

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY 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 has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4315. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3695 Green Road in Beachwood, Ohio, as the "Larry Small Post Office Building".

H.R. 4450. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 900 East Fayette Street in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Judge Harry Augustus Cole Post Office Building".

H.R. 4451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1001 Frederick Road in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Frederick L. Dewberry, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 4625. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2108 East 38th Street in Erie, Pennsylvania, as the "Gertrude A. Barber Post Office Building".

H.R. 4786. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Postal Way in Carrollton, Georgia, as the "Samuel P. Roberts Post Office Building".

H.R. 4831. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2339 North California Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Roberto Clemente Post Office".

H.R. 4853. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1568 South Green Road in South Euclid, Ohio, as the "Arnold C. D'Amico Station".

H.R. 5229. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 219 South Church Street in Odum, Georgia, as the "Ruth Harris Coleman Post Office Building".

H.R. 5273. An act to clarify the intention of the Congress with regard to the authority of the United States Mint to produce numismatic coins, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2462. An act to amend the Organic Act of Guam, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5314. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to facilitate the adoption of retired military working dogs by law enforcement agencies, former handlers of these dogs, and other persons capable of caring for these dogs.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4788) "An Act to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to collect fees to cover the cost of services performed

under that Act, extend the authorization of appropriations for that Act, and improve the administration of that Act, to reenact the United States Warehouse Act to require the licensing and inspection of warehouses used to store agricultural products and provide for the issuance of receipts, including electronic receipts, for agricultural products stored or handled in licensed warehouses, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1762. An act to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of structural measures constructed as part of water resource projects previously funded by the Secretary under such Act or related laws.

S. 2811. An act to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to make communities with high levels of out-migration or population loss eligible for community facilities grants.

S. 3164. An act to protect seniors from fraud.

S. 3194. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 North George Street in Millersville, Pennsylvania, as the "Robert S. Walker Post Office."

S. 3230. An act to reauthorize the authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to pay costs associated with removal of commodities that pose a health or safety risk and to make adjustments to certain child nutrition programs.

S. J. Res. 36. Joint resolution recognizing the late Bernt Balchen for his many contributions to the United States and a lifetime of remarkable achievements on the centenary of his birth, October 23, 1999.

S. J. Res. 55. Joint resolution to change the date for counting the electoral votes in 2001.

S. Con. Res. 150. Concurrent resolution relating to the reestablishment of representative government in Afghanistan.

S. Con. Res. 155. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political forces in Peru toward an immediate and full restoration of democracy in that country.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 964) "An Act to provide for equitable compensation for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes."

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 Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) as a member of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the Second Session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, to be held in Berlin, Germany, November 17-22, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minute requests per side.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DEMORALIZED OUR MILITARY

(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, yesterday the Washington Times detailed the story of Shane Walsh, a former first lieutenant in the United States Army. And I say former first lieutenant because Shane Walsh has left the Army. His reason for leaving? Well, the Army he thought it would be and the Army he found it to be were two completely different things.

Lieutenant Walsh detailed the demoralizing situation facing our military today. For example, he said how M1A1 tanks sit abandoned with broken starter motors or unused simply because there is not enough money left to fuel them. His story is not unique. Our military is severely burdened by low morale and it continues to lose large numbers of servicemen and women today and every day.

The refusal of the Clinton-Gore administration to recognize this and to provide the necessary resources for our military, while still deploying them far and wide, has caused this desperate and disturbing situation.

Thankfully, this Republican Congress is truly committed to ensuring our military readiness today and in the future, and we are putting our military back on track with the needed resources to keep it strong and to keep qualified people like Shane Walsh in the military.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. KRAMER, DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant from my Congressional District, former Berks County Sheriff John Kramer. John has been a legend in local politics in my district for many years and has become my close personal friend and mentor.

John served as Chief Deputy Sheriff in Berks County, Pennsylvania, until 1975, when he was elected to his first term as county Sheriff. John won the primary election by nearly 10,000 votes, and later that year defeated his opponent by 20,000 votes in the general election.

Following that first election in 1975, John was reelected Berks County Sheriff four times, and in three of those elections was top voter of any candidate for office in the county. In 1995,

after 20 years in office, he announced he wanted to retire and would not seek a sixth term.

John was also a sports figure. He bought the Rising Sun Hotel from his father in 1955 and founded the Rising Sun Athletic Association in 1965. The association sponsored bowling, basketball and softball teams. The Sunners softball team won the national softball championship in 1975, and in 1976 the team became co-world champion.

In office and in politics, John Kramer valued loyalty. He enjoyed bipartisan support and was well respected by Republicans and Democrats alike.

