutheran Church in Minnesota are well-known and well-documented.

What isn't so well-known are his very early years in Minnesota and his legendary escape as a young ski-jumper at Theodore Wirth

Park in Minneapolis. Let the record reflect that our own beloved chaplain, Dr. Jim Ford, still holds the record jump at the Theodore Wirth Ski-Jump—backward! That's right. When he was a very young Swede and a student at Edison High School in northeast Minneapolis, Jim Ford defied the laws of gravity and common sense and survived a backward jump on this notoriously steep ski slope and lived to tell about it!

They still talk proudly about their prominent alumnus at Edison High School in Northeast Minneapolis and at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, where Jim starred in the classroom and the athletic field.

"You can take Jim Ford from Minnesota, but you can't take Minnesota from Jim Ford," was how his Gustavus classmate, the Rev. Bill Albertson put it recently. Some of you remember my good friend, Bill Albertson, who served as a Guest Chaplain here several years ago.

Jim, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I salute you and thank you for your many ears of service. Thank you for being there in good times and hard times, in times of joy and sorrow. Thank you for your prayers, counsel, great wit and unparalleled ability to put things into perspective.

Thank you for caring so deeply about our families, our friends and our constituents.

Thank you for bringing Democrats, Republicans and Independents together under God. Thank you for bringing even the Swedes and Norwegians together!

May God bless you and Marcie always, just as your work here in the House has blessed us.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I've always thought of the great religious leaders over the ages to be strong men of substance with a hearty voice and good spirit. This of course perfectly describes our Chaplain, Jim Ford—a strong man, a kind man, an effective man. He comes to us from a long line of great religious leaders. We're going to miss him sorely.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time for allowing us to celebrate the life of our Chaplain, Jim Ford, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 373

Resolved, That immediately following his resignation as Chaplain of the House of Representatives and in recognition of the length of his devoted service to the House, Reverend James David Ford be, and he is hereby, appointed Chaplain emeritus of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that there will be five 1-minute on each side.

GOVERNMENT WASTE

(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, last week President Clinton vetoed a bill that called for a 1 percent cut in discretionary spending. He said the loss would place too great a burden on American families.

The President's concern would best be served by insisting that his agencies are more responsible. The waste in government far exceeds the proposed 1 percent cut.

Here is a partial list of this waste. The Agriculture Department in 1997 erroneously issued \$1 billion in food stamps overpayments. In 1999, according to the audit, the Defense Department spent \$40 billion on overseas telecommunications systems that cannot be used. The Defense Department inventory contains \$11 billion worth of equipment that in 1997 was unneeded. Also in 1997 the government spent \$3.3 billion in loan guarantees for defaulted students. By 1996 the Department of Energy spent \$10 billion on 31 projects that were terminated before completion. HCFA in 1998 erroneously spent \$12.6 billion in overpayments to health care providers. HUD, \$857 million in erroneous rent subsidy payments in 1998. On and on we could go.

Mr. Speaker, every agency under the President can find fraud, waste and abuse to cut.

PRIVATE RELIEF LEGISLATION

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide for private relief for the benefit of Adela Bailor and Darryl Bailor. As my colleagues know, private relief is available in only rare instances. I believe that the circumstances surrounding the Bailors' case qualifies under the rules for private legislation.

The facts surrounding this case are clear and undisputed. Adela Bailor was working for Prison Fellowship Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana and was raped on May 9, 1991 by a Federal prisoner who had escaped from the Salvation Army Freedom Center, a halfway house in Chicago, Illinois.

What makes the Bailors' case special is that they were caught in a legal Catch-22. The Bailors filed suit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Salvation Army, which ran the halfway

house to which Mr. Holly was assigned. One of the requirements for all inmates at a halfway house is that they remain drug free and take a periodic drug test. Mr. Holly had a history of violence and drug abuse, including convictions for possession of heroin.

AMERICA'S VETERANS ARE THE FABRIC OF OUR NATION

(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, tomorrow is Veterans Day and I rise to take this opportunity to salute our Nation's veterans, especially those veterans from my home State of Nevada.

The Second Congressional District in Nevada is one of the largest and fastest growing veteran populations in the United States. These are men and women who at one point or another put their personal lives and careers aside and oftentimes their families on hold for a much greater cause. It should be remembered that our veterans made America the leader of the Free World.

While we celebrate their service, just one day each year, it is our responsibility to remember them every day.

Mr. Speaker, we can thank our Nation's veterans each day in many different ways. In Congress here, we can make certain that our Nation's promises are kept to all of our veterans. In our neighborhoods we can take an extra moment and thank a veteran for their service. We can contact family members and friends who served our country to learn more about their experiences of service and courage. In our schools, we can teach our children about America's greatest moments, moments when freedom and democracy were upheld because of our veterans.

America's veterans are the fabric of our Nation. We salute you and we thank you.

TIME TO ABOLISH INCOME TAXES

(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, the government takes the people's money and distributes it. That sounds like communism to me. I think it is time to throw out income taxes. No more forms, no more audits, no more IRS. Think about it. I am going to quote now Reverend Jim Ford. He says, think about this: The IRS does not even send us a thank you for voluntarily paying our income taxes.

Beam me up. It is time to abolish income taxes, abolish the IRS, and pass a flat 15 percent national sales tax.

I yield back the IRS.

TEACHER EMPOWERMENT ACT WILL FIX EDUCATION WOES

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