

□ 1918

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 108, 109, and 110 I was unavoidably delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, due to official business in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to attend several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 537, Expressing support for the designation and goals of "National 9-1-1 Education Month," "yea" on final passage of H.R. 3196, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York, as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building," and "yea" on final passage of H.R. 4166, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 East Copeland Drive in Lebanon, Missouri, as the "Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I was absent today from three rollcall votes due to family obligations in Arizona that required my attention.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 537, rollcall vote No. 108; H.R. 3196, rollcall vote No. 109; and H.R. 4166, rollcall vote No. 110.

PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to discharge the Committee on House Administration from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 306, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the right to object, but I will not object.

Madam Speaker, this is a very important resolution. It's something we do every year, and I can't imagine any more appropriate use of the rotunda of the Capitol than to recognize and commemorate the days of the Holocaust and the victims of the Holocaust. It's something that we do every year, something we should do every year and

perhaps more frequently. And it is extremely important for us to recognize this as we confront genocide in other parts of the world, to recognize the genocide that started all genocides and started the discussions about the horrible nature of genocide. So I'm very strongly in favor of this.

Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 306

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

The Rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on May 1, 2008, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO HONOR THE 5 YEARS OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE WAR IN IRAQ AND TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SERVING OUR NATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I send a concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 313, to the desk and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the right to object, but I will not object. I simply want to point out this is a very important thing that we should do for our troops. I'm delighted that someone has suggested that we use the rotunda for this purpose.

We all know how difficult it has been for the troops in both Afghanistan and Iraq and in other parts of the world. We also know that there is not universal support in our country for the work that they are doing, and this makes their job doubly difficult. So I'm very pleased to support this resolution and make certain that we truly and properly honor the work of our Armed Forces and their families throughout the world when they work in such difficult circumstances.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. EHLERS. Yes, I would be delighted to yield.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. I would just note that, as the gentleman has mentioned, it is important that we honor the 5 years of service and sacrifice of our troops and their families in the war in Iraq and remember our troops serving in Afghanistan and throughout the world.

I would note that Ranking Member EHLERS is a cosponsor of this resolution, and both conflicts are still ongoing. Our troops' efforts have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Their sacrifice and dedication to their country must be honored, as well as the sacrifice and dedication of American troops stationed at home and around the world. And I am pleased that we will have this important recognition in the people's House, in the rotunda.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. EHLERS. Reserving the right to object, I simply want to thank the gentlewoman from California for her good comments. And I hope every Member of this Congress will join us in approving this particular resolution.

Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 313

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY HONORING THOSE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.

(a) USE OF ROTUNDA.—The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on March 13, 2008, for a ceremony to honor the 5 years of service and sacrifice of our troops and their families in the war in Iraq and to remember those who are serving our Nation in Afghanistan and throughout the world.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the ceremony referred to in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on the two concurrent resolutions just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN STEVE KING REGARDING SENATOR BARACK OBAMA

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise to strongly condemn the remarks made about U.S. Senator and Democratic Presidential Candidate BARACK OBAMA by Congressman STEVE KING of Iowa, who said that if BARACK OBAMA became President, al Qaeda terrorists would, and I quote, "be dancing in the streets in greater numbers than they did on September 11." Why? Because, he said, "of his middle name and because of who his father was."

Senator OBAMA, like all of us in this House, swore on the Bible to defend our country from all enemies, foreign and domestic. He has done nothing to warrant this attack. He has served his country honorably in the U.S. Senate. This attack on his patriotism, religion, heritage, and middle name amount to nothing more than a smear campaign.

I would fully expect these comments to come from people like Rush Limbaugh or Ann Coulter, not from one of my House colleagues. There is simply no room in this country for remarks like these, remarks that Mr. KING declares he stands by.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning these hateful remarks.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

H.R. 3196, NAMING THE PORT JERVIS POST OFFICE THE E. ARTHUR GRAY POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, just moments ago, this body voted to pay an appropriate tribute to a dedicated public servant in New York's 19th Congressional District.

On April 10, 2007, the Hudson Valley lost one of its most involved leaders when E. Arthur Gray, a former five-term mayor of Port Jervis and New York State Senator, passed away at the age of 82 years old. He left behind a legacy of friendship, involvement and service that earned him a permanent place in the heart of Port Jervis and serves as an example of what it means to work for the betterment of your community.

By voting to pass legislation that would redesignate the post office in Port Jervis, New York, as the E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building, the House has acknowledged the contributions of an individual who loved his hometown and who, as a businessman, government official and family man, dedicated a significant portion of his time and energy to its civic life.

Simply put, Arthur Gray was a Port Jervis resident to the core: born February 28, 1925, in Port Jervis, a grad-

uate of Port Jervis High School before leaving briefly for college, only to return as president and co-owner of the Gray-Parker Funeral Home in his native Port Jervis.

Art Gray's participation in public life extended to government service. He was mayor of Port Jervis from 1978 to 1988. A lifetime resident of Port Jervis, Gray gave his undivided attention to issues, both large and small, and was widely known for his open-door policy.

Art Gray remains the longest-serving mayor in the history of Port Jervis. During his tenure he was able to reinvigorate the downtown area and greatly improve the city's economic development plan. Citizens of the local area remember Art as a man who was generous in nature and willing to help those in need. After finishing his service as mayor, Art Gray maintained his commitment to public service by successfully running for a seat in the New York State senate in 1988.

He represented the 39th Senatorial District in that capacity until 1990. But E. Arthur Gray's contributions to his city and his country were not limited to business and politics. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II. He was also deeply involved in community life, and the list of organizations that count him as a member is astounding.

At one time or another, Art Gray was a member of the Port Jervis Community Development Agency, the Orange County Economic Development Agency, the National League of Small Cities Advisory Council, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Bon Secours Community Hospital Advisory Board, Knights of Columbus Council No. 471, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Elks Lodge No. 645, BPOE, Port Jervis Lions Club, Tri-States Chamber of Commerce, Port Jervis Country Club, Metaque Falls Hunting Club, Tri-States Rod and Gun Club, the Port Jervis Board of Education, and Port Jervis Planning Board.

When you look at that list, you gain a true appreciation for how much time, energy, and dedication Art Gray devoted to betterment of his hometown. However, he devoted just as much, if not more, to his family and friends. He was extremely devoted to his wife, Helen; son, Gerald; daughter, Brigid; and numerous other family members and close friends. He is remembered by those closest to him as enthusiastic, optimistic, supporting, loving, and inspirational.

Through it all, E. Arthur Gray's life was deeply interwoven with the fabric of Port Jervis, his home, and it is fitting that the adoption of this bill will help memorialize his service.

□ 1930

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand with yet another sunset memorial. It is March 10, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sunset today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,831 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down by an arrogant Supreme Court. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common: They were each just little babies that had done nothing wrong to anyone; each one of them died a nameless and lonely death; and each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same; and all the gifts these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet, even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invisible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the only chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our core commitment to this self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the whole world. It is who we are.