

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art along with Ross and Marianna Kistler Beach for their contributions to our society. Kansas is proud to have the museum for our enlightenment and enjoyment. And I am also proud to call Ross and Marianna Beach my friends and fellow Kansans.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. BOYDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Last weekend, I spoke on a panel about civics and civility at Kansas State University. And during the question-and-answer time, a teacher stood up and asked me a question. She said, Do you know of any books that might be like a checklist that I could share, be a checklist on teaching my kids civics and civility? I thought for a minute, and I said, As a matter of fact, I do.

I am holding it right here in my hand, Mr. Speaker. It is the Bible. This particular copy was my mother's Bible. And it is the one that I was sworn in last January. So it has a great deal of meaning to me. The lessons in the Bible are truly a checklist for decent living. In Matthew 22, when the disciples asked what is the greatest commandment, it is to love our God with all of our heart and soul and mind, and the second is likened to it, to love thy neighbor as thyself. And then He says, on these hang all the laws and the prophets. Love thy neighbor as thyself. Very clear. Judge not lest you be judged.

The Bible has all the wisdom that we need to bring our country together. And that's why I'm glad the House is pausing tonight to recognize the start of National Bible Week. Faith has an important role to play in the lives of all Americans. It is a role that may be more important today in these dangerous and complicated times than ever before. And it is a role that we, yes, we as public servants have to defend.

Just last month, the Architect of the Capitol refused to fulfill a citizen's request for a flag certificate that referred to devotion to God. Just last week, the National Cemetery Administration banned a flag folding ceremony used at veterans' funerals because of references to God. Let's be clear: neither mentioning God in a flag certificate nor speaking of God in a funeral ceremony poses any threat to the separation of church and State. Not only is speaking about religion permitted by the Constitution; it is a right that is protected by the first amendment.

Thankfully, both of these bans have been reversed, and not a moment too soon. As we begin National Bible Week, I hope that all of my colleagues and citizens across America will pause to recognize the role that faith plays in

all of our lives to reflect on the lessons of the Bible. It is our guidebook. It is our guidebook to civics and civility, as well. It is our how-to guide for public service. Everything we need is right here, folks. It is right here between these two covers.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I look at the time, it is about 13 years ago exactly at this moment that I was standing at the altar saying, "I do" to the love of my life. So I must begin by wishing a happy 13th anniversary to the most beautiful woman in the world, with all respect to those ladies that are here present. I guess every marriage has obviously some high points and some disappointments.

And the other reason for me coming to floor is to actually speak about the disappointment that I have with the White House, particularly with its veto of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act, often referred to as WRDA. This veto, if I must say so, was ill advised and I expect will be overridden by this House tomorrow and the Senate in the coming days.

I acknowledge that the President, during the veto message, mentioned that when the WRDA bill left the House, it was about \$15 billion. The Senate's version was at 14 billion. And the final version of the water resources bill was somewhere around 23 billion. Yet certainly the White House understands that the bill that left the House had different priorities emphasized, different projects were being considered by the Senate and as such when the conference was convened, those bills had to be combined. The President, in his veto message, said, in essence, I fully support funding for water resources projects.

Respectfully, I must point out that the President's budget each year woefully underfunds the Army Corps of Engineers budget in my view, the operations and maintenance budget. And the White House went on with its veto message to say, My administration has repeatedly urged Congress to authorize only those projects that provide a high return on investment.

Well, I share the White House's belief that taxpayers deserve a dollar's worth of services for every dollar they remit in taxes. But just looking at water resources projects in terms of dollars and cents is what caused us to only have category 3 levees in New Orleans. We have seen how short-sighted that decision was. In fact, I would suggest that over the last 25 years, every dollar that the Corps has invested in flood control has been returned six-fold in potential damages that had been averted.

A WRDA bill has not been passed by Congress in 7 years. Communities

around this Nation are now in desperate need for projects such as levees and protective coastal wetlands. Moreover, in the past 7 years, our waterborne transportation infrastructure has continued to crumble. There are 192 active locks on navigable waterways in this Nation. The average age is 60. The President, by his veto, is choosing to ignore these needs, possibly harming the lives and certainly the livelihoods of millions of people in this country.

One of the most important projects for the Missouri-Illinois delegations is the much-needed modernization of the five locks on the upper Mississippi River and two on the Illinois waterway. This is something that we helped author back in the 108th Congress. And certainly I acknowledge my good friends and supporters of this, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL), the dynamic duo from Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. SHIMKUS on our side of the aisle, and also Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member BAKER have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

Look, these locks are vital to farmers, manufacturers and many other industries in Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. These locks on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers facilitate the movement of 100 million tons of cargo every year. While almost 50 percent, half of this is cargo, is agricultural, the river also transports asphalt for road construction, coal for electricity. In fact, did you know that every gallon of jet fuel that is used at O'Hare and Midway Airports in Chicago is transported on our navigable waterways?

