



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006

No. 10

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,
February 1, 2006.

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 Don Davidson, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, our Heavenly Father, maker of all that there is, the One in whom we live and move and have our being. We pause at the beginning of this day to acknowledge that You are God, and we are not. We are but Your servants, and we humbly bow before You.

Thank You for this rich and diverse country, the United States of America, and for this great deliberative body and the role each Member plays in leading our government and charting our Nation's course.

Grant these men and women wisdom and courage for the decisions of this hour. Give them strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Speak, Lord, and may these hear You and obey You, that Your will can be done on Earth just as it is in Heaven.

We confess our sinfulness, but we are reminded of the scripture that says if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We ask for Your grace in abundance.

Through Jesus Christ, I pray. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

HELP OUR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to work more collectively and comprehensively in Congress during the legislative year ahead to help our local small businesses. The President stressed last night that the tax and economic policies to help small businesses lead to continued economic growth and new jobs. Now is the time to put those words into action.

During the past month, I have held town hall forums with small business owners and employees in New York's

Hudson Valley. We agreed that there are five areas that we should focus our efforts to help our small businesses:

One, lower health insurance costs for small businesses.

Two, stop excessive and redundant Federal regulations on small business.

Three, level the playing field for small businesses and give them the same advantages as larger companies.

Four, permanently end the death tax that is a direct hit on family-owned small businesses and family farms.

Five, extend tax relief for small businesses to help them grow and create jobs.

Let us fully demonstrate our commitment to small businesses by continuing to pursue legislative solutions to the challenges being faced by small businesses in the Hudson Valley and throughout our country.

THE "CHALLENGER" MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago, the seven crew members of the space shuttle "Challenger" tragically died while seeking the wonders and worlds of space.

In the tradition of great explorers of the past like Columbus, the Conquistadores and Lewis and Clark, the astronauts aboard the space shuttle "Challenger" were exploring and embarking on the last frontier when they gave their lives on January 28, 1986.

That courageous "Challenger" crew of Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnick, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis, high school teacher Christa McAuliffe and Texan Ronald McNair were the best of the brave, the bold and the brazen. They were not only remembered by NASA in my hometown of Houston, but throughout the world.

These magnificent seven epitomized the spirit of the explorers of old and

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H27

will be remembered for their sense of adventure and courage. Space exploration is America's marvelous mission that will continue to be our dream and our goal.

These seven brothers and sisters of space and their enduring legacy are part of that goal to conquer and to challenge space. That's just the way it is.

RONALD REAGAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, first I want to say it is a pleasure to be here with Reverend Don Davidson today. Reverend Davidson used to live in the Fifth District of Virginia, and I want to wish him the best in his new location in Alexandria.

Days before we observe Ronald Reagan's birthday, I think it important to share some of the achievements of Ronald Reagan's Oral History Project developed by the Miller Center at the University of Virginia.

This project began in August 2001. In 45 interviews, it has recorded volumes about President Reagan's political career. The purpose of the Oral History Project is to record recollections of persons apart from the pressures of incumbency.

A majority of the almost 3,000 pages of transcripts will be released later this month, and the Miller Center will hold a three-part forum to celebrate their release.

Nancy Reagan commented that the Miller Center has become a valuable part of our lives, as it works closely with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library to create a definitive oral history of the Reagan presidency.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 2006

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank the Nation and my fellow West Virginians for their prayers during our month of sorrow caused by our coal mining accidents. As you know, two major mining accidents took place in West Virginia, killing 12 miners at Sago mine in Upshur County and 2 at the Alma mine in Logan County. Today the West Virginia Congressional delegation, on a bipartisan basis, will introduce the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006. This mine safety legislation will require the Mine Safety and Health Administration to issue regulations to provide for immediate notification of mine accidents, new regulations for mine safety teams, and to ensure a quick response and improve technology to keep miners safe.

This legislation creates an MSHA Office of Science and Technology and ex-

amine mine safety and rescue technologies, including refuge chambers. The world watched as tragedy was averted in Canada this past weekend because 72 trapped miners were able to escape to a designated safe haven. American miners deserve to have the best safety equipment as well.

It is important that this House act on legislation to improve the safety of our coal mines. I spent time with the friends and family of the Sago mine victims, both as we awaited the news of the rescue efforts and after we heard the tragic result. I do not want to watch more families endure what the families of the Sago victims have gone through.

I urge my colleagues, whether your State is a major producer of coal or not, to join the West Virginia delegation in helping to prevent future mine tragedies.

HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that I introduced yesterday to delay penalties to local governments who are unable to meet the May deadlines imposed by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. As a former county commissioner with firsthand experience with local voting boards, I know how hard it is to maintain the high standards we hold for our democratic process while meeting prescribed Federal guidelines and deadlines. I know that many local governments across the Nation right now are struggling to meet HAVA's requirements at the risk of losing all of their Federal funding.

The "Help America Vote Act" was written to strengthen our election process, and to bring it up to date nationwide. For many areas this means buying new voting machines. This is no easy task, Madam Speaker, for many areas that are still using the same reliable machines that had been in use for many decades. Local governments need time to make such an important decision, not a deadline with a threat of Federal penalties.

My legislation buys more time for local governments who are acting in good faith to follow the letter of the law by extending HAVA's deadlines from May to the general election in November. This is commonsense reform of necessary legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, last night in this Chamber, as the President of the United States was encouraging Americans to support our troops, my wife was sitting in this gallery right over here, and she was or-

dered to leave the gallery because she was doing, and this was in the middle of the President's speech, what the President said we should all do.

She had on this shirt, a very conservative shirt, long sleeves, high neck. But it says "Support our Troops." Someone at this door in the gallery ordered her to leave. When she got into the corridor, they explained to her that she was a demonstrator, that she was a protester. Besides that they lied about what she did. They said she had on a jacket, she flashed open the jacket and exposed this shirt. Not true. She did not have a jacket on. Then they called her a demonstrator and a protester.

When asked about this incident by a reporter from the St. Petersburg Times in my home district, they denied, denied, and said she left on her own volition.

My wife supports our troops on every day, every hour, every waking hour. It is with a passion, because of a passion that comes from the hours and the days and the weeks and the months that she has spent in our military hospitals ministering to those who have been wounded in the line of duties, helping with their families.

Yes, she has a real passion for our troops, and she shows it in many, many ways. Most members in this House know that. But because she had on a shirt that someone did not like that said "Support our Troops," she was kicked out of this gallery while the President was speaking and encouraging Americans to support our troops. Shame, shame.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1305

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.