



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

No. 49

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Thomas J. McCarthy, St. Paul Catholic Church, Salem, Ohio offered the following prayer:

God, we acknowledge Your gracious presence among us. We acknowledge the human limitations that bind us. We know how many of Your people depend upon our wisdom and our ways to better their lives and brighten their tomorrows. We are aware of Your call to serve Your people well.

With these huge tasks ahead of us, we call upon You for wisdom, guidance and a sense of concern for what is right and good. Give us a generous share of Your spirit and Your love for Your people. Guide our minds and hearts in the right ordering of human affairs.

We seek today to be a source of hope and assistance to Your people; we seek today to find the opportunity to make peace with justice for all people the badge of our service. In this we ask Your continued help. 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 gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan 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.

WELCOMING AND HONORING FATHER THOMAS J. MCCARTHY

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Father McCarthy for your inspiring prayer.

Albert Einstein once said that "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." And for almost 46 years Father Tom McCarthy has served the Diocese of Youngstown as a priest, and in that service he has lived that motto.

A Warren native, Father McCarthy attended St. Mary's School and St. Mary's High School, which was the predecessor to my alma mater, John F. Kennedy High School. After his seminary training, he was ordained on August 15, 1961 in St. Columba Cathedral by Bishop Emmet Walsh.

Those who know him would describe Father McCarthy as pastoral, charming, gregarious, a great friend, funny, everything Irish, and above all, holy in his service to God.

Father McCarthy has served at many parishes in the Youngstown Diocese, including St. Ed's in Youngstown, St. Joseph's in Austintown, St. William's in Champion, St. Michael's in Canfield, Blessed Sacrament in Warren and St. Joseph's in Mantua.

Father McCarthy has also spent much of his career in service to other priests. He has served as Diocesan Director of Vocations, Priest Personnel Adviser, a member of the Priest Personnel Board, and for 6 years served as a director of that board. Father McCarthy also spent time in Chicago as president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils. Since 2003, he has served as the Bishop's Delegate for Retired Priests.

I am happy to have invited, along with my colleague, Charlie Wilson, Father McCarthy to Washington, D.C. I thank him for his service to our community, for his prayer this morning, and for his many, many years of service to the Catholic Church.

WELCOMING AND HONORING FATHER THOMAS J. MCCARTHY

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I join my distinguished colleague from Ohio, Mr. RYAN, in welcoming Father Thomas McCarthy to the Congress today.

After an active and impressive career serving the people of northeastern Ohio, Father McCarthy has retired to St. Paul's Parish in Salem, which is in Ohio's Sixth Congressional District which I represent. As the Sixth District Representative in Congress, I am honored to represent Father McCarthy, and I am also pleased to welcome him here today.

While Father McCarthy may have officially retired, he is showing no signs of slowing down. To this day, Father McCarthy remains active in the diocese, where he serves as the Bishop's Delegate for Retired Priests.

The people at St. Paul's describe Father McCarthy as a beloved and dedicated member of their close-knit community. They say he is someone who

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never hesitates to help someone in need, whether that means making a late-night hospital visit to pray with the sick, or comforting a family member during the death and funeral of a loved one.

We are so lucky to have Father McCarthy among us here today in Congress. We are even more fortunate to have his unwavering commitment and faith guiding us each day in the Ohio Valley.

IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, the House is scheduled to take up an emergency supplemental spending bill to fund our troops in Iraq. But the other side has worked themselves into a dilemma over this bill to pander to their left-wing base. The Democrats have included language in the bill that sets an arbitrary date for withdrawing our troops, whether we have achieved victory or not. While that pleases the far left, the more moderate Democrats are rightfully concerned about congressional micromanagement of the war. So what is the solution? Load the bill up with pork to pressure Members to vote for it.

At last count, the supposed emergency supplemental now contains more than \$20 billion in unrelated spending. I think most Americans agree that the money they want to spend on spinach subsidies and peanut storage would be better spent on body armor and Humvees for our troops.

Madam Speaker, this bill fails both our troops in combat and the taxpayer here at home. Let's stop playing politics with emergency war funding, Madam Speaker. Let's have a clean supplemental.