The shipments of these products via the river saves the American public between \$800 million and \$2 billion over other modes of transportation. Certainly I would suggest that while not every farmer in the region uses the river to ship crops, all growers are impacted by it. Every day the price of grain a farmer receives at his home market is based on the price of grain that moves on the Mississippi River to export markets. The lower the cost of transportation here within our own borders, the lower the cost of U.S. grain is on the world market, the more grain the United States is able to sell to our foreign trading partners.

As some in this Chamber know, I have a personal experience shipping on the river. I grew up in the shadow of the levees along the Mississippi in southeast Missouri. Lock modernization, I can assure you, will ensure that farmers in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere continue to have the same benefit that my family had growing up on our family's farm, the ability to ship crops to international markets via the most cost-effective method.

Now, many of these locks, unfortunately, are being held together with bailing wire and duct tape. Our senior

Senator, Senator BOND, is fond of saying that these locks belong on the National Register of Historic Places. He is actually mistaken. They are already on the National Registry of Historic Places.

I urge this House to override the President's veto.

□ 1945

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that I come after the gentleman from Missouri, because before leaving home down in South Carolina this morning, I went to dedicate a water project in a part of my State where they have a real problem with potable water, and extensive health problems as well. During that ceremony, it was asked of me what kind of guarantee that I have that this water project would be seen to fruition. This morning we were dedicating the first phase. There are two others.

In answering the question, I referred to the greatest of all books, the Bible. I referred to the Book of Hebrew, the 11th chapter. I call that the faith chapter of the Bible. I quoted Hebrew 11:1: Faith, the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. I quoted that because in our work here, much of the time, though we don't view our work as being grounded in the Bible, we often strike out on faith. We have a little idea sometimes of exactly where any issue is going. I do believe that as we carry out our duties and responsibilities to the people of this great Nation, sometimes we ought to pause and give credence to where that emanates from.

So I am pleased that my good friend from Illinois asked me to come down tonight and to join in this special order commemorating the Bible during National Bible Week. When I was growing up, my father, who was a fundamentalist minister, never asked me to read the Bible, never instructed me to do so. He just told me every morning at the breakfast table to recite a Bible verse. Now, it would be a little difficult to do that without reading the Bible. He made sure that we didn't do the same one twice. Daddy set down the rule. He took Jesus' whip off the table. So it was very, very important for me to read the Bible daily.

He also had a second rule, and that is that every night before retiring to bed, we had to share with our parents, or one of them, some current event. He would often have ways of showing us how that particular event that we may have shared was grounded in the Good Book.

So long before I became House Majority Whip, I assumed the leadership of the Democrats' Faith Working Group. For the last 3 years now, Mr. Speaker, it has been my great joy to work with the members of our caucus, trying to get our membership comfortable with the fact that our work here is in fact faith-based.

If you doubt it, then I ask all of my colleagues to just take a look at my favorite book of the Bible, the Book of James. It has got nothing to do with my name, though that would not be a bad thing. It's a very short book, but it tells us a lot about our responsibility. There, in the second chapter of James, we are all instructed that if your brother or sister comes to you hungry and naked, it is not enough to tell them to go in faith; you feed them and you clothe them.

That is what this Congress is all about. This Congress is about doing those things that are necessary to make sure that our constituents and make sure that our citizens are fed that need to be fed or clothed that need to be clothed. I do believe if James were writing his epistle today, he would also tell us it is also important to house them when they need shelter.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this year the week of November 18–24th has been designated "National Bible Week," a week to renew our interest in the Bible and to recognize the influence that the Bible has had in our lives and on our nation throughout its history.

As a child growing up in West Virginia, I was encouraged by my father to read the Bible daily, because he found such solace and comfort in the Word. As Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want, I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."

Knowing this soothes and comforts my soul in times of distress. It is my guiding light that keeps me centered and focused and I derive great joy from reading the scriptures during my time of mediation and reflection.

Today, God's Word written in the Holy Scriptures of the Bible is important to me both as an individual and as a leader. It is the Bible that guides me through the day, as I seek to make decisions that will affect people in my state and in our nation—decisions that require a wisdom that is found throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

It is the Word of God written in the Bible that gives me the fortitude I need to carry out my responsibilities as a friend, a father, a husband, and a Congressman. The Bible provides the wisdom to know how to respond to my family and constituents during times of dire crisis.

For these reasons, and many more, I thank God that we have a manual for our daily living in the Bible.

As we face the unforeseen challenges that lie ahead, both at home and abroad, I encourage all Americans to read the Bible and read it often, to study its teachings, and to make it an important part of their lives.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. OBEY submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health And Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 110-424)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3043) 'making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes', having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.

Sec. 2. References.

Sec. 3. Statement of Appropriations.

DIVISION A—LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, 2008

Title I—Department of Labor

Title II—Department of Health and Human Services

Title III—Department of Education

Title IV—Related Agencies

Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, 2008

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs

Title III—Related Agencies

Title IV—General Provisions

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

For necessary expenses of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 ("WIA"), the Denali Commission Act of 1998, and the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Act