

tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of time and eternity, our national story is rooted in faith in You. Motivated by religious sentiments, the chapters of our history turn on pages of prayerful trust during times of crisis.

Be with us at this present hour, during our evolving crisis.

We are on the way, O Lord. Our flag flies at full mast as our planes once again reach for the sky and our ships cross the mighty shoulders of the seas.

From memorial services, America struggles from her knees and comes to full stature again, poised for the next move.

Be with us, Lord, in our next step.

The distant display of military on the horizon and the powerful workforce engaged by Monday's routine are united here on the floor of Congress and motivate us to pray.

Be with all of us, Lord, about our daily tasks as Americans.

Ready to defend what we love, alert to alarms and setbacks, yet compassionate to all human limitation and suffering, we are on our way, Lord, to confront the evils of our time. With clear vision and good judgment, inspire in us only just desires.

Be with us, Lord, now and forever.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2001.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 21, 2001 at 11:30 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2926.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, September 21, 2001:

H.R. 2926, to preserve the continued viability of the United States air transportation system.

A SALUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEVADA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

(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, I rise today to salute members of the Nevada Air National Guard in the State of Nevada who have been authorized and called to active duty in support of Operation Infinite Justice.

Eighty-three brave and dedicated personnel from the 152nd Intelligence Squadron, based in Reno, Nevada, are ready and eager to support this Nation against the war on terrorism.

All across this country, reservists and guardsmen are rearranging their lives to answer the call to duty. Many families in Nevada, and indeed throughout America, will require the military's assistance in many ways. Everything from child care to changes in family benefits will be required to see that we can provide the most adequate care and peace of mind that our fighting men and women deserve.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to fight this war against terrorism, let us speak in one voice, a unified voice, in support of our military men and women.

Let us not forget that while we send our brave men and women off to defend freedom itself, that we, here at home, must lend support to their families throughout their time of need.

I know that these men and women will make America proud. I know that they will bring justice to America.

PUTTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN CHARGE OF AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the House of Representatives passed a \$15 billion airline bailout bill with not one penny in that bill for enhanced aviation security; no mandate for a change in aviation security. The

administration tells us we will have to wait till October 1 to get their recommendations.

It has been 14 years since I introduced my first bill to enhance screening at airports and checking of baggage. Many other Members introduced bills before I did, but for years, we have been thwarted by the Air Transport Association and member airlines, and they gave us the system we have today, a mish-mash of private security firms, some of whom are on probation for violating the rules, one whose manager is in jail, still providing security at our airports, lowest bidding firms for screening, uncoordinated local, State or Port Authority police on the airside.

It is time to put the Federal Government in charge of airport security.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on motions to suspend the rules ordered prior to 6 p.m. will be taken today. RECORD votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken tomorrow.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 204) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of National Character Counts Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 204

Whereas the well-being of the Nation requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play their role in determining the future of the Nation;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities;

Whereas the establishment of National Character Counts Week, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations would focus on character education, would be of great benefit to the Nation; and

Whereas the week beginning October 15, 2001, and the week beginning October 14, 2002, are appropriate weeks to establish as National Character Counts Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a National Character Counts Week should be established to promote character education; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to—

(A) embrace the elements of character identified by their local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty; and

(B) observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution now under consideration, H. Con. Res. 204.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 204, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of National Character Counts Week and would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for introducing this resolution and in their efforts regarding character education.

With the growing concern for the safety of students and teachers, many have looked to character education in the schools as a solution. Making appropriate and good choices in life relies upon strong character, yet some children do not get much guidance or support for character development. Supporting the ethical, social and emotional development of children will help to create better schools and a more compassionate and responsible society.

In the past, those who have helped parents reinforce the values of their children, neighbors, coaches, teachers, guidance counselors, and many others would not necessarily have recognized their role as a character educator. It was just something that friends and family did to foster a sense of community among its youngest members. Unfortunately, in an increasingly transient society, where both parents often work, this traditional model has been abandoned. As a result, it now seems that some children lack the basic values that would not only help them avoid such things as unwanted pregnancies, drugs, school violence, and alcohol problems, but also teach them the importance of being respectful and honest.

Today, every teacher and every student can articulate the consequences of this neglect. The recent rash of school shootings is one example, but so is the low voter turnout among young people and their lack of involvement in community organizations. As a result, many Americans are looking to character education as one possible solution to the problems that plague our classrooms and our communities.

Research indicates that character education can help improve behavior as well as academic achievement.

A University of Illinois study of four schools using the "Positive Action" character development program found that the average number of incidents requiring disciplinary referral dropped by 74 percent after one year, and achievement scores improved by an average of 28 percentage points.

Standardized test scores of students exposed to the "Responsive Classroom" program, which emphasizes good character, increased 22 percent on average, versus just three percent for students not participating in the program.

A 1997 study demonstrated that students trained in "Second Step," a character-based violence prevention program, used less physical aggression and engaged in more pro-social interactions than peers who were not exposed to the character curriculum.

I applaud the efforts of President Bush to improve the academic achievement of our Nation's youth and his plan or improving our students' character. As Governor Bush noted in 1999, yes, we want our children to be smart and successful, but even more, we want them to be good and kind and decent. Yes, our children must learn how to make a living, but even more, they must learn how to live and what to love. "Intelligence is not enough," said Martin Luther King, Jr. "Intelligence plus character, that is a true goal of education."

