

Wasserman	Weiner	Wittman
Schultz	Welch	Wolf
Waters	Westmoreland	Woolsey
Watson	Whitfield	Wu
Watt	Wilson (OH)	Young (FL)
Waxman	Wilson (SC)	

NAYS—1

Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—45

Arcuri	Edwards (TX)	Oberstar
Baca	Ellsworth	Paul
Bean	Fallin	Poe (TX)
Berry	Granger	Putnam
Blunt	Graves (MO)	Radanovich
Boehner	Griffith	Rush
Brady (PA)	Harman	Salazar
Bright	Hoekstra	Sires
Carney	Lewis (CA)	Speier
Cohen	Linder	Stark
Costa	Marchant	Terry
Culberson	McMahon	Tiahrt
Davis (AL)	McMorris	Tiberi
Davis (IL)	Rodgers	Yarmuth
Delahunt	Moran (KS)	
Diaz-Balart, M.	Murphy, Patrick	

□ 1847

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 608 on H.R. 6400, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 North 6th Street in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Earl Wilson, Jr. Post Office", I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 609 on H. Res. 1642, Recognizing the centennial of the City of Lilburn, Georgia and supporting the goals and ideals of a City of Lilburn Day, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 610 on H. Res. 1264, Expressing support for the designation of March as National Essential Tremor Awareness, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER
RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Authorizing and directing the Speaker to appoint a bipartisan task force to investigate the circumstances and cause of the decision to place professional staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on indefinite administrative leave, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States authorizes the House of Representatives to "determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly

Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member";

Whereas in 1968, in compliance with this authority and to uphold its integrity and ensure that Members act in a manner that reflects credit on the House of Representatives, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct was established;

Whereas the ethics procedures in effect during the 111th Congress were enacted in 1997 in a bipartisan manner by an overwhelming vote of the House of Representatives upon the bipartisan recommendation of the ten member Ethics Reform Task Force, which conducted a thorough and lengthy review of the entire ethics process;

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct adopted rules for the 111th Congress;

Whereas rule 6(a) of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct states "the staff is to be assembled and retained as professional, nonpartisan staff";

Whereas rule 6(c) of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct states "the staff as a whole and each individual member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner";

Whereas rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct states "All staff members shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the Committee. Such a vote shall occur at the first meeting of the membership of the Committee during each Congress and as necessary during the Congress";

Whereas, on November 19, 2010 two members of the professional staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct were placed on indefinite administrative leave;

Whereas, on November 19, 2010 the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct canceled and has not rescheduled the adjudicatory hearing for a Member of Congress, previously scheduled for November 29, 2010;

Whereas all of these actions have subjected the Committee to public ridicule and weakened the ability of the Committee to properly conduct its investigative duties, all of which has brought discredit to the House; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Speaker shall appoint a bipartisan task force with equal representation of the majority and minority parties to investigate the circumstances and cause of the decision to place professional staff of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on indefinite administrative leave and to make recommendations to restore public confidence in the ethics process, including disciplinary measures for both staff and Members where needed; and

(2) the task force report its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives during the second session of this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from California will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

HONORING CHAIRMAN SKELTON

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

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and distinguished colleague Chairman IKE SKELTON. For nearly three and a half decades, IKE has dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Missouri. During his tenure, IKE has been a steady, moderate voice during some of the greatest challenges this hallowed body has ever faced.

I have been humbled to serve with Chairman SKELTON on the Armed Services Committee. In my time on the HASC, I have been deeply impressed by IKE's ability to keep partisan hyperbole—so prevalent in today's discourse—out of committee proceedings. For IKE, the sacred commitment to our servicemembers, their families, and our national security always supersedes petty politics.

As chairman, IKE shepherded some of Congress' most important legislation through a minefield of disparate interests and motives while maintaining an even hand, fair disposition, and unwavering dedication to his craft.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great honor to serve alongside such a principled chairman, consummate statesman, and dedicated public servant as IKE SKELTON.

REMEMBERING RON SANTO

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Ron Santo, a Cubs legend and legendary Cubs fan. Ron passed away last week after a courageous fight against bladder cancer. He was 70 years old.

For 14 years, he patrolled the hot corner at Wrigley Field. He was a nine-time All-Star, won five Gold Gloves, and hit 342 home runs. But Ron was never a numbers guy. On the field and for 20 years in the broadcast booth, his joy, devotion, and eternal optimism embodied the best of the Cubs.

Whether he was clicking his heels behind third base or leading the fight against juvenile diabetes, he wore his heart on his sleeve and a smile on his face.

Ron will be missed by everyone who ever watched him play, heard his voice on the radio, or was touched by his philanthropy and kind heart.

