

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, if there ever is a time that we need almighty God, it really is now. If there ever is a time we need to pray, it is now. If there is ever a time that we need to humble ourselves as individuals, it is now. If there is ever a time that we need to plead for forgiveness, it is now. If there ever is a time that we need peace, it is now. If there ever is a time that we need healing, it is now.

□ 1745

I pray that we as a Congress and as a Nation can join together in prayer, supporting this resolution, calling for prayer, fasting and repentance.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, in this century, the United States has led the world in transforming industry, communication, and technology. We have found cures for once-fatal diseases and introduced freedom and democracy to the world. We sit on the threshold of a new century, and new millennium with a great mandate: laying the groundwork for a daring, new world.

On the brink of the nineteenth century, our Founding Fathers faced a similar mandate. One whose impact would reach beyond anything they could have imagined, and one which we live each day. They gathered together to establish a form of government that no other nation had ever attempted with freedoms that no other nation had ever even dreamed of: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion.

The work of these men was truly inspired. The wisdom in the words of the Constitution serves as the very cornerstone of hope and liberty. But these men did not rashly pull the Constitution together without forethought. The delegates of the Continental Congress debated over the course of months to author a document which changed the course of history for all people. It was during this debate, that they came to a standstill. On June 28, 1787, 212 years ago this week, the delegates hit a stalemate over many issues.

Ben Franklin saw that the impasse could not be reconciled by any human means: "The small progress we have made after four or five weeks' close attendance and continual reasonings with each other—our different sentiments on almost every question . . . producing as many noes as ayes—is, methinks, a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding . . . I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessings on our deliberations . . ."

Franklin recognized that the future of the Constitution, and the nation, depended upon Divine intervention. In the faces of the Congressional Delegates he saw pride, determination and no hope of compromise. Franklin knew that the only way the Constitution could be agreed upon was to call the delegates to humility and prayer. He recognized the need of each individual to search their hearts and seek the will of God.

Franklin called on the Members of the Congress to take three days of prayer and fasting. At the end of these three days, the delegates humbly returned, and were able to complete the framework of the Constitution which is the basis of the law of our nation.

As Americans, we are all grateful that Ben Franklin recognized the need for God and prayer within the political agenda. Each of the delegates had a strong understanding of right

and wrong. They knew the laws of the land needing to reflect a moral standard, a moral law. It is time we call our nation back to this morality.

Two weeks ago I offered an amendment called the Ten Commandments Defense Act, and you, my distinguished colleagues, helped to pass this legislation. It was a public declaration that God is not dead, despite the violence and confusion that haunts the current age.

Now I, along with the gentlelady from Idaho and others speaking on behalf of this resolution, call our country to set aside a time of reflection, a time to search our hearts and seek God's guidance. We must approach our families, our jobs, and our communities with the same humility and desire for reconciliation as our Founding Fathers sought in establishing the law of this land.

Today, we stand, not only on the brink of a new century, but at the dawning of a new millennium. We have the great honor, and the weighty responsibility, of setting the groundwork of the next thousand years. Let us do this with courage. Let us do this with honor. Most importantly, let us humbly set a precedent for the new millennium, and recognize God as the source of wisdom, goodness and strength.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the language of the resolution before us.

The religious faiths and practices of all of us as Americans are as important as they are personal.

This country was founded in part by people of strong religious beliefs who came to this new land seeking the freedom to worship totally beyond the reach of government. The doctrine of completely separating church and state was written into our Bill of Rights to protect our fundamental right to worship whenever we want, however we want, or even if we want.

I am very uncomfortable with this Congress—in a formal resolution—voting to observe "a day of solemn prayer, fasting, and humiliation before God".

The way for us to urge prayer and humility before God is by our example as individuals—not our political rhetoric as members of Congress.

I believe the teachings of Jesus as written in Matthew 6 verses 4-6 has application to the resolution before us:

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:4-6)

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I will vote "Present" on this resolution. I believe it is very important for people of all faiths to pray, reflect and seek divine guidance. It is not, however, the business of government to direct or prescribe this fundamental activity.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House sus-

pend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 94.

The question was taken.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed today in the order in which that motion was entertained. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2280, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 226, by the yeas and nays; and

House Concurrent Resolution 94, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2280, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2280, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 257]

YEAS—424

Abercrombie	Biggert	Camp
Ackerman	Bilbray	Campbell
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Canady
Andrews	Bishop	Capps
Archer	Billey	Capuano
Armey	Blumenauer	Cardin
Bachus	Blunt	Carson
Baird	Boehlert	Castle
Baker	Boehner	Chabot
Baldacci	Bonilla	Chambliss
Baldwin	Bonior	Chenoweth
Ballenger	Bono	Clay
Barcia	Borski	Clayton
Barr	Boswell	Clement
Barrett (NE)	Boucher	Clyburn
Barrett (WI)	Boyd	Coble
Bartlett	Brady (PA)	Coburn
Barton	Brady (TX)	Collins
Bass	Brown (FL)	Combest
Bateman	Brown (OH)	Condit
Becerra	Bryant	Conyers
Bentsen	Burr	Cook
Bereuter	Burton	Cooksey
Berkley	Buyer	Costello
Berman	Callahan	Cox
Berry	Calvert	Coyne

