

On behalf of our side, we want to congratulate the Republicans on their victory. I was sorely tempted to object to this whole colloquy.

Mr. OXLEY. I would have found a way somehow to get this in.

Mr. HOYER. It is always a terrific evening where everybody enjoys themselves. There is good comradeship on the field, across the party lines. It is good fun. The Republicans had a great game, particularly early on. They got way ahead of us. We tried to catch up and could not do it, but it was a fun evening.

Mr. Speaker, the Bowie Bay Sox, a Double A team in the Baltimore Oriole organization, and the Bay Sox Stadium located in Bowie, Maryland, in my district, has been the host of this ball game over the last 6 or 7 years. It is a great little stadium, one of the best minor league stadiums, I think, in the country. It is a fun place to play, but it is approximately 25, 30 minutes from here and, with traffic, a longer period of time.

As the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the manager of the Republican team, has pointed out, we had double the crowd, maybe even more than double the crowd, the largest crowd in our history, and the beneficiaries, of course, are the children and the families and the institutions that benefited from the contributions made by the people who attended and by those sponsors who generously provided resources to support this game.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY). I know on behalf of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the Democratic manager for many, many years who is not on the floor, I want to congratulate him and all of our players as well. It is a fun evening. It is a good evening. We congratulate the winners.

We are out recruiting very heavily. We used to recruit people who we thought would be good Members of Congress. We have slightly changed our focus. We are trying to get some good ball players. But we will work at it.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring who is going to do the schedule today.

Mr. MCHENRY. I shall, Mr. Speaker. I am Congressman PATRICK MCHENRY, a new Member from North Carolina.

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

□ 1645

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, based on the kindness of the majority leader

allowing for new Members to be involved in this process, the majority party's governance of the House, I would seek to outline for fellow Members what the majority intends to do next week in terms of the agenda. Normally this is what the minority whip would ask at this point; however, I certainly see him leaving the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debates. At 2 p.m. we will move to legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of the day. Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday and the balance of the week, the House will consider several measures under the rule: The Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006; the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006; and H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the majority leader for his hard work on keeping our agenda on track here in the House. I certainly thank him for his leadership, and I want to thank the majority leader also for providing more opportunities for new Members of the House. Unfortunately, it seems that the minority whip did not see that as a good opportunity to broaden the base and allow others to have a role in this House.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS

(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, we have been speaking about the tragedy in Iraq, the need for a plan,

and we have formulated the Out of Iraq Caucus that really responds to the American people who have lost confidence in the reason why we went to war, some 50 to 60 percent. And even though we have heard from Secretary Rumsfeld on defending the status quo that the insurgent battle has been won, we know that the commanding general has said it is ongoing.

But to add consternation to that, I share with my colleagues that funds for health care for veterans is \$1 billion. We see here in the Washington Post the outrage of Senate Republicans, and I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) for bringing it to our attention.

We should not leave this place until we respond to the needs of returning veterans who now come home after fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan where we are \$1 billion short for their care. What are we saying to those who are willing to sacrifice their lives on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan? When they come home with liver disease, when they come home with trauma, mental illness, we have no place for them to go.

CONGRATULATING FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS OF HILLANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the fifth grade students of Hillander Elementary School in Midland, Texas for raising \$4,200 on Saturday, April 30, 2005, for the honorable men and women of the Midland-based Texas National Guard Company C, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry, who have been deployed in the Middle East for some 5 months now.

Mary Clare Holmes, a student at Hillander, devised plans for a fundraiser after hearing stories of children who raised money for the victims of last year's tsunamis. With these fellow youngsters in mind, she enlisted her classmates to raise money through a bake sale for their hometown troops.

They devoted their time to helping our men and women fighting for freedom abroad by making items such as salsa, bundt cake, and cookies for the sale. They set a positive example not only for our Nation's youth but showed the American spirit of giving that should be an example to everyone. The noble efforts of these students were well received in the community and the items for sale were quickly purchased.

With the resounding success of the bake sale, the students wanted to make sure the proceeds were used in a way that would most benefit the soldiers and their families. With the advice of local army officials, the students decided that the money they raised would be best used to purchase phone cards. The efforts of the fifth graders at

Hillander will allow the brave men and women defending freedom abroad to spend more time in touch with their loved ones. The students at Hillander set a wonderful example of how a small unselfish effort can greatly benefit our military personnel.