IN MEMORY OF BISHOP G.E. PATTERSON

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday in Memphis, Tennessee, a giant of a man passed away: G.E. Patterson, the bishop of the Church of God in Christ, a congregation of over 6.5 million people worldwide headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee.

Bishop Patterson was born in Humboldt, Tennessee. He lived to the age of 67. He was a giant, godly man, who I last saw in November at a rally with President Clinton and Cybill Shepherd. At that time, Bishop Patterson knew he was dying, he had prostate cancer, but he knew where he was going. He was a bishop. He was a saint. He was a man who graced this planet. He was a valuable citizen and knows where he was going, and he is there now. I hope you will all share with me a moment of reflection upon the great life of Bishop

Patterson and what he has meant to this world.

THE MESSAGE COUNTS

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

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, in the upcoming debate on the supplemental, I just want to point out to my friends on both sides of the aisle that the message counts.

As we prepare for the debate on the supplemental appropriations bill, I want to caution my colleagues to bear in mind that our words are heard and seen all over the world by the Iraqi people, by our allies, and by our enemies.

The President has given guidance on benchmarks for the Iraqi Government to meet, but this does not give Congress license to attach timelines and penalties. If we do, we are undermining the authority of General Petraeus, to whom we have entrusted this very important mission.

Perhaps those who would vote in Congress to set deadlines, or any other maneuver aimed at limiting the ability of the White House and the Department of Defense to manage this dangerous situation under the guise of sending a message to the Iraqi leadership, will consider how their message will be received and interpreted by others.

The future stability of Iraq and the national security of the American people would be better served with a message that clearly states "We will stand with our allies and partners until Iraq's goal of stability is utilized."

□ 1010

AN APPEAL FOR SENIORCARE

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respectfully request that the administration be kind to Wisconsin's elders by granting a waiver to SeniorCare, an extraordinarily successful prescription drug program. SeniorCare does three things we should all appreciate: It saves tax dollars, it is nearly half the cost of Medicare part D, and it offers a broader range of prescription drugs to our elders.

The AARP found that 94 percent of SeniorCare enrollees are better served by SeniorCare than by part D. And SeniorCare is easy to understand. It has a simple, one-page application form and an annual fee of only \$30. Simply put, SeniorCare is a better program than Medicare part D and it should be imitated across America.

But SeniorCare cannot continue without permission from the Bush administration. I am appealing to the conscience of the President. Please, please be kind to our elders. Allow

SeniorCare to continue, for it saves not only taxpayers' money, it also saves their very lives.

SUPPORTING THE TROOPS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, our men and women in uniform deserve our wholehearted, unequivocal support protecting our freedoms. Our distinguished colleague, former Vietnam POW, Congressman SAM JOHNSON, has filed a discharge petition to bring to the floor of the House his bill, which declares to the United States Armed Forces that Congress will fully fund and support their mission. Unlike the proposed supplemental bill which undercuts our military, the Johnson legislation provides Members the opportunity to cast a clear vote in support of our troops.

As a 31-year veteran and also the father of four sons in the military, including one that served in Iraq, I understand the importance of supporting our troops. Bin Laden and his cohorts are committed to our destruction, declaring the Iraq war as the third world war and the central front in the global war on terrorism. Democrats and Republicans should work together to promote our troops' success to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SUPPORT H.R. 1234

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Four years ago this week, in violation of international law, standing upon a mountain of lies, the United States went to war against the people of Iraq. The U.S. now has a moral responsibility for the deaths of as many as 1 million innocent Iraqis, for the destruction of Iraq and the theft of billions in Iraq oil assets.

Those who told lies to take us into war should be held accountable under the U.S. Constitution and at the International Criminal Court. Instead of true accountability on the war, the President and the Vice President could get over \$100 billion to keep the war going through the end of their term. More war, more civilian deaths, more soldiers killed or maimed. Less money for housing, for health care, for education, for seniors as we borrow money from Beijing to fight a war in Baghdad.

Instead of accountability, the appropriations bill will mandate the privatization of \$6 trillion in Iraqi oil assets and provide money which can be used to attack Iran to try to grab another \$7 trillion in Iranian oil assets for the oil companies.

Support the troops. Stop the war. End the occupation. Support H.R. 1234.