

up about anti-Semitism and other reports of religious intolerance among cadets and staff, including allegations that evangelical Christians wield too much influence.

Capt. Melinda Morton said she was fired last week by her boss, Col. Michael Whittington. Morton said she was pressured to deny a report by Yale Divinity School Professor Kristen Leslie that a chaplain told 600 cadets during basic training last year "to go back to their tents and tell their fellow cadets that those who are not born again will burn in the fires of hell."

"I was told by Chaplain Whittington that if someone was going to be loyal to the chaplaincy and the Air Force, then someone would take a certain view of the Yale report and view Dr. Leslie as disloyal," Morton said.

Both chaplains had been scheduled to leave the school this year, with Whittington, the academy's chief chaplain, retiring and Morton, his executive officer, scheduled for an overseas assignment. She called that an excuse to get rid of her.

The Air Force's chief chaplain, Maj. Gen. Charles Baldwin, said Morton was not fired.

Her duties have changed, however, because Whittington will retire in June rather than in July as originally planned. Morton has been scheduled for reassignment to an Air Force base in Japan for some time, Baldwin said.

The academy said Whittington was unavailable because he was being interviewed for a Pentagon investigation into more than 50 complaints of religious intolerance in the past several years.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, Ruler of heaven and Earth, You created us to glorify You both in prayer and by our daily labor.

Look with favor upon us as we begin a new week in Your presence. Let us be fellow workers with You in building an earthly Nation that will reflect the attributes of Your heavenly Kingdom.

Grant to us, O Lord, joy and peace that we may bring these gifts to all we meet, for we desire to live, move, and have our being in You, 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 gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

CONGRATULATING BASCOMB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Bascomb United Methodist Church as they join together for their 175th Homecoming Celebration on June 5, 2005, a church with a rich heritage which continues to serve the Cherokee County community and beyond.

The church began in a mill in 1830 when W.K. McCanless organized a group of Christians which came to be known as Bascomb Church, named for antebellum orator and bishop Henry Bascomb. The church predates the founding of Cherokee County; and as the congregation grew, they moved to a log cabin which also served as a school.

In 1883, after negotiation for land, the framed and painted church was completed with cornerstones bearing the names of the trustees. Modern renovations include additions for classrooms and fellowship and stained glass windows. The chancel cross in the chapel is made from timbers from the 1883 frame building.

With pride I recognize Bascomb United Methodist Church for its 175 years of offering a place of loving care and joyous worship to the people of Woodstock, Georgia, and beyond. I ask all Members to join me in honoring and congratulating the congregation for their remarkable achievements.

NEWSWEEK ERROR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, all Americans are distressed by the anti-American images that surfaced this weekend in Afghanistan. United States flags are being burned, the American military is being harshly criticized, our good name is being stained. What is more, people are dying.

All of this because of the carelessness of one group of magazine editors at Newsweek magazine. This magazine recently reported that U.S. investigators

had determined American guards at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base had desecrated the Quran by flushing the holy book down the toilet.

Now we have learned that Newsweek has acknowledged errors in its story. The source used by Newsweek's reporters was anonymous, and it is obvious that the magazine failed to fully investigate this "source" and his or her claims.

Newsweek decided to publish these accusations in haste, without regard for the great pain and suffering that they could, and ultimately would, cause.

Some in the media are simply fanatical about being first, and we as a country and as a culture must draw the line and demand more from our media.

Today, I call on Newsweek to fully retract its story and to apologize to the people of Afghanistan whose lives have been forever impacted by this carelessness and to the American people for damaging our good name.

TEXAS MLR

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, some good news today from down in my home State of Texas. Recognizing that a unique turnaround is under way in the State of Texas in the arena of medical liability reform, the American Medical Association today announced that it was removing Texas from its list of States in crisis from the medical liability crisis.

The medical liability crisis in Texas was halted thanks to sweeping reforms that took place almost 2 years ago, in September, 2003, when voters in the State of Texas passed a constitutional amendment which placed an upper limit on noneconomic damages on pain and suffering.

Since those reforms were passed, signs of improvement are widespread in Texas. Access to care is increasing and claims are down; physician recruitment, physician retention is up, especially in high-risk specialties. New insurers are entering the Texas medical liability market, creating more choices for doctors. Subsequently, competition is increasing; and all five of the largest insurers in the Texas medical liability market have announced rate cuts. Rates are down. Doctors are coming back to the State of Texas. This is good news for the patients of Texas as access and affordability have increased.

