

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 361) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 361

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, March 16, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, March 16, 2006, Friday, March 17, 2006, or Saturday, March 18, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, March 27, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday, March 20, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 361, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2006

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING ELEANOR SLATER

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to Eleanor Slater, a great friend who passed away this week. Known as the grande dame of Rhode Island Democratic politics, Eleanor blazed trails for many people in our state, but especially for women. She began her distinguished political career in 1958 as a Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly, and championed issues such as mental health, fair housing and especially issues affecting senior citizens.

Always thinking of the next generation, she was a great advisor to many former and current politicians, including myself, Congressman PATRICK KENNEDY, and Senator JACK REED. She had the foresight and belief that I could run for Secretary of State and win that race, which I did. She served as an honorary chair on many of my campaigns and taught me valuable lessons that I still carry with me today.

While I am sad to say goodbye to such a wonderful woman, at 97 years old, we should celebrate Eleanor's long distinguished life. Eleanor, you made a difference. May God bless you and keep you safe in His care.

HONORING MR. LEROY ROBBINS

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to honor the life of a very generous man whose service to his family and community made him extraordinary to those of us privileged to know him.

Mr. Leroy Robbins passed away on Sunday, March 5, 2006 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Robbins leaves behind his wife, Bernice, nine children, 28 grandchildren and 52 great grandchildren. Yet his legacy extend far beyond his own family.

Mr. Robbins was extraordinary because of his faithfulness in the simple and precious things in life. For more than 50 years, he served as a 4-H Livestock Club Leader.

As a child, I lost my own father and Mr. Robbins' mentorship helped to fill the profound loss created by that particular event. His kindness shined through as he opened his home, lovingly called "Robbins Roost" to 30 4-H club Members. He and Mrs. Robbins patiently taught us how to make things, how to improve ourselves and how to be leaders. He just helped us participate in the joy of discovery through the wonderful array of 4-H club opportunities.

Mr. Robbins was a man of generosity, compassion and integrity. In life he demonstrated what it meant to be extraordinary and undoubtedly, his legacy will live on in the lives of those he touched, particularly mine.

HONORING AMEDEE "DICK" RICHARDS, JR.

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Amedee Richards, Jr., a treasured member of the South Pasadena community who died Thursday at the age of 84. He was a great man who served for many years as mayor, councilman, and as a small business owner, and he will long be remembered for his influential leadership and the preservation of South Pasadena.

Dick Richards was one of the first people I sought out years ago to get his advice on issues important to the city. He and I shared a background in law enforcement. He was an FBI agent, and I was a Federal prosecutor and we instantly hit it off. Over the years, I continued to turn to him and always valued his thoughtful counsel.

He led many communities endeavors, founding the South Pasadena Relay For Life, serving as President of the Mission West Association, and later, as a founding member of the New South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. With his wife, Clara, he also opened Family Fair, a gift and candy store, as well as Buster's Ice Cream and Coffee Shop, which both immediately became South Pasadena landmarks. He also helped to start the weekly Farmers' Market in the Mission West District.

I want to express my sincere condolences to the entire family. Sadly, that tremendous family lost another member in the last few days. Dick's eldest son, Amedee III, passed away on Monday morning. My heart goes out to the entire Richards family, Dick's wife, Clara, two sons, six daughters and 15 grandchildren.

Dick called South Pasadena a kind of oasis. In this time of immense grief, I hope our community is comforted in knowing that Dick's legacy as a devoted public servant will live on in the vibrant oasis that he helped to create in South Pasadena.

I rise today to honor Amedee "Dick" Richards Jr., a treasured member of the South Pasadena community, who died Thursday at the age of 84. He was a great man who served for many years—as mayor, councilman, and as a small business owner—and will long be remembered for his influential leadership in the preservation of South Pasadena.

Dick Richards was one of the first people I sought out years ago for advice on issues important to the city. He and I shared a background in law enforcement (he was an FBI agent, and I was a federal prosecutor) and we instantly hit it off. Over the years, I continued to turn to him and always valued his thoughtful counsel. His work, his family, and indeed his life are tremendous examples of what makes South Pasadena such a strong community.

He led many community endeavors, founding the South Pasadena Relay for Life (an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society), serving as President of the Mission West Association, and later as a founding member of the New South Pasadena Chamber of

Commerce. With his wife Clara, he also opened Family Fair, a gift and candy store, as well as Buster's Ice Cream and Coffee Shop, which both immediately became instant South Pasadena landmarks. He also helped to start the weekly Farmers' Market in the Mission West District in 1999.

