



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2007

No. 97

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McNULTY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL R. McNULTY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: United in prayer and in the belief that this country deserves the very best of their efforts, Lord, this Congress is called to order. Selected by the citizens to uphold the Constitution in all circumstances, the Members of Congress are truly called by You, O Lord, to bring Your truth and Your compassion to a pulsating reality in this Nation.

May the fidelity of the Members to public service and their ability to represent the best of their districts here create today even a small signal of Your tremendous fidelity to Your people, so revered and so loved, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

HONORING VIETNAM WAR VETERAN JAMES WILLIS

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay homage to a Vietnam War veteran by the name of James Willis. Mr. Willis, who is stricken with cancer and only has weeks to live, has been living on the streets of West Palm Beach for nearly 20 years.

Because of the good will of a local police officer who has been keeping track of Mr. Willis for the past year, Mr. Willis received a \$121 bus ticket to Greensboro, North Carolina, so he could spend his dying days with the only family left, his half brother.

Friends, it is an absolute shame that many of our Nation's veterans are living on the streets. These brave men and women in uniform served our country with bravery, honor and sacrifice. Yet unfortunately many of them are barely scraping by, and, in the case of Mr. Willis, are homeless.

In the words of Palm Beach County Corporal Karl Martin, who arranged through the Marine Corps League to purchase him a bus ticket, "There's no reason for any veteran in this country to be living in the woods somewhere."

Corporal Martin, you're a hero for arranging for Mr. Willis to spend his last

days with his family. And to Mr. Willis from our entire Nation, we are grateful for your service to our country. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made to protect our freedom.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO BULGARIA

(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, earlier this week, President and Mrs. Bush visited Bulgaria as part of a six-nation European tour during the G8 Summit. Following Bulgarian admission this year into the European Union, the President's visit signifies Bulgaria's increased importance with its strategic location.

I am especially grateful President Bush and the First Lady participated in a round table discussion on free market democracy with students at the American University in Bulgaria. I am honored to serve on the university's board of trustees and I appreciate the leadership provided by president Michael Easton and chairman of the board David Flanagan. The round table was held at the university's Elieff Center for Education and Culture. The Elieff Center was made possible by the gracious financial donation of Eliot Elieff, a Bulgarian American living in San Marino, California. This world class facility proves his commitment to promote a bright future for Bulgaria.

I also appreciated a visit this week by Sofia mayor Boyko Borissov on Capitol Hill. Bulgaria is a strong ally of America and a full partner in NATO.

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

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.



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