

Reverend Nelson received his calling to the Ministry early and entered Dallas Theological Seminary from 1977 to 1982 while he was Associate Pastor at Denton Bible Church. He has been pastoring at Denton Bible Church for 25 years and is presently the Senior Pastor.

Some of his outreach has included being a national speaker for the Fellowship of National Athletes and active leader for Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators.

In the past 15 years, Tom has built Denton Bible Church into one of the largest congregations in north Texas. Besides the four Sunday services at Denton Bible Church, Tom disciples 30-plus young men each year. The program includes ministry, evangelism, and service and meets four times a week. Tom also teaches two men's bible studies, one on Tuesdays in Lewisville at Lakeland Baptist Church and one on Wednesdays at Denton Bible Church. At home in Highland Village, I have attended his Tuesday bible study. His messages are powerful and prepare us well to go out into the playing field of life.

He has authored three books, "The Big Picture," "The Book of Romance," and "The Problem of Life With God," a commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes. He is also the teacher for three video series and his taped messages travel throughout the world.

His wife, Teresa, is his best friend and secretary. Their older son, Benjamin, and his wife Amanda, live in Lewisville, Texas, and have just made them the proud grandparents of a baby boy, Thomas Clark. Their other son, John Clark, played baseball for the University of Kansas Jayhawks, and has gone on to play professional baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals.

I am honored the Reverend Tom Nelson could be with us here today. I know his blessing will make us more respectful in our debates, more careful in our deliberations, and more accountable for our decisions.

STARVATION IS AN INHUMANE WAY TO DIE

(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, death by dehydration is a painful, agonizing, and arduous process that takes 10 to 14 days. In addition to feeling the pangs of hunger and thirst, the skin, lips, and tongue crack, the nose bleeds because of the drying of the mucus membranes, heaving and vomiting may ensue because of the drying out of the stomach lining, and the victim may experience seizures.

Compared to starvation and dehydration, death by hanging, firing squad, or even the electric chair seems humane. But right now that death sentence is being carried out not against murderers, rapists, and child molesters, but

on one of the most disabled in our midst.

Terri Schiavo is not on a respirator or any artificial life-support equipment. Any reasonable person who sees this woman reacting to her parents will realize she is not in a coma or, as is sometimes called, a persistent vegetative state.

Have we, as a Nation, become so callous that we have bought into the "quality of life" argument that some people simply are not worth the effort to protect and rehabilitate? I hope not.

SUPPORT BILL TO ELIMINATE TAX SHELTERS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the other Chamber for introducing bipartisan legislation to shut down abusive accounting tax shelters costing U.S. taxpayers over \$18 billion every year and leaving middle-class Americans to pick up the tab.

Fairness and economic growth should be synonymous with the tax code. That is why I will introduce companion legislation to eliminate the way firms market tax shelters to their audit clients. This bill will eliminate tax shelters created by the accounting firms selling "tax advice" directly to publicly-traded companies whose books they regularly audit. As today's hearing on tax shelters in the other body will show, this process makes a mockery of auditor independence and creates irreconcilable conflicts of interest for auditors.

Mr. Speaker, the economic principle of transparency and the American value of accountability are essential to economic growth. These abusive accounting schemes do neither, burdening the middle class and slowing down our economic recovery. I am proud to support this real reform to get real results.

PLIGHT OF TERRI SCHINDLER SCHIAVO

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Terry Schiavo smiles, tries to talk to her family and friends, and moves her arms and legs on command. But at the direction of her husband, and against the will of the rest of the family, her feeding tube was removed last Wednesday.

This is what Terri is experiencing right now in this, the 7th day of her court-ordered dehydration and starvation: Extreme thirst, nausea and stomach cramping, dry skin, dizziness, extreme headaches, cramping in her arms and legs because she is losing electrolytes, sodium and potassium in her

blood. Her mouth is very dry. Her saliva is thick.

And as the abuse continues, soon her lips and her mouth will crack, she will bleed, and her heart rate will increase, her blood pressure will drop, and she will probably experience stroke. She will finally go into shock as her whole body begins to shut down.

No one, Mr. Speaker, deserves to be treated with such incredible cruelty. Terri's life is valuable and she should not be sentenced to death because she has a disability or someone feels she is a burden.

Hopefully, the Florida Legislature will act in time and the Governor will intervene.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD IS AN OLD AMERICAN TRADITION

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, a steady assault on public religious expression undermines Americans' constitutional right to worship.

The Supreme Court announced it will hear a case alleging the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance establishes a religion. Not at all. Acknowledging the Creator, in public, is an American tradition, not a religion.

The Declaration of Independence declares that all men were given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by their Creator. The Declaration ends with "A firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence." Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg expressed his fervent hope that "This Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom."

Mr. Speaker, the question before the Supreme Court is whether America's tradition of free expression of religion will continue or be further undermined by a new creed of hostility towards religion. I echo Benjamin Franklin, who requested that prayer begin the Constitutional Convention, and every session of Congress since then, because, as he acknowledged, "God governs in the affairs of men."