To continue the President's focus on character education, this resolution expresses the sense of Congress regarding the establishment of National Character Counts Week. This resolution is simple and straightforward. It expresses the sense of Congress that a National Character Counts Week should be established to promote character education; and, two, the President should issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to embrace the elements of character identified by their local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty; and observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

I urge all my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 204.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the many other bipartisan cosponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 204 in urging our Members to support this important resolution today.

Character education can play a vital role in shaping the lives and values of our children. However, character education is not a substitute for good parenting or meant to take the place of good parenting. It is simply another tool our communities and schools can use to facilitate the development of a young person's moral character.

Many schools in the Los Angeles County area have recently taken up the cause of character education. Schools in my district are placing new emphasis on teaching young people about respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship and honesty.

Recent incidents remind us about the need for character education among our young people. Unfortunately, in the last few weeks, in my own community, in the City of San Gabriel, a shopkeeper who had been a store owner there for over 20 years and a pillar of the community was shot to death at 3 p.m. in the afternoon by some young individuals.

People have attacked and harassed individuals who look to be different or speak a different language or share a different religion. Young women in my district attending a local community

college were recently harassed because they attended college wearing a Muslim scarf or over their head.

And even before the tragedies of September 11, the City of Azusa, also in my congressional district, has been home to many hate crimes, Latinos and African American youth attacking each other.

This has gone on for too long. I hope that further emphasis on responsibility, good citizenship, tolerance, and understanding will help to stem the tide of hate crimes in this country.

House Concurrent Resolution 204 expresses the sense of Congress that a National Character Counts Week should be established and that the President should issue a proclamation on the topic of character education. The establishment of a National Character Counts Week will provide families, parents, children, students, community-based organizations, and civic groups the ability to focus on character education and its many benefits.

In closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on this issue and urge the Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. First, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) for yielding me this time, and I also want to thank him for his help in passing this resolution, which I introduced last July.

Mr. Speaker, a good definition of character is summed up in the old saying "Character is what you do when no one is looking."

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Men and women of character are guided by standards of right and wrong. They do not look to others for approval or bend to peer pressure.

National polls indicate that moral concerns and family decline are some of the most important problems facing the country today. Too many of our children grow up in a culture that acknowledges no right or wrong.

Americans are concerned about the quality of their children's education. They are also troubled about the decline in our Nation's values and its effect on our children. Although parents should be the primary developers of character, educators play an increasingly important role. Communities across the Nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum.

Our Nation's teachers are aware that character education can establish standards for behavior.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating funds to character education, States, local education agencies, parents, and students will have an opportunity to

promote character and values. This resolution will encourage schools to embrace character education. It designates the third week of October of this year and 2002 as "National Character Counts Week."

I hope children across the Nation will participate in character-building activities in their schools. It is imperative that we teach our children the values that strengthen their character and make our country strong. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must first sow the seeds of character when we educate our children.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just reiterate that this is a good bill and ask my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close before I yield back the remainder of my time.

In light of the recent events, it seems even more appropriate to quote Dr. Martin Luther King. Let me read his quote. "The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason and no morals. We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education."

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 204, legislation establishing a national "Character Counts Week" sponsored by my friend from Texas, Mr. LAMAR SMITH.

Today, the vast majority of Americans share a respect for fundamental traits of character, honesty, compassion, justice, courage, and perseverance. Yet, in today's world, all children face great uncertainties in a complex and sometimes troubled society.

Positive character traits are not always readily apparent and easy for them to grasp or learn. When children are young, it can be difficult to decipher between what is right and what is wrong. Therefore, our challenge is to provide youths with the self-esteem, stamina, and support they need to survive, be successful, and develop into strong, competent, caring, and responsible citizens.

This resolution encourages the establishment of a "Character Counts" week, geared towards educators, students and communities to become more involved in the development of positive character traits.

Life consists of a series of choices. Every choice you make helps to define the kind of person you choose to be. Good character requires doing the right thing even when it is costly, risky, or when no one is looking. With all the pressures youths face today, how can we, as lawmakers, encourage our children to do the right thing, while so many elements in our culture say the complete opposite?

That is why it is so important for Congress to pass this resolution. Character education is about celebrating what is right with young people while encouraging and enabling them to develop knowledge and life skills for enhancing ethical and responsible behavior. I urge

my colleagues to join with me in support of this measure.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, "character."

Webster's New World Dictionary, Third college Edition defines "character" as "moral strength, self-discipline, fortitude."

The pillars which guide ethical decision-making, which make up character are: Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship.

Trustworthiness includes morality, honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, candor, loyalty and integrity.

Respect includes civility, courtesy and decency.

Being responsible means being in charge of our choices and, thus, our lives. It means being accountable for what we do and who we are.

Fairness involves issues of equality, impartiality, proportionality and openness.

Caring is ultimately about our responsibilities toward other people. A person who really cares feels an emotional response to both the pain and pleasure of others.

The concept of citizenship includes civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave as part of a community. The good citizen gives more than he or she takes.

As leaders of this great nation, especially at this time, we must be examples of strong, moral unblemished character and encourage the young people of this nation to replicate these attributes in all their ways and conduct.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 204.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1860) to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1860

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Technology Transfer Program Reauthorization Act of 2001".