

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 25, 2007, at 3:45 pm:

That the Senate passed S. 398.

That the Senate passed S. 1537.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, May 25, 2007:

H.R. 414, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 Calle McKinley, West in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Miguel Angel Garcia Mendez Post Office Building"

H.R. 437, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Eisenhower Street in Rio Grande City, Texas, as the "Lino Perez, Jr. Post Office"

H.R. 625, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the "Atanacio Haro-Marín Post Office"

H.R. 1402, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building"

H.R. 2080, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to conform the District charter to revisions made by the Council of the District of Columbia relating to public education

H.R. 2206, making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes

S. 214, to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to preserve the independence of United States attorneys

S. 1104, to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants, and for other purposes

COMMUNICATION FROM CONSTITUENT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE OF HON. MICHAEL R. PENCE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from John Shettle, Constituent Services Representative of the Honorable MICHAEL R. PENCE, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of Madison County, Indiana.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JOHN SHETTLE,
Constituent Services Representative.

MEMORIAL DAY IN BAGHDAD

(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, Memorial Day last week in Baghdad will always be special to me. On that day, I met with General David Petraeus, Iraq's Defense Minister Jasim, and U.S. and Iraqi troops in a Joint Security Station deep in the City of Baghdad.

Then CODEL Spratt spent 2 days in Kabul briefed by ISAF Commander Dan McNeil, Major General Robert Durbin, Afghan Defense Minister Wardak, President Hamid Karzai, and Brigadier General Robert Livingston. General Livingston commands the 218th Brigade of the South Carolina Army National Guard, which leads Task Force Phoenix to train the Afghan army and police.

I saw firsthand our coalition forces stopping terrorists overseas to protect American families at home. This meets the threat of al Qaeda's Zawahiri that Iraq and Afghanistan are the central front in the global war on terrorism. Our capable military leaders should not have their initiatives handcuffed by Congress.

As we heard a bombing in Baghdad, we read simultaneously of attacks in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Lebanon and Gaza. We must not ignore the worldwide threats.

Congratulations to law enforcement for stopping the bombing of JFK Airport.

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

CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, last month, several former Members of Congress cashed in their taxpayer-funded retirement checks from jail. After indictment and conviction beyond a shadow of a doubt, they are still paid each month by the taxpayers they betrayed.

After supporting a limited reform bill on this issue, this Congress has stopped all action on the needed reforms. We took no action in February. We took no action in March, no action in April and no action in May.

The House leadership has conveniently stalled all reforms that would kill the pension for a Member of Congress convicted of a felony for over 4 months now. Since senior Members have the largest pensions, you have to wonder if they are delaying this reform hoping that this Congress will fail, like all of its predecessors.

Congressman JEFFERSON was indicted this weekend, and one group estimated that he is entitled to a \$47,000 annual taxpayer pension.

Mr. Speaker, if we delay this reform, future Members of Congress who are convicted will cash their taxpayer-funded retirement checks from the jailhouse ATM.

□ 1410

ENERGY POLICY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a subject that is first on the minds and the wallets of the American public, and that is the cost of rising energy prices.

We are in the middle of the summer, and prices at the pump are above \$3 a gallon in much of America. The liberal leadership was going to fix the high gas prices, and they have responded by offering no solutions. They offered so-called "price gouging" legislation, but it did nothing to address the root problem of high gas prices.

The American public wants innovation, not procrastination. They want energy exploration, not bureaucratic red tape. They want this Congress to do their jobs and put forth a plan that will power this country, self sufficiently, into this century and beyond. The liberal leadership, meanwhile, is missing in action on the issue.

America needs to change the way we look at how we produce energy, and in the next couple of weeks the Republican Conference will take the lead in unfurling a long-term energy plan for the future. It will not only address our immediate power concerns but those for decades to come.

ONE MORE PEACE OFFICER SHOT BY ONE MORE ILLEGAL

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day, while Americans were celebrating the holiday, Deputy Gerald Barnes of the Harris County Sheriff's Department in Houston was celebrating just being alive.