I am proud to have compassionate and caring youngsters in my district, and I know our soldiers abroad will greatly appreciate their efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL OBJECTORS FOR PRIVATE CALENDAR FOR 109TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the majority and minority leaders, the Chair announces that the official objectors for the Private Calendar for the 109th Congress are as follows:

For the majority:
Mr. COBLE of North Carolina;
Mr. CHABOT of Ohio; and
Mr. FEENEY of Florida.
For the minority:
Mr. BOUCHER of Virginia;
Mr. SCHIFF of California; and
Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

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

There was no objection.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION STRIKES SERIOUS BLOW TO CONCEPT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday handed down a decision that will ultimately be very harmful to our freedom and our prosperity. In a 5-to-4 decision, the Court decided that a city government could take a private home by eminent domain for the benefit of another private party.

This decision was in the case of *Kelo v. City of New London, Connecticut*,

and it strikes a serious blow right at the heart of or the concept of private property, which our Founding Fathers believed in so strongly. If anyone does not realize how important private ownership of property is to both our freedom and our prosperity, they should do a more detailed study of economics and world history. The most prosperous countries in the world, without exception, have been those that gave the greatest protection to private property. Not only is it important to individuals, it is important to government as well.

It sounds great for a politician to create a park; however, now that we have so many Federal, State, and local parks, we cannot take care of them properly. Also, most of them are vastly underused. But more importantly, when property goes from private to public ownership, it goes off the tax rolls. This means that taxes have to continually go up on the property that remains in private hands for the always increasing costs of schools and other public functions.

We can never satisfy government's appetite for money or land, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat that. We can never satisfy government's appetite for money or land. They always want more. The Federal Government already owns over 30 percent of the land in this Nation. Another 20 percent is held by State or local governments or quasi-governmental agencies. So today about half the land is in some type of public ownership. But government always wants more and is continuously taking more. In addition, there are more and more restrictions being placed on the land that remains in private ownership, so developers are having to crowd more and more people into apartments, townhouses, or homes on postage-stamp lots, all at a rapidly escalating prices.

Some have said we do not need to worry about this decision because this new power will be used sparingly by local governments. Those who say that either do not really believe very strongly in the right of private property or they do not realize how government at all levels can rationalize or justify almost anything, especially almost any taking of property.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in her dissent against the Court's decision said: "The Court today significantly expands the meaning of public use. It holds that the sovereign may take private property currently put to ordinary private use and give it over for new, ordinary private use so long as the new use is predicted to generate some secondary benefit for the public, such as increased tax revenue . . . But nearly any lawful use of real private property can be said to generate some incidental benefit to the public. Thus," she said, "there really is now no realistic constraint on the taking of private property."

Justice O'Connor went on to say, "For who among us can say she already

makes the most productive or attractive possible use of her property? The specter of condemnation hangs over all property. Nothing is to prevent the State from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory."

She later added, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process . . . As for the victims, the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

In my home region of East Tennessee, government has taken huge amounts of land. Almost all has been taken from poor or lower-income families who would be wealthy today if they still had their beautiful land. Justice Clarence Thomas said in his dissent, "Something has gone seriously awry with this Court's interpretation of the Constitution. Though citizens are safe from the government in their homes, the homes themselves are not." Justice Thomas went on to say, "The consequences of today's decision are not difficult to predict, and promise to be harmful . . . Extending the concept of public purpose to encompass any economically beneficial goal guarantees that these losses will fall disproportionately on the poor."

Mr. Speaker, this decision by the U.S. Supreme Court is a very dangerous one and will end up being especially harmful to the poor and lower-income and working people of this country.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take away everything you have."

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JERALD AUGUST GLAUBITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY.) Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the men and women of America's greatest generation, the generation that saved freedom and defeated tyranny, pass quietly from this life each day. Too quietly, I believe. For this generation of Americans must never forget that we are the beneficiaries of their selfless acts and their sacrifice. They made America what it is today: free, strong, and vibrant.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and salute the many contributions of one member of that great generation, Jerald August Glaubitz, who passed away on April 26 at the age of 84.

□ 1700

Jerry Glaubitz was a constituent of mine. He was a friend of mine. In some