



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2006

No. 87—Book II

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend W. Douglas Tanner, Jr., President, The Faith & Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You this morning conscious that 230 years ago next Tuesday, the Founders of our Nation declared certain truths to be self-evident: that You created us all equal and endowed us with the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For the clarity of their insight, we are profoundly grateful. For the myriad of ways even they found to disregard those truths, and the ways we continue to, we seek Your pardon.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." We, too, should tremble; sometimes we do. Yet we trust in Your grace and mercy to save us from both our adversaries and ourselves.

Guide us, we pray, to understand as Reinhold Niebuhr that nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by faith. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4912. An act to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA program for mortgage insurance for hospitals.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5122. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2766. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2767. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2768. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2769. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for defense activities of

the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 5122) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON (FL), Mr. NELSON (NE), Mr. DAYTON, Mr. BAYH and Mrs. CLINTON, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

WELCOMING REVEREND W. DOUGLAS TANNER, JR.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our guest chaplain for the morning is the Reverend Doug Tanner. Doug Tanner is a Methodist minister, native of the great State of North Carolina, a man of great faith, a man of dedication, a man of commitment.

Doug Tanner was inspired by God Almighty to do what I call get in the way. Somehow and some way he was touched, not just by the spirit of history, but by the spirit of the Almighty to find a way to bring Members together, both Democrats and Republicans, both Members of the House and Members of the Senate. Doug was inspired to become the founding father of

□ 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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Faith and Politics. Through this organization, through this effort, he has been a blessing to many of us.

So, Reverend Doug Tanner, we want to thank you for being here today, but we want to thank you for helping all of us to become better people of faith.

Many of our colleagues may not know that many of us get together with you from time to time to put our faith in action. You have led many of us to go back to Alabama and visit the historic sites of the civil rights movement; to go to Tennessee and do likewise; to go to Farmville, Virginia; to go to South Africa. Again, we want to thank you for helping us to be reconciled to others.

When historians pick up their pen and write about this period during this part of our congressional lives, they will have to say that the Reverend Doug Tanner made a lasting contribution to the cause of justice, to the cause of freedom, and made each one of us better human beings and better legislators and better individuals of faith. I thank the Reverend.

HONORING REVEREND W. DOUGLAS TANNER, JR.

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to honor Doug Tanner. Doug has done an extraordinary job of bringing House and Senate Members, both sides of the aisle, together.

I have had the privilege, as have many Members, to be a part of the trips to Montgomery and to Selma; to be a part of the trip to South Africa to learn more about AIDS and more about apartheid and more about reconciliation. That really has been what Doug's life has been about here at the U.S. Capitol, bringing people together, getting people to work together, getting people to pray together; and he will be missed.

So, on behalf of those that have had the experience of knowing Doug Tanner, Mr. Speaker, and knowing the great work that he has done, I will say that he will be missed. I know that his lovely wife Kathy and he will enjoy now future opportunities to bring people together, to pray together and to work together; and we wish you well.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Doug Tanner today for helping those of us who work here to honor one another. Godspeed, Reverend Tanner.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the Senate to please bring the Water Resources Development Act to the floor for passage before the August recess.

We passed WRDA, as it is known, the Water Resources Development Act, here in the House on July 14, 2005, almost a year ago. It still awaits action in the Senate. I am encouraged by recent reports that the parties over in the other body have agreed to a critical debate on this bill; yet we await a schedule.

Indian River Lagoon is one of the important projects contained in WRDA, helping the Indian River Lagoon, comprehensive Everglades restoration, helping reconstruct damage caused by dikes, levees and a number of other public works projects over 70 years.

The Everglades needs our help. It needs our help now. The polluted waters of Florida are in desperate need of rehabilitation. WRDA would solve many of these problems.

I urge Senator FRIST to bring up WRDA, and hopefully it will pass so the House and the Senate can be on record of supporting the environment.

THE CONSTITUTION: DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT IT

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The New York Times annual subscription, \$309.40. The Treasury Department secretly looking at your financial records, very expensive. The Constitution of the United States, priceless.

Some want freedom of the press to be contingent on writing nice things about the Bush administration. For all others, there is the Constitution and the first amendment. The Constitution of the United States: Don't leave the House without it.

EMINENT DOMAIN REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the President for his recent executive order limiting the eminent domain powers of the Federal Government. This order is a significant step in the right direction.

This executive order comes 1 year after the Supreme Court's narrowly decided Kelo decision which essentially gutted the private property protection of the fifth amendment. Thankfully, across the country, State and local governments have begun to pass legislation rolling back the tide of eminent domain abuse.

In my home State of Georgia, the legislature recently passed and Governor Perdue signed significant emi-

nent domain reform legislation to protect the rights of Georgia's citizens from the government wrecking ball.

However, we in this Congress must do more; and, therefore, I call upon the Senate to take up and pass H.R. 4128, the Private Property Protection Act of 2005, which this House passed last November by a bipartisan and overwhelming vote.

With the 4th of July approaching, let's declare that this land is the American people's land and not the government's.

OMAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to the U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement.

The U.S. government, as you know, is prepared to open our market and risk our workers' jobs for a country which fails to respect workers and human rights. Oman not only bans unions, but it has been reported by our own State Department to have human trafficking and forced labor abuses.

The wage gap between men and women in Oman is one of the widest in the world, with women earning less than 22 percent of their male counterparts. Oman even bans night work and hard labor for women unless the sultan states otherwise. Yet the free trade agreement does not require Oman to protect women workers' rights and does not even require Oman to bring its domestic anti-discrimination laws into line with our international standards.

Oman will face no consequences if it chose to allow employers to violate existing maternity leave provisions or the ban on pregnancy based dismissals or continue to permit job discrimination based on sex.

We need a fair trade agreement, one that will help prevent the exporting of our workers' jobs. Let us turn down the Oman Free Trade Agreement.

WELCOMING HOME CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT GERALD MURRAY

(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, I rise today to welcome home Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray, who is returning this fall to Boiling Springs, North Carolina, after 29 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Chief Murray grew up in Boiling Springs, a town in my district, and entered the Air Force in October of 1977. He was stationed in Florida, South Carolina, Washington and Georgia, and also served overseas in Turkey and Japan, before being deployed to support Desert Storm and Southern Watch.

As the 14th chief master sergeant, the highest noncommissioned officer in