Dick was a man respected and admired by his colleagues and peers. Serving on the South Pasadena City Council from 1989 to 1997, he was admired for both his integrity and courage, always voting his conscience. Dick called South Pasadena a "kind of an oasis" and sought to preserve the small town characteristics that made it unique. Those who worked with him considered themselves fortunate, and as current Mayor Odom Stamps has acknowledged, Dick has "huge shoes that no one person will even remotely fill."

He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1922 and graduated from Boston University in 1943. He then entered the Naval Reserve, serving during World War II in the Pacific theater as an ensign on a mine-sweeper. After WWII, he joined the FBI working specifically on Mafia cases and investigating the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. He retired from the FBI in 1977, founding Family Fair that same year.

I want to express my sincere condolences to his entire family. And sadly, this tremendous family lost another member in the last few days. Dick's eldest son, Amedee III, passed away on Monday morning. My heart goes out to the entire Richards family, Dick's wife Clara, 2 sons, 6 daughters, and 15 grandchildren.

In this time of immense grief, I hope that our community is comforted in knowing that Dick's legacy as a devoted public servant will live on in the vibrant "oasis" that he created in South Pasadena.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, AND HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MARCH 28, 2006

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT, the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON, and the Honorable WAYNE T. GILCHREST to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through March 28, 2006.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 404a), I am transmitting a report prepared by my Administration on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 16, 2006.

AMERICA CAN DO BETTER

(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. Madam Speaker, today and yesterday, we spent time on the floor of the House trying to construct a legislative initiative in the emergency supplemental to rebuild lives of Americans. We also attempted to respond to the rising crisis in Iraq. And I rise today to simply say that I know that America can do better.

In the course of that debate, I heard a story of a woman whose husband is in Iraq, and she is looking to try to understand where the funding is going, or where are the monies that have been appropriated going, because her husband is writing back and telling her about contaminated water and lack of equipment.

And then of course, I met a mother in my district who wondered why her son had to be redeployed for the third time to Iraq. I know America can do better. I am hoping as this emergency supplemental makes its way to the United States Senate that our colleagues, working with the administration, will understand that it is time now to redeploy our troops to bring them home in the honor and victory that they deserve, and then, of course, invest in the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast and not causing the stigmatizing of any of those who have suffered the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, and certainly provide the funding that the State of Texas needs once and for all, a State that has been impacted in a devastating way as we host those who are in need. It is time to do better for Americans.

□ 1845

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DRAKE). 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 North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will ap-

pear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NEW YORK TROOPER ANDREW SPERR

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I request permission to take Mr. JONES' time.

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

There was no objection.

The Speaker pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor New York State Trooper Andrew Sperr. Each person who wears a badge walks a thin blue line between life and death. Their families wonder when their police officer reports for duty, if that person will return home.

On March 1, 2006, Trooper Sperr did not return. He was shot and killed in the line of duty during a blazing gun fight with bank robbers in Big Flats, New York. Just after noon, Andrew Sperr stopped to investigate a suspicious pickup truck on the side of the road. As he approached the vehicle, the robbery suspects opened the door and opened fire on him, striking him multiple times. At least one round struck him in the right side above his body armor.

He was a dedicated lawman, so Trooper Sperr was able to return fire, and he wounded both of the suspects, which eventually led to their arrest, even though he was mortally wounded himself. Andrew Sperr was 33 years of age. He was from Greece, New York, and he had been a member of the New York State police force for 10 years.

Though he had no kids of his own, he was greatly involved in lives of his 10 siblings and their kids, and was godfather to several of his nieces and nephews. He was known as AJ to close family and friends, and he was remembered as always being the center of all activity.

He spent his free time on his 80-acre farm in Steuben County, New York. He loved the outdoors and in his other free time he was a hunter and a wildlife photographer. As a young kid, Andrew Sperr had wanted to serve his community by becoming a peace officer.

In his life and his death, service was his mission. Friends family and co-workers remember him as a compassionate public servant who generally cared about the people he came in contact with on a daily basis, no matter who they were. He had recently won the outstanding trooper award for the second year in a row.

When terrorists struck the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, Andrew Sperr was there. He volunteered to go and help the people of New York, as well as the citizens of the United States, by providing law enforcement in the aftermath of that attack on America.