This House should take up the bill that we passed 2 years ago and react similarly.

FILIBUSTER ARGUMENT A FRAUD

(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, this weekend, respected columnist Charles Krauthammer of the Washington Post correctly revealed the Senate Democratic filibuster of judicial nominees as a fraud.

He thoughtfully researched that one of the great traditions, customs, and unwritten rules of the Senate is that we do not filibuster judicial nominees. Only once in 200 years has a filibuster been successful, and it reflected uniquely a lack of votes for confirmation.

Senate Majority Leader FRIST is to be commended for maintaining the constitutional case for an up-or-down vote. Democrat obstructionism is a radical deviation from allowing Senators to vote on nominees who are highly qualified. Senator FRIST is courageously protecting the American people to take an unwritten 200-year-old rule to make it written.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

CALLING ON ISIKOFF AND WHITAKER TO ISSUE FULL RETRACTION AND APOLOGY FOR NEWSWEEK STORY

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand as co-chair of the Afghan Caucus with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Newsweek reporter Michael Isikoff fabricated an incident at Guantanamo Bay where American soldiers allegedly desecrated a copy of the Quran. Yesterday, Newsweek editor Mark Whitaker announced that Newsweek may have "inaccurately reported" the incident; yet he refuses to run a retraction.

Isikoff inaccurately reported an incident that led to riots throughout the Muslim world. Isikoff inaccurately reported an incident that led to the death of 17 innocent people. Isikoff inaccurately reported an incident that resulted in the international condemnation of the American military.

Newsweek's behavior is not merely unfortunate. It is criminal. Journalists wield considerable power, and therefore, must exercise responsibility. Though Isikoff's actions resulted in the death of innocent people, he is evidently accountable to no one. His Newsweek editor, Mark Whitaker, even refuses to run a retraction.

Michael Isikoff and Mark Whitaker's fraud explains why the Gallup poll says that media credibility is at its lowest point in 30 years.

I call on Michael Isikoff and Mark Whitaker to take responsibility by issuing a full retraction of their fabricated story and an apology to the Nation and to the Afghans. America's troops are in enough danger without self-righteous, yellow journalists like Michael Isikoff defaming them for a cheap headline.

NEWSWEEK MUST REWRITE OR RETRACT STORY

(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, as a co-chair of the Afghan Caucus, let me acknowledge the fact that, although we have the first amendment, and we have a respected journalists and a respected publication, it is appropriate that we have an apology for the tragedy that has occurred in Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

Hundreds or tens of tens have lost their lives because of a report that soldiers at Guantanamo Bay flushed the Quran down the toilet, a report that has now been suggested by the person who reported it to be inaccurate.

I think in order to get ourselves back on track to create a more peaceful atmosphere in Afghanistan and to not undermine the peaceful track that the Afghani people are on with President Karsai, we must apologize, Newsweek must apologize, and it must, it must, rewrite the story or retract it if it is inaccurate or untrue.

It is important to note that everything that is said by Americans today can be characterized around the world to disturb the orderly peacefulness and the operations of new governments by countries where conflicts exist. It is appropriate that we recognize that the importance of our soldiers' safety rises above any potential thought that one cannot apologize.

So I hope that we will accept and recognize this need that the media and Newsweek will stand and apologize so that we can begin to rebuild and repair the schism that has now been created.

Telling the truth by media at all times, painful or not, is important, and an apology is owed; and I hope that this will occur very shortly.

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:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
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 May 13 at 9:29 am:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 86.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 135.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 136.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. BART STUPAK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BART STUPAK, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK,
Member of Congress.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431 note), amended by section 681(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 USC 2651 note), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces that on May 14, 2005, the Speaker reappointed the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Ms. Nina Shea, Washington, D.C., for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2007, to succeed herself;

and upon the recommendation of the minority leader:

Ms. Felice Gaer, Paramus, New Jersey, for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2007, to succeed herself.

CBO COST ESTIMATE ON H.R. 1817, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2005, the Committee on Homeland Security filed its report on H.R. 1817, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. At that time the committee had not yet received a Congressional Budget Office cost estimate, and it filed the report without the cost estimate required in clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Subsequently, the committee received the CBO cost estimate on H.R. 1817, and I am submitting it herewith for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the enclosed estimate be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate place.

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