



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009

No. 22

## 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,  
February 4, 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

Chaplain Major Jim Higgins, Reserve Officer Association Chaplain of the Year, Powder Springs, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Loving Lord, we give You thanks that You are ever present with us, guiding our thoughts and our deliberations. In these difficult times we acknowledge before You that we are unable, in the strength of our own power, to guide this Nation that You have entrusted to us. So we pray for a sense of Your will and of Your presence. Along with the vision of what is right, give us the courage to act accordingly.

As we gather today, Everlasting God, we pray for those whom we have sent into harm's way. Give to them Your divine protection. As the Great Physician, be with those who have been wounded and lay in beds of pain. We give You thanks for the valor of those who have paid the ultimate cost for freedom, and ask that You accept them into Your home, not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens, surrounding their loved ones with Your peace, which passes all understanding. All of this we ask in Your most holy and precious name.

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 gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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 CHAPLAIN MAJOR JIM HIGGINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. We have had the pleasure of having the distinguished guest chaplain for today from my district in Georgia. Each year, the Reserve Officers Association presents a Chaplain of the Year Award, which is selected by the Chief of Chaplains of each military service.

And the award goes to a chaplain—a special chaplain—with special qualities. He is selected for extraordinary contributions to the welfare, the morale, and effectiveness of the Military Reserve Services. This year, the award went to Military Chaplain Major James Boren Higgins, who delivered our wonderful prayer this morning.

Dr. Higgins graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1983. He earned his master of divinity degree in 1986 from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He received his doctor of ministry de-

gree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. And he has received the following outstanding awards. And, America, listen to these rewards.

He is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal. He is a recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal. Dr. Higgins is a recipient of the Army Commendation Medal. He is also the recipient of the Army Achievement Medal. And he is the recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. And for his distinguished duty in Iraq, he received the Iraq Campaign Medal.

What an extraordinary minister. Not just a minister of God, but a minister of the world. A minister to bring peace and comfort to his fellow soldiers at a time of great stress on the battlefields, as well as here at home.

Reverend Higgins currently lives in my district in Powder Springs, Georgia, with his lovely wife Pam and their three children. Reverend Higgins is the senior pastor and chief executive of the 3,200 member McEachern Memorial United States Methodist Church in Powder Springs, Georgia.

We are so proud to have Pastor Major James Boren Higgins as our guest chaplain of the day for the United States Congress. What an extraordinary individual at an extraordinary time, who has given an extraordinary service. We are so proud to have him serve as our guest chaplain of the day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I want to thank my colleague, Representative DAVID SCOTT, for allowing me to say a few words also about Reverend Jim Higgins, as we have the privilege of really sharing him in our two adjoining

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H925

districts. And, as DAVID SCOTT has said, Madam Speaker, Dr. Reverend Major Jim Higgins, as we know, has brought us a very inspiring message as we open business today in the United States House of Representatives as our guest chaplain of the day.

But, as Representative SCOTT said, his service to us and to his constituents in Powder Springs and to our country goes much beyond just the spiritual. When you think about his service as a chaplain in the United States Army and, as DAVID SCOTT was just saying, his service in Vietnam, and his tour of duties, Madam Speaker, of 18 months.

Now, today, the Marines limit rotation to 7 months and the Army to 12 months. But Jim Higgins' rotation in Vietnam—a pretty tough place—was 18 months. Of course, he has this week, as has been said, been recognized as the United States Military Reserve Chaplain of the Year.

So we really are indebted to this great man, not only for his spiritual leadership, Jim, but great service to your country.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. We need to pass a stimulus conference report that stimulates the economy. We need to combine the best of public oversight and private spending in public-private partnerships to build and, in some cases, rebuild public infrastructure. This stimulative spending should be encouraged by Federal and State stimulus programs and bills.

But here's what we have to look out for. Public-private partnerships are different than private-public partnerships where the private sector tells the public what is in their best interest. Do not confuse the two. It doesn't work.

Do not confuse public-private partnerships with quasi-public-private partnerships. They are not the answer. They lack public accountability and can be rife with corruption. Only by achieving the best in publicly accountable oversight in public works projects, with private capital, can the balance be struck and we create jobs.

Today, the President will limit executive compensation for executives of companies that take advantage of taxpayer bailout funds. This is the right thing to do. However, the relationship between the public sector and the private sector should not be an afterthought, and the private sector cannot demand its own rules while using taxpayer funds.

We are slowly getting to the idea, Madam Speaker, of public-private partnerships as a way of bringing government, business, and labor together. It's time to establish a new American paradigm.

#### STIMULUS AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Ms. FOXX. The national debt will jump by more than \$1 trillion in the 6 months ending in March. \$1 trillion dollars in 6 months. Think about that. The previous record increase in the national debt was less than half this amount, and that was over the course of an entire year, which means we are currently racking up debt at four times the rate of the previous record. And all of this debt doesn't include the so-called stimulus package that the Senate has already porked up to \$900 billion. It's so full of spending unrelated to job creation that we can't even begin to tally the waste.

We must stop and take stock. With hardly a second thought, the Federal Government is careening towards a record \$2 trillion deficit—payable by our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. My friends, we cannot borrow and spend our way to prosperity.

#### IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. BACA. Our country is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform to ensure the security and the future of America. Our broken immigration policies have failed to secure our borders and have taken on racial profiling tactics.

Our families are being separated and terrorized with unjust border raids, such as the one that was held in my district a couple of weeks ago at a Home Depot parking lot. In the greatest Nation of the world, no one should ever live in fear of being torn apart from their families.

We shall not be a Nation of discrimination when our faces promote diversity. We need a cohesive program such as comprehensive immigration. We cannot stand complacent with our broken immigration policies. We need to take action.

Mr. President, you called for change. You and Madam Speaker need to deliver on that promise. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing comprehensive immigration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Today, February 4, 2009, will go down as a historic milestone in America's long journey towards universal health coverage. In a few hours, with a bipartisan vote, the House will pass an expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program, extending health insurance to 4 million more American youngsters, keeping a promise that President Obama made to the American people to get this much-needed change accomplished. He did it in 2 weeks' time. I would just say, contrast that with the 2-year rancorous partisan debate that divided this country over the issue.

The new Congress and the new President are delivering on this incredibly important step towards extending health coverage to children—strengthening their dental coverage; strengthening their mental health coverage; locking in for States like Connecticut eligibility so that working families' children will be insured and will be covered.

Building on that success, extending health IT technology to our health care system, which is included in the stimulus package, extending people with unemployment Medicaid coverage, we are going to move forward as a country towards universal health coverage. Today will go down in history as an important step forward to accomplish that much-needed goal.

□ 1015

#### HONORING MARLIN BRISCOE

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

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to honor a great Nebraskan, Marlin Briscoe.

Marlin was a standout basketball and football player at Omaha South High School. He attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he played quarterback, something unique for an African American in the 1960s. He was drafted by the Denver Broncos. He played for them and the Miami Dolphins, and he went on to play several years in the NFL. But he really made his mark when he fell from grace because of his addiction to drugs, and he even spent time in jail.

But Marlin eventually recovered and has since turned his life around and has been a strong advocate for at-risk youth. He is a mentor, a teacher, a role model. He once said that working for the Boys and Girls Club was the most important thing he had ever done in his life.

Marlin, our country, and especially the people of Omaha, Nebraska, are very proud of your contributions and accomplishments.