



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2002

No. 52

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GIL GUTKNECHT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Jim Congdon, Pastor, Topeka Bible Church, Topeka, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we pause this morning to give You thanks.

We thank You for another day to live and work in the United States.

We thank You for Your Word, which teaches us righteousness and justice and equity.

We thank You for giving us a system of government that honors our dignity and checks our depravity.

We repent for the spirit of self-sufficiency that tells us we do not need You and the spirit of arrogance that tells us we do not need others.

On this first day of May, dear Father, we make a new commitment to live our Nation's motto, In God We Trust.

For You are the rock of our salvation.

You are our hiding place in times of terror.

You are the truth in whom we can rely.

Our Nation needs a third great spiritual awakening. May it begin here with each of us.

Bless these men and women who represent America. Bless them in their de-

liberations to seek and find Your wisdom, that Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hear our prayer, for You are our Lord and savior. 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 gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR JIM CONGDON, PASTOR, TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to welcome my good friend, Pastor Jim Congdon, to the floor of the House of Representatives. It was my distinct honor to invite Pastor Congdon to deliver our opening prayer this morning, and I am grateful for his willingness to do so.

Pastor Congdon is from Topeka, Kansas, and pastors the Topeka Bible Church, which my family and I attended for several years. It was a privilege to call Jim my pastor, and I am grateful for his continued friendship and dedication to the ministry.

I also want to welcome Jim's wife, Melody, to the House Chamber. I know

she came with Jim and she speaks for a lot of different people in the church. She is a constant source of strength and support in the ministry at the Topeka Bible Church.

Finally, I want to welcome the 62 students from Cair Paravel Latin School that are seated in the gallery. Pastor Congdon teaches philosophy at Cair Paravel, and these 9th and 10th graders are in D.C. for part of their studies. I thank them all for being here.

I thank Jim and Melody for their presence, and God bless them.

CONGRATULATING FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

(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, keeping in mind the national nursing shortage that health care experts cite could become pervasive, I would like to congratulate the School of Nursing at my two-time alma mater, Florida International University, for its commitment to the future of nursing.

The school recently celebrated its 20th year of existence and already has produced exceptional nurses, nurse practitioners and nursing leaders who contribute to the health and well-being of south Florida. Its prominent faculty includes as director Dr. Divina Grossman; Dr. Kathleen Blais; Dr. Marie-Luise Friedemann; Paula Alexander-Delpach; and Dr. John McDonough.

By reaching out to high school and first year college students, focusing on underrepresented minority groups and retraining foreign doctors for nursing, the school is working toward a slogan of Solving the Nursing Shortage Through Excellence and Opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, the FIU School of Nursing has come a long way, and I ask that

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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my colleagues join me in congratulating it for 20 years of unparalleled excellence for our community and indeed our Nation.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I join with all of those across the country who are taking the opportunity to raise this issue, and that is the issue of sexual assault that occurs far too often, often goes unreported, often leaves individuals feeling shameful and feeling that they have no place to turn.

That is a kind of terror and a kind of terrorism that our country must rid itself of. So I urge all of us to join together to make sure that we can reduce the incidences of sexual assault.

ASTHMA AWARENESS DAY

(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, today is Asthma Awareness Day, and as a former suffering asthmatic, I want to commend this Congress for the work and research efforts that have been undertaken by the National Institutes of Health.

I want to give my colleagues a few of the statistics that are startling: 4.8 million children have asthma; 10.6 million people have experienced an asthma attack or episode in the past 12 months; 3.9 million asthma-related outpatient visits to private physicians; and another 2 million asthma-related visits to emergency departments. Over 12,288 people died of asthma-related symptoms. The cost, of course, is staggering, \$12.7 billion. Missed school days, 10.1 million annually, and missed work days, over 3 million.

Much work needs to be done, but the first most important work is to continue to promote asthma awareness and research, hopefully to bring a breath of life to young children and cure this disease.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL MOVING ACROSS AMERICA

(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, do my colleagues recognize this symbol here, the national symbol for dangerous radioactivity? I hope so. Because these signs, and we should get used to them, will soon be in our neighborhoods, our communities, near our schools and parks, along our highways and railways in our districts.

The most dangerous toxic type of radioactive material known to man, spent nuclear fuel, is very close to being carried through 44 States, 703 counties and 109 major metropolitan areas, and probably through my colleagues' own neighborhood. If this Congress votes to pass the resolution designating Yucca Mountain as the Nation's nuclear waste dump, we will see this symbol driving by our homes, schools and churches for at least the next 38 years.

Mr. Speaker, are our constituents prepared to live near a nuclear shipping route that leads to Yucca Mountain? Are the 123 million Americans living near these routes prepared for a nuclear disaster? Let us protect our rail and highways and, more importantly, our American families. Vote no on House Joint Resolution 87.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the over 260,000 women who are sexually assaulted in America every year. We just concluded sexual assault month last month as we ended the month of April.

Today, May 1, I want to make sure that Americans know that sexual assault will not be tolerated. There are programs in our government, both public and private, that help sexual assault victims reach their potential if they have been horrendously assaulted. This is a better country than that. We are better people than that. There are programs both for the assaulter, as well as the woman or man who has been assaulted.

It is our responsibility as families, as leaders, to work with these people who need additional assistance. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that we as American citizens reach out to those people, support the programs and move this country forward.

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(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, a week ago hundreds of my constituents watched something very sad in my district. A work crew placed a piece of sheet metal over a plaque depicting the Ten Commandments that hung on the wall of the Chester County Courthouse for over 80 years. The county commissioners did not want to do it, but a Federal judge ordered it.

This week, a newspaper, the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, all the way on the other end of the State, said the court's order was reminiscent of the Taliban and the Buddha statues, but I find it more disturbing than that.

Last week, the Supreme Court ruled that computer child pornography was perfectly legal as long as real kids were not used making it. We can turn on the TV at 4:00 in the afternoon, watch Jerry Springer interview people about their most disgusting sexual activities. The American Nazi Party is told they have a constitutional right to march through a Jewish neighborhood in Illinois, but a plaque of the Ten Commandments is so offensive we have to cover it up.

I am not exaggerating. The woman who sued our county said she was offended every time she went to the courthouse seeing the plaque. Mr. Speaker, something is very, very wrong with America's court system when child pornography is protected, can be viewed on computers, but the Ten Commandments have to be covered up.

MAKE EVERY MONTH SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the month of April, which was Sexual Assault Awareness Month, has come to an end. However, I propose that we make every month sexual assault awareness month until there is no longer a woman in this world who fears being raped or assaulted.

We are devoting extensive resources to ending terror around the world, while at the same time 1 in 6 women continue to be terrorized by sexual assaults in their lifetime. Sadly, this is not new or shocking news as each year the statistics change very little.

It is time to take a stand. It is time that we make ending violence against women a national priority. It is time that we devote the same amount of resources to ending a form of violence that terrorizes over half the population of this globe as we provide to the war on terrorism.

We can do something about it today. There will be a motion to instruct today introduced by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) which will instruct conferees to agree that we should strengthen the Violence Against Women Office and make it independent within the Department of Justice. This will make sure that we put the kind of attention and resources that we need to stop violence against women.

RECOGNIZING THE GOODWILL AND ALTRUIISM AT THE PLACENTIA TRAIN ACCIDENT

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on April 23, a terrible train accident occurred in my district in Placentia, California. Tragically 2 people lost their lives while hundreds of others were injured.