GOD IS ON OUR SIDE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last week Army Lieutenant General William Boyken was embroiled in controversy over suggesting that in our struggle against the regime of Saddam Hussein, that God was on our side. One commentator on the Fox News Network said, and I am quoting now, "That it is 'folly' to argue that God takes sides on battlefields." It may be wise to ask the question, but as President Lincoln famously said, it is more relevant to ask whether we are on God's side, rather than whether God is on ours."

But to the General's point, that in our struggle against the tyranny of the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein, I say the General was right. It is written that "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." And, therefore, in the struggle against tyranny in all of its forms, Mr. Speaker, God is not neutral in this cause in the struggle between freedom and tyranny, between dictatorship and human dignity. Let it be said that in this Congress, God is on our side. And may it ever be so.

PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD MAHATHIR OF MALAYSIA SHOULD NOT BE WELCOME IN THE U.S.

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, there comes a time in international diplomacy when we set aside diplomatic language and speak the truth from the heart.

Last week, Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhammad Mahathir took the coward's way out to blame his misrule on the Jews. He said, and I quote, "The Europeans killed 6 million Jews out of 12 million, but today the Jews rule this world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them. They survived 2,000 years of pogroms not by hitting back but by thinking. They invented and successfully promoted human rights and democracy so that persecuting them would appear to be wrong, so that they may enjoy equal rights with others."

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Malaysia is an anti-Semite, a racist, and a bigot. He should not be welcome again in the United States. By following the path of Hitler and Stalin, the international community should work against Malaysian exports until this prime minister steps down.

COALITION REVITALIZING EDUCATION OF IRAQ'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that after visiting Iraq, I saw that after a decade of neglect, the children of Iraq are benefitting from their Coalition Provisional Authority and the United States Agency for International Development's revitalization of the country's education system.

Under Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Socialist Party's rule, schools fell into disrepair and teaching materials were scarce, distorted as propaganda, and outdated. Today, after the American military's success in Operation Iraqi Freedom, schools are being renovated, textbooks have been updated and distributed, and teachers and principals are being introduced to the most current standards of education.

As an example of the real difference we are making in children's lives, I have here a sample of the bookbags that we have given out. It includes essential items for education, pens, pencils, calculators, and notebooks without propaganda. 1.5 million of these student kits will be given out during the school year.

We are making meaningful progress in the war on terror and making a real difference in the quality of life for Iraqis and their children in order to protect the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

FOUR OUTSTANDING SENIORS FROM PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas is home to great schools, great teachers, and great students, and today I want to highlight four outstanding seniors from the Plano Independent School District who made perfect scores on their college entrance exams; four of them.

Greg Bussell of Plano East, Jennifer Wu of Plano West, and Brian Young of Plano Senior High all scored 1600 on their SATs, while Jeffrey Lin of Plano West received a 36, the highest possible on the ACT.

In addition to smarts and savvy, they all shine outside the classroom. Both Jennifer and Jeffrey play the violin in the orchestra, Greg stars in a school play, and Brian is on the school's academic decathlon team.

These students are shining examples of the best and brightest in Texas and in America, and they deserve a Lone Star-size applause. I want to congratulate them and tell them that we are proud of them.

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CONSERVATIVES NOT WELCOME ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in last Friday's New York Times, columnist Thomas Friedman quoted some advice Richard Brodhead, the dean of Yale College, recently gave to incoming freshmen:

"Above all," Dean Brodhead told the students, "do not limit your associations to people who agree with you."

Yet as David Brooks pointed out in the September issue of the Atlantic Monthly magazine, the place where there is the least diversity today is on college faculties. Conservatives simply are not welcome, except for a few tokens in some places. As Mr. Brooks wrote, "No group of people sings the diversity anthem more frequently than

administrators at our elite universities, but elite universities are amazingly undiverse in their values, politics, and mores. Professors, in particular, are drawn from a narrow segment of the population." Mr. Brooks pointed out that conservative students and professors may be one of the groups most discriminated in this country today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our elite universities will strive for true diversity and academic freedom and allow at least a few conservatives to teach in their classrooms and speak on their campuses.

REMEMBERING GOVERNOR PRESTON SMITH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and salute one of our fallen heroes in Texas, Governor Preston Smith, who lived a life of service from the 1940s into the 1950s when he served the State as Governor. I want to emphasize his commitment to education, as we battle in this House on the issue of Leave No Child Behind, as we find out that many of our educational leaders across the Nation are looking to us to give them and to provide them with a partnership to educate the Nation's children. I believe that his work in education helped the State of Texas reach its mission, or attempt to reach its mission, of lifting all boats.

One of the issues that he championed was the idea of teacher compensation and to ensure that the teachers in our classrooms were paid a respectable salary so they in fact could teach our children.

He loved the State and he served in the State senate. He was certainly someone who this State will miss because he loved us as we loved him. We say to his family our deepest sympathy; but more importantly, we are gratified for the opportunity he had to serve. And when he served, he promoted the people who needed him most, and those are the people whose voices could not be heard.

Mr. Speaker, we thank him for his service and know that his spirit will remain because he was truly a tall Texan, as he worked for all of us during the time he served the State of Texas; and we know that he will be considered a great Texan and a great American.

THREAT OF SADDAM HUSSEIN ELIMINATED

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard much in the press regarding weapons of mass destruction and the former Iraqi regime. I think it is important to note that both the Clinton