



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005

No. 138

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 26, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Mark Vander Meer, Pastor, Monocacy Valley Church, Ijamsville, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You in awe and wonder, recognizing that it is by Your grace and sustaining love that we awoke to enjoy the blessings and challenges of this new day.

It is by Your will and providence that You called our great country into being and entrusted leaders to steward and manage it on Your behalf. This is no easy task. The decisions that this body must make are difficult, complicated, and impact the lives of so many. I pray that Your Spirit would inhabit this Chamber and fill the hearts and minds of all who lead with the wisdom, discernment, and insight that only comes from You.

May all that takes place this day be an act of worship, honoring both You and the people we serve. To You be honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPITO 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.

SPECIALIST RICHARD A. HARDY

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

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect upon the service and life of a great American, Specialist Richard A. Hardy, who was killed in action while fulfilling his duty to the United States of America.

Specialist Hardy was born in Timken, OH, and last resided in Newcomerstown, OH. He was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Benning, GA. Spe-

cialist Hardy gave the last full measure of devotion to his country in Ar Ramadi, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Madam Speaker, Specialist Hardy represents the best that America has to offer. I want to give my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Specialist Hardy. His sacrifice will not be forgotten. May God rest his soul.

THE VALERIE PLAME INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, it is time for someone in the Bush administration to be held accountable for the leaking of the identity of a covert CIA operative. Washington Republicans are already attempting to minimize in advance the special prosecutor's findings. Anyone who does not believe leaking a CIA operative's identity is a serious breach of national security should listen to the words of our President's father, who served not only as President but as director of the CIA.

During a speech at the CIA in 1999 he said, "I have nothing but contempt and anger for those who betray the trust by exposing the names of our sources. They are, in my view, the most insidious of traitors." That is the President's father, a former Republican President himself.

While his son's administration is working in secret to destroy Joseph Wilson's name, it was the former President Bush who sent a letter to Wilson congratulating him for his service to his country and sending his sympathies that his wife's identity had been made public. President Bush should listen to his father. He should not condone these outrageous actions, should fire anyone involved, and hold them in utter contempt.

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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TEXAS SHERIFF RICK FLORES

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I traveled to the United States-Mexico border and spent time patrolling the Rio Grande River with Sheriff Rick Flores and his deputies of Webb County, Texas. Sheriff Flores is a determined lawman. He is fighting invasion of illegal immigration and the war against the dangerous, violent drug cartels that are slithering into the United States.

Flores has only 13 deputies to patrol a county bigger than Delaware. In the tense border towns like Laredo, Rio Bravo and El Cenizo, the war between the drug cartels is waging and getting more dangerous every day. These drug outlaws have more money, extra manpower, better electronic equipment, a better intelligence network, and better firepower than the sheriff and his posse.

The sheriff needs Humvees, body armor, off-road vehicles, satellite phones, GPS systems and much more to fight this battle against drug cartels and human smugglers. Madam Speaker, Sheriff Flores has a passion to protect Texas and all of America. Sheriff Flores put it best when he said protecting our borders is not a partisan issue, it is a red, white, and blue issue. Madam Speaker, that is just the way it is.

CHILDREN AT RISK

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, every day on the floor, we have much spirited debate. Often there is some agreement. But I think there is one thing that every Member of this Chamber can agree, the needless loss to water-borne disease of a child every 15 seconds. Four children will die before I finish my 1-minute here this morning. This sum is a tragedy that we must and should act to avert.

The good news is it is something we can change. We can make water and sanitation a cornerstone of United States foreign aid policy. We have legislation moving through our House International Relations Committee, passed unanimously, that would make this important change. There is legislation on the other body, encouragingly introduced by both the majority leader and the minority leader, that is parallel in nature.

Yesterday, Chairman HYDE and I invited each Member of the House to join over 60 other bipartisan cosponsors to add their names to H.R. 1973, the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. This critical bipartisan legislation will enable the United States to fulfill our international obligation and prevent this tragic, unnecessary loss of life around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JOEL STUBBLEFIELD

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated educator, Joel Stubblefield, who passed away last week. Mr. Stubblefield assumed the role of chancellor at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, in 2002. Without his vision and efforts, that role would have never existed. While he always gave the credit to others, Mr. Stubblefield's initiatives transformed Westark, which was a very successful 2-year community college which he had been president of for many, many years, into a full-fledged 4-year institution that became part of the University of Arkansas system.

Under his stewardship, UAFS blossomed, the faculty ranks doubled, student enrollment nearly doubled and private giving, a measure of the school support, skyrocketed. He worked tirelessly to accomplish these feats. In fact, he worked so hard that at one point the school's trustees had to vote to force him to take a vacation.

Madam Speaker, 2 days ago I joined over 1,000 people at the UAFS campus to say our final good-byes to Joel Stubblefield. While he may no longer be with us, the impact he left on the community of Fort Smith will remain literally for generations to come. He was dedicated in every way to making a difference in the lives of his students, and our communities are a better place because of his efforts.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR PAKISTANI NATIONALS

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy today to acquire temporary protected status for Pakistani nationals in this country. Madam Speaker, as we know, Pakistan has been devastated by a 7.6 Richter scale earthquake. Thousands upon thousands are without homes. Thousands upon thousands have died. There is much assistance needed. The Pakistani nationals in the country, Madam Speaker, would be given an opportunity to stay for an additional 12 months, which would give the country an opportunity to try to recover from the devastation that it has suffered.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan effort. I thank all of those on both sides who are supporting H.R. 4073. This is the right thing for us to do. The Pakistani people are suffering. These are our allies in the war on terrorism, and this would give us an opportunity to clearly extend the hand of friendship to those who have been of assistance to us.

PRIME MINISTER, FREE THE DALITS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, earlier this month a human rights conference was held on Capitol Hill on the issue of the Dalits of India. We learned that India's caste system was established 3,000 years ago. It allows a powerful few to dominate the many, but not everyone has a caste.

A group once called the Dalits, "the untouchables," have none. They are literally outcast, some 250 to 300 million people. Often the Dalits are treated worse than animals, denied access to water, food, health care, even clothing, because they are deemed unworthy of these things. The vast injustice done to these people is indescribable. The Dalits are attacked not only physically, but various community members, sometimes even the police, attack them.

India is a great friend to America. As the world's largest democracy, it holds limitless potential; but just as slavery and the unequal treatment of African Americans blemished our record for much of our history, so the treatment of Dalits will hold our friend India back.

Countries that protect the rights and freedoms of all people are more stable and more prosperous. Once America came to accept that all citizens were equal and deserved equal opportunity to build a better life, we became a stronger Nation, and our calls for freedom elsewhere carry more credibility, because we grant it to all of our citizens. If they free the Dalits, India's will, too.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the proposed Republican budget cuts and the harmful impact that will have on women across the country. The Republican budget slashes Medicaid by \$10 billion, a vital program for the health and welfare of women of all ages. It provides essential care such as family planning, breast and cervical cancer treatment, and care for disabled women to more than 16 million women, including approximately 10 million women of child-bearing age. In California alone, in my State, over 3.7 million women of all ages are enrolled in Medicaid and 1.3 million Medicaid beneficiaries are recipients in Los Angeles County. Medicaid ensures that women receive a full spectrum of maternity coverage, including prenatal, labor, delivery, and postpartum care. Medicaid is one of the largest sources of funding for women over the age of 80 living in nursing homes, covering nursing home costs and long-term care services.