Cramer	Hulshof	Nethercutt	Sweeney	Toomey	Waxman	Blunt	Ganske	Lowey
Crane	Hunter	Ney	Talent	Towns	Weiner	Boehlert	Gejdenson	Lucas (KY)
Crowley	Hutchinson	Northup	Tancredo	Traficant	Weldon (FL)	Boehner	Gekas	Lucas (OK)
Cubin	Hyde	Norwood	Tanner	Turner	Weldon (PA)	Bonilla	Gephhardt	Luther
Cummings	Inslee	Nussle	Tauscher	Udall (CO)	Weller	Bonior	Gibbons	Maloney (CT)
Danner	Isakson	Oberstar	Tauzin	Udall (NM)	Wexler	Bono	Gilchrest	Maloney (NY)
Davis (FL)	Istook	Obey	Taylor (MS)	Upton	Weygand	Borski	Gillmor	Manzullo
Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)	Olver	Taylor (NC)	Velazquez	Whitfield	Boswell	Gilman	Markey
Davis (VA)	Jackson-Lee	Ortiz	Terry	Vento	Wicker	Boucher	Gonzalez	Martinez
Deal	(TX)	Ose	Thomas	Visclosky	Wilson	Boyd	Goode	Matsui
DeFazio	Jefferson	Owens	Thompson (CA)	Vitter	Wise	Brady (PA)	Goodlatte	McCathy (MO)
DeGette	Jenkins	Oxley	Thompson (MS)	Walden	Wolf	Brady (TX)	Goodling	McCathy (NY)
Delahunt	John	Packard	Thornberry	Walsh	Woolsey	Brown (FL)	Gordon	McCarthy (NY)
DeLauro	Johnson (CT)	Pallone	Thune	Wamp	Wu	Brown (OH)	Goss	McCollum
DeLay	Johnson, E. B.	Pascrall	Thurman	Waters	Wynn	Bryant	Graham	McCrery
DeMint	Johnson, Sam	Pastor	Tiaht	Watkins	Young (AK)	Burr	Granger	McDermott
Deutsch	Jones (NC)	Paul	Tierney	Watt (NC)	Young (FL)	Burton	Green (TX)	McGovern
Diaz-Balart	Jones (OH)	Payne				Buyer	Green (WI)	McHugh
Dickey	Kanjorski	Pease				Callahan	Greenwood	McInnis
Dicks	Kaptur	Pelosi				Calvert	Gutierrez	McIntosh
Dingell	Kasich	Peterson (MN)				Camp	Gutknecht	McIntyre
Dixon	Kelly	Peterson (PA)				Campbell	Hall (OH)	McKeon
Doggett	Kennedy	Petri				Canady	Hall (TX)	McKinney
Dooley	Kildee	Phelps				Capps	Hansen	McNulty
Doolittle	Kilpatrick	Pickering				Capuano	Hastings (FL)	Meek (FL)
Doyle	Kind (WI)	Pickett				Cardin	Hastings (WA)	Meeks (NY)
Dreier	King (NY)	Pitts				Carson	Hayes	Menendez
Duncan	Kingston	Pombo				Castle	Hayworth	Metcalfe
Dunn	Kleckza	Pomeroy				Chabot	Hefley	Mica
Edwards	Klink	Porter				Chambliss	Herger	Millender-
Ehlers	Knollenberg	Portman				Chenoweth	Hill (IN)	McDonald
Ehrlich	Kolbe	Price (NC)				Clay	Hill (MT)	Miller (FL)
Emerson	Kucinich	Pryce (OH)				Clayton	Hilleary	Miller, Gary
Engel	Kuykendall	Quinn				Clement	Hilliard	Miller, George
English	LaFalce	Radanovich				Clyburn	Hinchey	Minge
Eshoo	LaHood	Rahall				Coble	Hinojosa	Mink
Etheridge	Lampson	Ramstad				Coburn	Hobson	Moakley
Evans	Lantos	Rangel				Collins	Hoefel	Mollohan
Everett	Largent	Regula				Combest	Hoekstra	Moore
Ewing	Larson	Reyes				Condit	Holden	Moran (KS)
Farr	Latham	Reynolds				Conyers	Holt	Moran (VA)
Fattah	LaTourette	Riley				Cook	Hooley	Morella
Filner	Lazio	Rivers				Cooksey	Horn	Murtha
Fletcher	Leach	Rodriguez				Costello	Hostettler	Myrick
Foley	Lee	Roemer				Cox	Houghton	Nadler
Forbes	Levin	Rogan				Coyne	Hoyer	Napolitano
Ford	Lewis (CA)	Rogers				Cramer	Hulshof	Neal
Fossella	Lewis (GA)	Rohrbacher				Crane	Hunter	Nethercutt
Fowler	Lewis (KY)	Rothman				Crowley	Hutchinson	Ney
Frank (MA)	Linder	Roukema				Cubin	Hyde	Northup
Franks (NJ)	Lipinski	Royal-Allard				Cummings	Inslee	Norwood
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Royce				Danner	Isakson	Nussle
Frost	Lofgren	Rush				Davis (FL)	Istook	Oberstar
Gallegly	Lowey	Ryan (WI)				Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)	Obey
Ganske	Lucas (KY)	Ryun (KS)				Davis (VA)	Jackson-Lee	Olver