Responding to a call from a night-club, the 15-year veteran from the Sheriff's Department came upon two men arguing. Oscar Perez had pulled a gun on Miguel Soto and began randomly firing his pistol.

When Deputy Barnes arrived, he told Perez to drop the gun. Perez refused and shot at Deputy Barnes numerous times. One bullet struck him in the chest above his bulletproof vest. Then after kidnapping Soto, whom Perez later shot, Perez sped off into the night. He was later captured. Oscar Perez had been illegally in the United States for years.

According to reports, the last three police officers shot in Harris County, Texas, were all shot by people illegally in the United States.

Deputy Barnes will recover, but Perez shouldn't have been in this country. The Federal Government's refusal to secure the border is allowing criminals like Perez to invade this country and commit crimes. Instead of promoting amnesty, the government should protect the border.

And that's just the way it is.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN LEWIS, "MR. FAYETTEVILLE"

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of one of the Third District's greatest leaders and greatest servants, John Lewis of Fayetteville.

He was known as "Mr. Fayetteville" by those who knew him. The list of what he didn't do would be easier to read. John Lewis was a Marine, a banker and a member of numerous boards, including the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. He was a visionary who helped develop Interstate 540 and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport, both of which serve literally thousands of people on a daily basis.

Many feel the downtown of Fayetteville, the home of his alma mater, the University of Arkansas, exists in its present form today because of the tireless work of John Lewis.

The condolences of many in northwest Arkansas, including myself and my family, are with the Lewis family.

Thank you, John, for our service to our community, our State, and to our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 401) supporting the goals and ideals of National Trails Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 401

Whereas June 2, 2007, is observed as National Trails Day;

Whereas there are over 200,000 miles of trails in the United States, providing access to public lands for recreational and educational opportunities;

Whereas trails enrich communities throughout the United States by helping to protect habitats, watersheds, and cultural and historic artifacts;

Whereas 72.1 percent of all Americans age 16 and older participate in at least one of twenty-two designated outdoor activities, including hiking, backpacking, and trail running;

Whereas National Trails Day events take place in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands to celebrate trails, recognize volunteers, and maintain local trails;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and event coordinators throughout the United States make National Trails Day events possible; and

Whereas 2007 is the 15th Anniversary Celebration of National Trails Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Trails Day; and

(2) honors the contributions National Trails Day has made to inspire the public and trail enthusiasts to discover, learn about, maintain, and celebrate trails.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 401 was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON). It expresses the support of the House of Representatives of the goals and ideals of National Trails Day.

I want to commend Representative THOMPSON for his efforts to bring congressional recognition to this important annual event. This resolution is timely, given that the 15th anniversary celebration of National Trails Day was this past Saturday.

National Trails Day is a long-standing event that is dedicated to celebrating, promoting, and protecting America's magnificent trail system. It was started by the American Hiking Society in 1993. Its goals are to raise awareness of trail, to celebrate our incredible national network of trails, and to honor and thank trail volunteers and partners.

National Trails Day events take place in local, State, and Federal public lands from coast to coast. Activities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, trail dedications, workshops, park clean-ups, trail work projects, and much, much more.

Last year, more than 100,000 trail enthusiasts across the country participated in over 1,000 National Trails Day events. At those events, volunteers contributed nearly 150,000 hours of labor to establishing, maintaining, and cleaning up trails across the country. Trail events take place in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands. Many Federal agencies, nonprofits, local groups, and corporate sponsors are all proud partners in supporting this annual event.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 401 honors the contributions that National Trails Day has made to inspire the public to discover, learn about, maintain and celebrate trails. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in support of House Resolution 401.

House Resolution 401 has been adequately explained by the majority. I thank the gentlelady, and urge adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 401.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART BE DESIGNATED AS "NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART OF THE UNITED STATES"

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to