He is a fine supporter of the Reading Phillies and Philadelphia Phillies and counts among his friends Mike Schmidt, Pete Rose and Gregg Luzinski.

John and his lovely wife, Doris, have been married for 47 years and reside in Reading, Pennsylvania.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TILLIE FOWLER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict last night, I was unable to join my colleagues in a salute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), so today I join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), in saluting this wonderful advocate for the people of the great State of Florida.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) came from Jacksonville to not only be an integral part of this august body but she came to represent what is the best in America: She took care to make certain our military was well equipped, she made certain her home of Jacksonville was looked after, and she rose to the top ranks of this Congress as a member of the leadership team.

So as we prepare to adjourn the 106th Congress, I salute the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER), I salute her husband and family for allowing her to serve this great institution and our great State, and I know while her career may end in this House as we adjourn, hopefully this week, her sacrifice and her help for this Nation will continue long after this Congress adjourns. We all join Floridians everywhere in saluting her.

BRING OUR CHILDREN HOME

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Uchechi Anyanwu is a U.S. citizen born of Nigerian nationals who were here with U.S. green cards. She had a younger sister, Ogechi, also born in the U.S. Because of marital problems, the family went

back to Nigeria. When they arrived there, the father informed the mother that the marriage was over, took possession of the mother's passport and the children. He wanted to get a divorce in Nigeria to avoid having to pay child support.

The mother was able to escape with her family's help. When she came back to the United States, the mother immediately got temporary custody. The father came back to the U.S. without the children. The mother and father appeared before a judge in August of 1997 and the judge ordered the return of the children. He refused, and has been in jail ever since.

The children were allegedly with a paternal aunt and uncle in Lagos, Nigeria. In November 1997, the mother got word that the younger daughter, Ogechi, died of malnutrition. The uncle was jailed for 2½ months for the murder of his niece, but then was released.

Interpol has verified the child's death, but the burial site is unknown. Interpol has checked at the aunt's and uncle's home for the surviving child, but has not found her there. Uchechi's mom has hired an attorney in Lagos, who took all her money and disappeared.

Mr. Speaker, do we have to wait until children die before this Congress takes notice of children being taken across our borders? It is time to bring our children home.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT IS IMPORTANT TO FLORIDIANS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a strong supporter of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. The Older Americans Act has been responsible for allowing millions of seniors across our country to remain in their own homes and living independently, allowing our aged citizens to keep their dignity and self-respect.

Florida is home to the Nation's largest senior population, and they rely on the many provisions of the Older Americans Act for nutrition, transportation and counseling. Josefina Carbonell, of the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Center, reminds me of this each and every day. Gracias, Josefina.

There is a new and important authorization of the National Family Caregivers Support Program that gives help to family members who provide in-home care to older seniors. I am pleased that the funding formula has been reformed in order to ensure that States with large senior populations, such as Florida, will receive their fair funding formula.

The biggest winners, of course, are our seniors, who deserve to enjoy their golden years.

COLORADO SUPREME COURT MAKES POOR DECISION

(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, the Colorado Supreme Court threw out the 5-year mandatory prison sentences for rapists and child molesters. Thus, over 100 rapists are now out on the street. Unbelievable. Naturally, many people are up in arms, and who can blame them.

If that is not enough to reward criminals, my colleagues, the victims of these creeps were not even notified. Not even notified. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The Supreme Court of Colorado needs their heads examined by a proctologist.

I yield back all the victims of the Colorado Supreme Court. Think about that.

VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTACK OF GOVERNOR BUSH'S SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN IS FALSE

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I heard again yesterday Mr. GORE's attack on Governor Bush; that he was spending over the next 10 years the same \$1 trillion twice, once to start up an investment account so that retirees could end up with more money, and once on Social Security benefits. I just wanted to set the record straight.

Over the next 10 years, there will be \$7.8 trillion coming in to the Social Security Trust Fund. Benefits, or the cost during the next 10 years, is going to be \$5.4 trillion. That leaves a balance, a surplus, of \$2.4 trillion, and \$1 trillion out of that \$2.4 trillion is what Governor Bush is suggesting to use during the transition to start setting up personal retirement savings accounts that will supplement Social Security and add to benefits. It will stay in Social Security.

I think our goal has got to be to deal honestly with this problem; to get a better return on investments than the 1.9 percent that the average retiree now gets from the money sent in from the employer and employee.

IMMIGRATION BILL DISCRIMINATES

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to appeal to the Republican side to look at the immigration law from 1996. The 1996 law on immigration took away all discretion. The 1996 law took away all due process. The 1996 law splits apart families. The 1996 law took away all compassion.