Let us hope that one day soon he will take his rightful place alongside baseball's immortals in Cooperstown, because Ron Santo belongs in the Hall of Fame.

DREAM ACT

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

Ms. CHU. Opponents of the DREAM Act claim the bill is amnesty. The

DREAM Act is not amnesty. The DREAM Act is justice.

“Amnesty” is defined as a government pardon. But how can you be pardoned if you have done nothing wrong? These children followed their parents to a land of greater opportunity, having no choice and no say in how they arrived. They grew up here, went to school here, and now want to serve the United States.

But make no mistake, these students will not have it easy. They will have to work hard, wait an entire decade, and continue to prove they meet all of the criteria for a green card, much less citizenship. They must pay back taxes, be able to read, write, and speak English, and show knowledge of the United States.

And when they have done all of that, they will finally be allowed to pursue their dreams. That is justice—the American way.

PASS DREAM ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I start, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the family of Elizabeth Edwards, who passed today, a woman who I got to know and who I admire greatly. I wish for her family loving memories, and I offer publicly my deepest sympathies.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind Members of what opportunity means in this country. Opportunity is focused in many ways: equality and justice, First Amendment rights, that you can find in the Constitution in some way. But education is also an opportunity and a right in this country.

I rise today to support the DREAM Act so that millions of children who've lived in this country, speak the language, many of them served in the United States military, who are seeking a simple education can do so and then, in turn, invest some \$1 trillion in contributions to America.

I speak today in tribute to Ms. Martinez, who is on a 28-day hunger strike, from San Antonio, Texas. Ms. Martinez, I hope, in your name, that we will pass the DREAM Act, because you have been willing to sacrifice. We should pass the DREAM Act.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded that Members should address their remarks to the Chair and not to the television audience.

□ 1900

A SETBACK FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the actions of the Governments of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay for recognizing Palestine as an independent state before there are conclusive negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The Prime Minister of Israel gave a 10-month moratorium on any kind of building of additional settlements or houses or anything like that in exchange for talking with the Palestinians. The Palestinians waited 9 months and didn't talk. In the 10th month, they talked, and now it ran out, and the Palestinians are again placing preconditions and are refusing to talk. The Palestinians must know that a peace agreement with Israel is the only way they can have their Palestinian state. It can't be done unilaterally.

What Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay did, I think, has set back rather than enhanced the negotiations for a two-state solution, which I support. This is something that was wrong and that should be condemned. It gives the Palestinians no incentive to sit down and talk with Israel and bargain in good faith.

A GDP SPENDING CAP

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, most Americans are looking at the events in Ireland, Spain and Greece with interest and horror when we look at how they are grappling with the problem of their national debts. Yet, at the same time, the United States of America has a debt which is 96 percent of GDP. Our spending level is about 24 percent of GDP.

Now, most States around the country have balanced budget amendments which keep them from going in the red. What a different picture it would be if our national government had a balanced budget amendment. There is another thing we could do, though, and that would be to modernize the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, which calls for deficit reduction targets.

I think, however, it would be better to have a spending cap tied into GDP at approximately 18 percent, which would, year after year, give Congress a target. If we were to fail to meet that target, then it would have an automatic trigger of across-the-board cuts so that we could get to the right level of spending. We do not want to have the same problems as Greece, Ireland and Spain.

MAKE THE DREAM ACT A REALITY

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific Amer-

ican Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support the DREAM Act this week.

Failure to pass the DREAM Act would disproportionately impact the 1.5 million Asian students in our country. Hardworking and high-achieving students like Soo Ji Lim and Steve “Shing Ma” Li have overcome numerous barriers in their lives and are now on track to finish college.

These students already contribute to our country, and we owe them a chance at the American Dream. We must act, and we must make the DREAM Act a reality for students like them. It is a good investment. Let's get a return on the investment.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KISSELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN AND NO DEFINITION OF “VICTORY”

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have to my side the faces of marines who have given their lives for this country. They are from Camp Lejeune, which is in the district I represent. These are the faces of those young men and women who gave their lives for this country.

I come to the floor today because I join the American people. I am very concerned about committing our troops to 4 more years in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a vast country. It has never been a nation. It doesn't have a government, and we are trying to build a government in Afghanistan. I want to share just a couple of comments. This is from The Washington Examiner.

It reads: “Catch-and-Release of Taliban fighters in Afghanistan angers troops.”

“More than 500 suspected Taliban fighters detained by United States forces have been released from custody at the urging of Afghan Government officials, angering both American troops and some Afghans who oppose the policy on the grounds that many of those released return to the battlefield to kill NATO soldiers and Afghan civilians.”

Recently, on November 28 of this year, there was a “60 Minutes” segment by Anderson Cooper. It was called “Good Cop, Bad Cop: Afghanistan's National Police.” I want to read just a couple of excerpts from this: