



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007

No. 63

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Times of great violence paralyze many and create distant waves of anxiety. The same burnishing moment that destroys innocents tests the mettle of survivors and produces some heroes. Terrible events born of evil intent and hatred cry out for ready explanation but often remain senseless, whether they happened yesterday or decades ago. In the very midst of the horrible scene there seems to appear a prophetic voice that screams out: "Who are you as a people!"

Lord God, by whose coinage we are all fashioned and redeemed, be with all of us who are touched by the stories of mass murders. Let not the hatred be contagious or fester in our impurient nature. Free the news of gruesome details which only burn the imaginative memory.

Instead, Lord, strengthen us to choose life and compassion, that we may be bold enough to hear the confessions that come from prisons, concentration camps, and college campuses. In their lonely stories, Lord, help us to see part of ourselves, for we are united in You, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SALAZAR 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 and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1003. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Ernest Gallo.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 28. Concurrent resolution congratulating the City of Chicago for being chosen to represent the United States in the international competition to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and encouraging the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago as the site of the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board:

The Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 154 of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the United States-Russia Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 154 of Public Law

108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the United States-Russia Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT).

HOOR OF MEETING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain requests for ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

SUPREME COURT DECISION TO UPHOLD THE FEDERAL ABORTION BAN

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has gotten what they wished for. The Supreme Court has upheld a ban on a medical procedure for women without a health exception, thereby reversing four decades of rulings supporting a woman's right to choose.

Women who face serious health consequences have lost their right to the safest procedure available. Politicians have taken the place of doctors.

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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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Women have become a pawn in the hands of right-wing conservatives.

On my Web site, I keep a listing of all the ways this administration has chipped away at a woman's right to choose, but yesterday they used a sledgehammer. By upholding this ban and disregarding years of precedent, the Roberts court has shown not only its belief that women are second-class citizens, but also its potential to completely overturn Roe.

We need to stand up to right-wing, conservative, extremist efforts and protect the basic human rights of women.

DANGEROUS WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

(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. Mr. Speaker, for weeks the House has debated our strategy in Iraq and continued funding for the war. In the midst of this debate, the Democratic leadership adjourned for a 2-week spring break.

Even today, we appear no closer to a solution that will support our mission and our troops and sustain an effective foreign policy. The Democrat leadership of both Chambers has indicated its desire to move their message of defeat. Fortunately, President Bush is standing by his commitment to veto the bill and promote our mission for victory in Iraq, to protect American families.

Al Qaeda has stated Iraq is the central front in the war on terrorism. Osama bin Laden has characterized Iraq as the "third world war." Withdrawing from Iraq will not end the global war on terrorism.

I have confidence in our military leaders, who should not be micromanaged by Congress. Yesterday, Admiral William Fallon testified effectively that the new reinforcement course in Baghdad is producing positive results. We will face the terrorists overseas or again in the streets of America.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RAYMOND G. MURPHY

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the life of a great American.

Lt. Col. Raymond Gerald Murphy was born on January 14, 1930, in Pueblo, Colorado. He graduated from Pueblo Catholic High School and attended Fort Lewis Junior College in Durango, then Adams State College in Alamosa. After graduation, Jerry Murphy joined the Marine Corps Reserve and entered Officers Candidate School. In 1952, he was sent to Korea where he served with the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

In February 1953, Raymond Gerald Murphy was cited for "Conspicuous

Gallantry at the risk of his life and above and beyond the call of duty as a Platoon Commander."

Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell, Second Lieutenant Murphy steadfastly refused medical attention and continued to lead his men up the hill through a withering barrage of hostile mortar and small-arms fire. Wounded a second time, he again refused assistance.

His resolute and inspiring leadership, exceptional fortitude and great personal valor reflect the highest credit upon Lt. Col. Murphy and enhance the finest traditions of the United States military service.

Raymond Gerald Murphy was the 39th United States Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for Heroism in the Korean War. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Lt. Col. Murphy was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the United Nations Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

On Good Friday, Lt. Col. Raymond Jerry Murphy died in the Veterans Administration nursing home in Pueblo at the age of 77, Mr. Speaker, but his spirit and heroism will live forever.

OVERHAUL OUR CUMBERSOME TAX SYSTEM

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

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, under Democrat leadership, the year 1993 witnessed the greatest tax increase in American history, until recently. Just 3 months into this new Congress, the Democrats have shown their vision for America with a more than \$400 billion budget increase, an increase which can only be paid for through a colossal scale of taxation that will reach nearly every American.

The Federal Government has created a monster. Today, our Tax Code and regulations bulge at over 60,000 pages. I have yet to meet anyone who has read all of them. Americans pay billions of dollars to accountants and financial advisers just to comply with this labyrinth of rules. More than 50 percent of all taxpayers pay someone else to prepare their tax returns.

Planning for the future is challenging enough without the added headache of complex taxes and confusing deductions, not to mention the uncertainty of how taxes may change from one year to the next. Congress has the moral responsibility to remove the obstacles it has created that punish Americans who are simply working hard to achieve their dreams.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to overhaul our cumbersome tax system.

WE SHOULD END THE WAR NOW

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the American people want the war in Iraq to end and the troops to be brought home. Why then is this House preparing to capitulate to the Bush White House and let the war continue? We have learned that the Democratic compromise with the President is to make withdrawal timetables nonbinding.

We have the power to end the war now. We should not give the President another dime for the war. We should not permit this war to continue to go on. Yet this House passed a \$97 billion supplemental which gives the President money to keep the war going through September of 2008, and then a week later approved the President's budget for another \$195 billion for Iraq to keep the war going into 2009. And now we are talking about a nonbinding timetable for withdrawal.

What is the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans on the war? Well, the Republicans do not want any timetables for withdrawal at all, and the Democrats, well, the Democrats want nonbinding timetables for withdrawal.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION RULING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Supreme Court decision to uphold a ban on partial birth abortion has been a long time coming. Opinion polls have long shown overwhelming opposition to this gruesome and horrific procedure, and in response, Congress acted to ban partial birth abortion, passing the ban two times during the Clinton administration only to have it vetoed by President Clinton both times. In 2003, Congress passed the ban again with bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate, and this time it was signed into law by President Bush.

Unable to win through the democratic process, proponents of abortion-on-demand took to the courts, and for years their efforts delayed a final decision, leaving unborn children without protection from this gruesome procedure.

Thankfully, yesterday's decision ends the uncertainty, and this ruling protects America's unborn children from a barbaric, grisly procedure that has no place in a civilized society.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win for the sanctity of human life and a win for American democracy.

TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING CAREGIVERS

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1911, the Tax Relief for Working Caregivers Act.