Gejdenson	Lucas (OK)	Sabo				Deal	(TX)	Ortiz
Gekas	Luther	Salmon				DeFazio	Jefferson	Ose
Gephhardt	Maloney (CT)	Sanchez				DeGette	Jenkins	Owens
Gibbons	Maloney (NY)	Sanders				Delahunt	John	Oxley
Gilchrest	Manzullo	Sandlin				DeLauro	Johnson (CT)	Packard
Gillmor	Markey	Sanford				DeLay	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Gilman	Martinez	Sawyer				DeMint	Johnson, Sam	Pascrall
Gonzalez	Mascara	Saxton				Deutsch	Jones (NC)	Pastor
Goode	Matsui	Scarborough				Dickey	Jones (OH)	Payne
Goodlatte	McCarthy (MO)	Schaffer				Dicks	Kanjorski	Pease
Goodling	McCarthy (NY)	Schakowsky				Dingell	Kaptur	Pelosi
Gordon	McCullom	Scott				Dixon	Kasich	Peterson (MN)
Goss	McCrery	Sensenbrenner				Doggett	Kelly	Peterson (PA)
Graham	McDermott	Serrano				Doolittle	Kennedy	Petri
Granger	McGovern	Sessions				Doyle	Kildee	Phelps
Green (TX)	McHugh	Shadegg				Dreier	Kilpatrick	Pickering
Green (WI)	McInnis	Shaw				Duncan	Kind (WI)	Pickett
Greenwood	McIntosh	Shays				Dunn	Kingston	Pitts
Gutierrez	McIntyre	Sherman				Edwards	Kleckza	Pombo
Gutknecht	McKeon	Sherwood				Ehlers	Klink	Pomeroy
Hall (OH)	McNulty	Shimkus				Ehrlich	Knollenberg	Portman
Hall (TX)	Meeks (FL)	Shows				Emerson	Colbe	Price (NC)
Hansen	Meeks (NY)	Shuster				Engel	Kucinich	Pryce (OH)
Hastings (FL)	Menendez	Simpson				English	Kuykendall	Quinn
Hastings (WA)	Metcalf	Siski				Fazio	LaFalce	Radanovich
Hayes	Mica	Skeen				Etheridge	LaHood	Rahall
Hayworth	Millender	Skelton				Evans	Lampson	Ramstad
Hefley	McDonald	Slaughter				Everett	Lantos	Rangel
Herger	Miller (FL)	Smith (MI)				Ewing	Lantos	Regula
Hill (IN)	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)				Farr	Larson	Reyes
Hill (MT)	Miller, George	Smith (TX)				Fattah	Latham	Reynolds
Hilliard	Minge	Smith (WA)				Filner	LaTourette	Riley
Hinchey	Mink	Snyder				Fletcher	Lazio	Rivers
Hinojosa	Moakley	Souder				Baldwin	Bentsen	Rodriguez
Hobson	Mollohan	Spence				Abercrombie	Foley	Roemer
Hoefel	Moore	Spratt				Ackerman	Ballenger	Rogers
Hoekstra	Moran (KS)	Stabenow				Aderholt	Barcia	Rothman
Holden	Moran (VA)	Stark				Andrews	Barrett (NE)	Roukema
Holt	Morella	Stearns				Archer	Barrett (WI)	Rush
Hooley	Murtha	Stenholm				Armey	Bartlett	Shimkus
Horn	Myrick	Strickland				Bachus	Barton	Shows
Hostettler	Nadler	Stump				Baird	Bass	Shuster
Houghton	Napolitano	Stupak				Baker	Bateman	Simpson
Houghton	Neal	Sununu				Baldacci	Becerra	Siski

NOT VOTING—10

Mr. HEFLEY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device may be taken on each additional motion to suspend the rules on which the chair has postponed further proceedings.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AT THREE SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, SYNAGOGUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 226.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 226, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, answered "present" 1, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 258]

YEAS—425

Baldwin	Bentsen	Foley	Leach	Rodriguez
Ackerman	Ballenger	Bereuter	Lee	Roemer
Aderholt	Barcia	Berkley	Ford	Rogers
Andrews	Barrett (NE)	Berman	Fossella	Rohrabacher
Archer	Barrett (WI)	Berry	Fowler	Rothman
Armey	Bartlett	Biggett	Frank (MA)	Roukema
Bachus	Barton	Bilbray	Franks (NJ)	Linder
Baird	Bass	Bishop	Frelighuysen	Lipinski
Baker	Bateman	Biley	Frost	LoBiondo
Baldacci	Becerra	Blumenauer	Gallegly	Royce