



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

No. 62

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 27, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUSS CARNAHAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL COMPETING IN THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZENS AND THE CONSTITUTION NATIONAL FINALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to acknowledge an accomplished, dedicated group of students from my district. They are from Mount Carmel School on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, and they're here in Washington participating in the 22nd We the People: The

Citizens and the Constitution National Finals. The program is funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act and administered by the Center For Civic Education, based in Los Angeles and in Washington.

Each year high school students around the Nation take part in a rigorous course of study to prepare themselves for We the People. One thousand one hundred of them earned the right to come to Washington for the finals, which began over the weekend, by competing against other schools in their congressional districts and States. Today the top 10 groups compete in the championship round right here in the Cannon House Office Building.

In the competition, students serve as expert witnesses, testifying on constitutional issues as if in a congressional hearing. They are scored on their opening statements and on their answers to follow-up questions.

Yesterday I heard these students speak with knowledge and insight about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They were impressively well versed in the historical and philosophical antecedents of these profound documents, and they were able to field the most complex questions on these issues from panels of State Supreme Court justices, university scholars, attorneys and journalists.

The Mount Carmel students earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands by competing against other schools in my congressional district. They succeeded because they worked together and because each one of them gave their individual best for their team.

I'd like to recognize them by name. Alfred Acosta, Kevin Bautista, Jalayne Benavente, Keolester Buenpacifico, Armalen Cabrerros, Lourence Camacho, Cedie Chan, Augustine Chang, Hazel Doctor, Chiaki Hiroswawa, Kevin Kim, Su Yoon Lee, Daniel Macario, Ryan Ortizo, Vanessa Sablan, Keno San

Pablo, Jonathan Sanchez, Louise Villagomez, Rita Villagomez, A. Ram Yoo.

I'd also like to acknowledge their teacher, Mr. Rosiky Camacho, their attorney coaches Joaquin Deleon Guerrero Torres, Judy Deleon Guerrero Torres, Vince Deleon Guerrero Torres and their coordinator Mr. Alfred Ada.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge an accomplished and dedicated group of students from my district.

They are from Mount Carmel School on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands; and they are here in Washington participating in the 22nd We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. The program is funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act and administered by the Center for Civic Education, based in Los Angeles and Washington.

Each year high school students around the Nation take part in a rigorous course of study to prepare themselves for We the People. 1,100 of them earn the right to come to Washington for the finals, which began over the weekend, by competing against other schools in their congressional district and States. Today, the top 10 groups compete in the Championship Round right here in the Cannon House Office Building.

At the closing banquet this evening Vermont Senator PATRICK LEAHY will be honored with the 2009 Dale E. Kildee Civitas Award for his contributions to the field of civic education.

In the competition students serve as expert witnesses testifying on constitutional issues as if at a Congressional hearing. They are scored on their opening statements and on their answers to follow-up questions.

Yesterday, I heard these Mt. Carmel students speak with knowledge and insight about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They were impressively well-versed in the historical and philosophical antecedents of these profound documents. And they were able to field the most complex questions on these issues from panels of State Supreme Court Justices, university scholars, attorneys, and journalists.

The Mt. Carmel students earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands by

☐ 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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competing against other schools in my congressional district on February 14. They succeeded because they worked together and because each of them gave their individual best for their team.

I'd like to recognize them by name:

Alfred Acosta
Kevin Bautista
Jalayne Benavente
Keolester Buenpacifico
Armalen Cabrerros
Lourence Camacho
Cedie Chan
Augustine Chang
Hazel Doctor
Chiaki Hirotsawa
Kevin Kim
Su Yoon (Karen) Lee
Daniel Macario
Ryan Ortizo
Vanessa Sablan
Keno San Pablo
Jonathan Sanchez
Louise Villagomez
Rita Villagomez
A. Ram Yoo

I'd also like to acknowledge their teacher Mr. Rosiky Camacho; their attorney-coaches Joaquin Dlg. Torres, Judy Dlg. Torres, and Vince Dlg. Torres; and their coordinator Mr. Alfred Ada.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of covenant love, Your light brightens our day and presents new opportunities to serve You in faith and serve this Nation with freedom.

Grant the Members of Congress penetrating peace and patient understanding of family life and the problems facing this Nation.

Help all of us to embrace our limitations, and yet never lose hope to marshal the forces within us and the powers You give us to establish a new order of personal dignity and integrity and world security that will give You glory, 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEMING 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.

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, April 27, 2009.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 24, 2009, at 10:01 a.m.:

That the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House; agrees to Conference and appoints conferees S. Con. Res. 13.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 101.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 86.

Appointments:
Senate National Security Working Group.
Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

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, April 27, 2009.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, 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 April 27, 2009, at 9:39 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 586.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD RE-MEMBER WE ARE FOUNDED ON FAITH

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I was very disturbed to read about the

administration's request to cover up a monogram symbolizing the name of Jesus at a recent speech given by President Obama at Georgetown University. The White House justified this by saying they asked for all symbols to be covered up at the lecture hall; however, this was the only one clearly visible near him during the speech. The covered monogram "IHS" comes from the Greek for Jesus and was covered with a black triangle of plywood.

I join my fellow Christians in expressing my outrage at this request. This administration has no problem spending money imprinted with the phrase "In God We Trust"—and parenthetically, above us here is the words "In God We Trust"—but won't have our President speak with any symbol of Christ in public view. We begin each day in this Chamber with a prayer, and clearly visible in the House is the same phrase I mentioned before.

With our country having such problems, people turn to faith for help in this time of uncertainty, as they should. This country was founded on the solid principles of Judeo-Christian ethics. Why should our President cover this important symbol of our heritage and values?

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF CORPORAL WILLIAM CRAIG COMSTOCK

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man beloved by his family, friends, and his community. I rise to remember Corporal William Craig Comstock of the United States Marine Corps, who was taken from us while honorably serving our country in Iraq.

Craig grew up in the Third District of Arkansas, going to Cedarville High School and graduating from Alma High School. He made a big impression on his classmates. On a Facebook page created in his honor, one friend wrote, "I can't stress enough that you changed my life. You are such an inspiration to me."

Craig is an inspiration to all of us. He was raised in a single-parent home and later in foster homes, but he has always had the drive to succeed.

Craig joined the Marine Corps in January of 2007 and was trained as an ammunition technician. He volunteered to go back to Iraq after being shot while deployed there earlier in his career.

Madam Speaker, at the young age of 21, Craig made a tremendous sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

TOO MUCH SPENDING

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