



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 147

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

No. 124

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, ever faithful to Your covenant with Your people, and always loving to those who call upon Your Holy Name, be with us today and in the unfolding historic days ahead. In this land of liberty, we freely choose to be renewed in faith and place our trust in You.

At this time of seeking justice, Lord, guide our President and the Members of this Congress. Confirm them and all Americans, military and civilians alike, to the noble task of performing daily work to the best of their ability.

Already You have lifted this Nation from death and debris with stories of heroes and heroines, songs of revitalized patriotism and new depth of unity born out of love of family and love of country.

With Your help, our grieving will never end but become fond remembrance. With Your help, our response to all forces of evil and injustice has just begun and will never cease.

Emerging from clouds of dismay, You Lord, have brought about quiet resolve, a deeper respect for all humanity and a longing for lasting peace.

Lord, may the words of Daniel Webster which are engraved above this Chamber now come to life in the flesh and bone of this country.

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its power, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

And with Your blessing, may this country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom, of peace, and of liberty upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever. 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 New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. REYNOLDS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will delay 1-minute requests until the end of the legislative day.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2904, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time for the Speaker, as though pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, to declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and that consideration of the bill proceed according to the following order.

The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with.

All points of order against the bill and against its consideration are waived.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII, and amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted.

The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2904, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

□ 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.



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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of today and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole of the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2904.

□ 0905

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Defense Department for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. GILLMOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, September 21, 2001, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

(Mr. HOBSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, before I present the subcommittee's recommendations, let me take a moment to address the events perpetrated on the United States last week.

America has been hurt by these attacks, but we are far from defeated. We will care for our wounded and mourn for those who have lost their lives. We will repair the physical damage to our institutions and seek out those who are responsible. We will have justice. We will stand together, and we will emerge from this catastrophe stronger than before.

This subcommittee is committed to working with the Defense Department to ensure the necessary resources are available for reconstructing the Pentagon and improving the anti-terrorism and force protection measures of defense facilities at home and abroad.

Let me assure the Members, the funding needed to rebuild the Pentagon will be made available from last week's \$40 billion emergency spending meas-

ure; and it is my understanding that the Department is already moving ahead with the reconstruction effort from the first \$10 billion provided to the President.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to point out that the portion of the Pentagon which was damaged in the attack on September recently received a thorough renovation. The safety improvements made as part of those renovations, including the Kevlar window protection and the new sprinkler system, have been credited with saving more lives from being lost in the attack.

Although the renovation of the Pentagon was originally funded through the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations and the Pentagon Renovation Revolving Fund, we fully expect the reconstruction of the destroyed wedge of the building to be funded through the military construction defense-wide appropriation.

For now, the President has encouraged America to go back to work. This includes the Congress, and today we are moving forward with this needed legislation to improve the quality of life for our military personnel.

This legislation also includes numerous infrastructure and security improvements at bases across the country. These are desperately needed by our military forces. Force protection requirements are addressed in every new building or major renovation, and we will continue to work with the Department to ensure these requirements are current and met.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to present to the House the recommendations of the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002.

I would particularly like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), my ranking member, and other members of the subcommittee for their help in producing a bipartisan recommendation.

The bill presented to the House today totals \$10.5 billion. This represents a \$1.56 billion, or 17 percent increase, from last year's appropriation. This appropriation amount is within the 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays.

The recommendations before the House are solid, fully funded priority projects for the services and our troops. The legislation helps meet the needs of our military families and improves our national security infrastructure. It is fiscally responsible,

while supporting the housing, child care and medical needs of our military.

Within the \$10.5 billion, we have been able to address quality of life issues, including \$1.2 billion for troop housing, \$43 million for child development centers, \$199 million for hospital and medical facilities, \$1.1 billion for new family housing units and for improvements to existing units, and \$2.9 billion for operating and maintenance of existing family housing units.

In this bill, there is over \$1.1 billion for overseas construction of family housing. This subcommittee has seen firsthand the conditions that our troops live and work in overseas, and we are appalled by what we have seen. This \$1.1 billion only begins to buy down these requirements, but it will go a long way for the spirit and morale of our servicemen and women stationed overseas.

We have worked closely with the authorizing committee; and I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and his staff for their help, particularly Phil Grone, a long-time staff member who is leaving to go down to the Defense Department.

Also this year we have had a new clerk of our committee, Valerie Baldwin. Valerie and her staff have done a great job in her first year as clerk.

I would also like to thank Tom Forhan of the minority staff. Tom has traveled with us as we have gone around. He has been very helpful in making sure that this is a bipartisan bill.

Of course, I have to thank my ranking member. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) has been a great Member. He has gone with us all over the world looking at facilities, making sure that the environment is protected, and where we are going for the future. He has done a terrific job in learning this job. This is not an easy job to learn, and he has done a great job at it.

In conclusion, this \$10.5 billion is roughly 3 percent of the total defense budget, but it directly supports the men and women in our Armed Forces. There are critical shortfalls in our defense infrastructure; and we believe this bill begins to address those shortfalls, in increasing productivity, readiness, recruitment and retention, all very vital at this most critical time in our national defense.

Mr. Chairman, I include the following tabular material for the RECORD.