



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007

No. 67

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Mark E. Harris, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we enter Your presence today on behalf of our Nation, our leaders and ourselves. We come, not by our own worthiness, but by Your glorious invitation to "come unto Me all who are weary, and I will give you rest."

Please grant us wisdom today, for we need divine wisdom to fulfill the purposes You have for us. We need Your guidance to be able to heal the broken-hearted. We need Your strength to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. We need Your power to free the oppressed.

So, I ask, Lord, that You would speak to the Nation, and that, indeed, we would all have ears to hear, eyes to see, hearts and minds ready to receive Your word.

God bless this House of Representatives, and may their minds be of Your mind. I ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

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 Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COHEN 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 THE REVEREND DR. MARK E. HARRIS

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, it's truly my honor to welcome Dr. Mark Harris of Charlotte, North Carolina, to the House of Representatives. He is a dynamic and a true leader in our city, and a graduate of Appalachian State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte.

He is joined in his ministry by his wife, Beth, and their children, Laura, John and Matthew. Under his leadership, the church has become one of the fastest growing Baptist churches in our area.

He is very straightforward and powerful in his preaching, and he is always challenging his parishioners to rediscover the joy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I thank him for being here today.

IRAQ TIMETABLE AND FUNDING, CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS CONFERENCE REPORT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, nine more soldiers are dead, and our soldiers can claim victory in Iraq. Madam Speaker, even after losing thousands of American lives and spending billions of taxpayer dollars, the Bush administration continues to demand an open-ended commitment of American troops in Iraq with no exit plan and no strategy.

But this Democratic Congress, the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, understands the responsibility of war. We understand the commitment to the American people, and, yes, we under-

stand the needs of national security. Retired military officers support our plan and the new direction for Iraq to begin to redeploy our troops to begin to bring them home.

Secretary Gates has gone to Iraq trying to stop the bleeding, but he believes that congressional debate is helpful, and he has said that the clock is ticking. Can the Bush administration understand that? The Pentagon has confirmed, through a Congressional Research Service report, that the President's comments about us stopping funding, the Congress stopping funding, is absolutely wrong.

We need to save lives. We need to restore the confidence and the leadership in Iraq, but we need to claim victory for our soldiers. They have done their job. It's time to bring them home now.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources and as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 24, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker of the House, Office of the Speaker,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: It is my desire to resign from the House Committee on Natural Resources immediately. I look forward to returning to the committee soon.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

RICK RENZI,
*U.S. Congressman,
First District of Arizona.*

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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 24, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker of the House, Office of the Speaker,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAME, SPEAKER: It is my desire to resign from the House Committee on Financial Services immediately. I look forward to returning to the committee soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

RICK RENZI,
*U.S. Congressman,
First District of Arizona.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

LET THE SURGE WORK AND NOT SIGNAL DEFEAT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, many in Congress and around this country insist that the President take the advice of The Iraq Study Group. Well, the President is doing just that. The report states, "We could, however, support a short-term redeployment or surge of American combat forces to stabilize Baghdad, or to speed up the training and equipping missions needed."

Well, my colleagues, that is what the President is trying to do. The cochair of the study group, James Baker, had this to say: "Setting a deadline for withdrawal regardless of conditions in Iraq makes even less sense today because there is evidence that the temporary surge is reducing the level of violence in Baghdad."

Rather than support a bill that leaves our troops in harm's way for a cause Democrats believe cannot be won, Democratic leaders should be willing to vote to allow time to let the surge work and not signal defeat.

SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH ACT

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act. By cultivating the Nation's next generation of skilled scientists and researchers who are in the early stages of their careers, the House-passed plan will better ensure that our Nation educates the best and the brightest young people to be scientists and engineers.

I firmly believe that leadership and innovation is absolutely necessary for the United States to maintain its competitive advantage in the increasingly global marketplace. My own home district in southeastern Pennsylvania is a leader in the field of biotechnology. I have seen the economic and social ben-

efits of innovation and technology in science and engineering.

Science, research and biotechnology industries attract highly skilled workers and offer them good wages and benefits. These innovators and the businesses they are creating in my home district make us competitive in this global marketplace. Most importantly, they are developing new treatments, medicines, vaccines, that are improving the quality of life for people around the world. As the sister of a dedicated scientist and the mother of a young medical researcher, I recognize the need to support the work of highly skilled scientists whose work is on the cutting edge of research and development.

Madam Speaker, the "Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act" will help ensure that we encourage and train highly skilled scientists in Pennsylvania and across the Nation. I am proud to have supported its passage.

SUPPORT AND FUND THE TROOPS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, some of the Democratic leadership have declared it the job of Congress to micromanage the war in Iraq. Yet we learn today that the Speaker of the House has refused to be seen face-to-face with the very military commanders whose hands will be tied by the Democrat war funding bill.

This latest insult to our troops should come as no surprise as others in the Democratic leadership have declared the war lost despite our military commanders' statements to the contrary, and before General Petraeus has gotten the reinforcements he has requested. His reinforcement hasn't even been fully implemented before Congressional leaders have called it a failure.

I urge my colleagues to insist on a funding bill that does not give our enemies a date for our surrender. I believe our soldiers when they say the war is not lost, and we must give our military the resources it needs to win. Language of surrender is inappropriate with troops in the field and reinforces the perceptions of our enemies.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND BRING THEM HOME

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, there will be a conference committee report by the Senate and the House on the Iraq supplement, and the Iraq supplement will have a requested date, suggested date for our withdrawal.

It's not saying we have been defeated. We have won the war. America has won the war. Saddam Hussein's government was toppled and Saddam Hussein is history. We are now in an

occupation, and you cannot win an occupation.

You cannot defeat beliefs with bullets. What we have in Iraq and in the Middle East are beliefs that are different from ours, and they can only be won by understanding and through changes, which God would put in people's hearts, and not through bullets. We need a bill to support our troops, and our bill will support our troops with more money than the administration gave it.

I ask the President to support the troops with the bill that the Congress will give him and support our troops and bring them home.

THE IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, 79 days and counting since President Bush committed his request for critical funding needed for our troops fighting on the front lines.

The Democratic leadership should bring the emergency supplemental to the floor without a timetable of defeat. It's not a decision of this House to arbitrarily pick a date this war should end. It's our job to ensure our military personnel have the resources they need to win and come home in victory. I wonder what men and women risking their lives every day for our safety, our security, our freedom, think about the Members of Congress sitting in their comfortable offices, playing politics with their money.

I came to the House floor this morning to speak to them and let them know there are Members of Congress who believe our military can succeed, and we are doing everything within our power to ensure victory. As long as I am United States Congressman, I will never turn my back on you. I will not stand in Washington, D.C., and tell your generals how to fight this war, and will never put politics above your safety or that of our Nation.

□ 1015

GUARANTEE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CITIZENS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of 47 million Americans who go to sleep every night knowing that tomorrow they may go broke solely because they cannot afford health insurance.

People without coverage often delay treatments they desperately require, and we are all paying the price, for early treatment saves lives and saves money. We saw that in Blacksburg, Virginia, and we see it every day in emergency rooms and in amputations due to diabetes.