



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

No. 70

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 7, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Michael Cummings, Burnt Swamp Association, Pembroke, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Blessed God and Father, eternal in majesty and glory, we are humbled to come before You in this moment of prayer. It is You that has made America a great Nation, established it in a glorious heritage of faith and freedom and compassion. We are privileged by Your presence among us.

Restore us to love and loyalty to You first. Give us the unambiguous view of Your desire that we might embrace it.

And may it please You to grant our esteemed leaders, these in whom America believes, throughout this Chamber, may they have wisdom and moral insight for complex decisionmaking in these uncertain days. May mutual respect abound among them. Bless them with agreement and solidarity in their quest for the well-being of all people. Lead us all to do what is right in Your eyes.

And may we together with these our leaders, honor You throughout this day and days without end. In the name of Christ, 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 California (Mr. BACA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BACA 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 REV. MICHAEL CUMMINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I have the high honor today of introducing the gentleman that just spoke as our guest chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Michael Cummings of Pembroke, North Carolina. And what an honor it is to have him open Congress on this National Day of Prayer.

Born and reared in rural Robeson County, which is also my home county, Dr. Cummings has spent a lifetime sharing the positive and powerful word of God with many. And through his ministry, Mike Cummings has made a difference in changing hearts and building a better community.

He is a graduate of Campbell University, Southeastern Theological Seminary, and a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Campbell. He has served multiple churches in southeastern North Carolina and is an instructor also at the Southern Baptist

Seminary Extension Program, and now is director of missions at Burt Swamp Baptist.

Madam Speaker, truly the Nation today has had the opportunity to hear eloquent words and the keen insight of not only one of Robeson County's most respected citizens, but also a gentleman who has led the State Baptist convention. Through his words, he has left his mark here in the U.S. House, just as he has left his mark on North Carolina and our beloved home and county.

We are thrilled today also to have his family join us. We are thrilled today to have him lead us on this National Day of Prayer.

I hope also that all Members of Congress will join us for the National Day of Prayer events that are occurring as we speak in the Cannon Caucus Room today until noon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MAKING IMMIGRATION REFORM A PRIORITY

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, this Sunday, many of us will be celebrating Mother's Day with our mothers, wives, daughters and all the wonderful women in our lives.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us not forget that there are thousands of children who will not be celebrating this day with their mothers. We must fix our broken immigration system that does not work, that fails our families, that leaves our children to fend for themselves.

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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Every day there are thousands of heartbreaking stories of how families are torn apart due to the broken system. We must pass comprehensive immigration reform that doesn't tear children from their parents and respects all families. We must remember that immigration reform is not just about statistics and numbers, it is about families.

I urge my colleagues, the House leadership and President Obama to make immigration a priority and to work with the CHC towards comprehensive immigration reform.

I wish all mothers a happy Mother's Day this Sunday.

ETHANOL AND THE EPA

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in 1994, the EPA enacted a regulation requiring additives derived from renewable sources for our Nation's fuel supplies. This policy caused problems as corn ethanol pushed up food prices and turned out to be far less beneficial for the environment than originally thought, with some studies even concluding ethanol may be worse for the environment than gasoline.

Now, over a decade later, the EPA has ruled that Congress tasked it with regulating greenhouse gases when it passed the Clean Air Act. Without action by Congress, regulations are soon to follow. This fact is being held over our heads by some who claim it is better to let Congress regulate emissions than unelected bureaucrats. This is a false choice. The act was never intended to regulate carbon, and we can pass legislation to make that clear.

Congress should stop unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from hurting our economy further through draconian emissions regulations without doing harm itself. There is a better way.

SUPPORT THE MORTGAGE REFORM AND ANTI-PREDATORY LENDING ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

My State of Ohio is one of the hardest hit States by foreclosures, so I know how important it is for us to pass this bill. Ohio is projected to lose 87,000 homes to foreclosure just this year. That means that more than 291,000 homes over the next 4 years will be lost. Ohio's economy will be affected by over \$10.7 billion.

H.R. 1728 will help Ohio and America begin to heal. This legislation has been a long time coming. The bill will provide much-needed relief to hard-

working families. It will stop bad subprime loans from being made in the first place by making sure that consumers get mortgages that they can repay. It will strengthen consumer protection against reckless and abusive lending practices.

I would like to thank Congressmen FRANK and KANJORSKI and also Congresswoman WATERS for their hard work and perseverance on this issue.

AMERICAN CONSERVATION AND CLEAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, our Nation needs an energy renaissance. We must develop a wide range of energy sources with a shared goal of reducing emissions and leaving our planet cleaner. We must have clean coal, efficient renewable energy, clean nuclear energy, and responsible use of fossil fuels.

It is time for an energy renaissance that uses American resources to create American jobs and stop spending hundreds of billions of dollars each year to OPEC. We know that building this bridge to America's clean energy future will require the largest commitment this Nation has ever seen. It is expensive, it is necessary, and it is time.

Over the past few months, I worked with my colleague, Representative ABERCROMBIE, and other Democrats and Republicans, with no members of leadership or special interests involved with us, but wrote a plan for American energy independence focusing on exploration, conservation and innovation to build this bridge to America's clean energy future. We introduced H.R. 2227, the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act, which uses American resources to cut our dependence on foreign oil, clean up our air, land and water, dramatically improve energy efficiency and conservation, create millions of new jobs, fuel our economy, and do all this without raising taxes. I urge my colleagues to sign on as cosponsors of this bill.

GOOD NEWS REGARDING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I rise today to share good news from my district about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The recovery act that Congress passed just 2 months ago is creating jobs and making smart investments.

On Monday of this week, I stood with Fox Chase Cancer Center officials in my district to announce a grant that will fund critical cancer research. Last

month, the Federal Aviation Administration provided \$1 million to Philadelphia's Northeast Airport. And along with Senator CASEY and Mayor Michael Nutter, I announced \$13.5 million in funding to be used to better enable the Philadelphia Police Department to fight crime in the city.

Most recently, a newspaper in my district, The Northeast Times, acknowledged that the Recovery and Reinvestment Act made "a significant addition" by giving homeowners a \$1,500 tax credit for making energy efficient home improvements. As a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, I worked to include this tax benefit.

It is good to know that enabling homeowners in my district to save energy and save money is happening today. These stories from my district show that the Democratic Recovery and Reinvestment Act is working. It is just the beginning of initiatives that we are taking with President Obama's leadership to put people back to work and invest in America's future.

FRANK BUCKLES AND THE DOUGHBOYS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we remember our military who served our Nation. And here is one of those. This is Frank Buckles, Jr. This was recently taken.

Frank Buckles just turned 108 years old. The reason I mention Frank Buckles is because he lied to get into the Army in World War I at 15. He served in Europe. In World War II, he spent 3 years in a prisoner-of-war camp in Japan. And, today, here he is, 108.

I mention him because he is the last doughboy of World War I. Of the 4.4 million that served, Frank Buckles is it.

We have monuments on our Mall for World War II, Korea and Vietnam. But, Madam Speaker, we have no monument for those that served in World War I. America never got around to it.

It is time America gets around to building a memorial for Frank Buckles and the 4.4 million that served, and the 116,000 that never came home from World War I.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR ROTC

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of honoring the Gadsden High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

On April 18, 2009, the Gadsden JROTC competed against 32 other teams from across the great State of New Mexico at Pedro Vista High School in Farmington, New Mexico. The competition