



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005

No. 66

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Johnny Hunt, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the life that You have so blessed us with and for health and strength to enjoy it. Lord, thank You for the privilege to pray for President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, their Cabinet, and their families. Lord, I pray for this Congress that You would grant them wisdom.

Lord, thank You for this great country and for the freedom we enjoy. Please bless, protect, strengthen, and encourage our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places of service around the world. And please bless their precious families and protect them.

We join the Puritans of old and ask, "Deliver us from the natural darkness of our minds, from the corruption of our hearts, from the temptation to which we are exposed, from the daily snares that tempt us. I realize that we are in constant danger while in this life. Let Your watchful eye ever be upon us for our defense.

Lord, we love You and need You. Help us to lead others in the way You have led us. We make our prayer in the

name above every name, the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCHENRY 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.

RECOGNIZING GUEST CHAPLAIN DR. JOHNNY HUNT

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise to recognize our guest chaplain, Dr. Johnny Hunt, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Georgia.

It is a remarkable life story. He spent time many years ago in jail, and on a snowy night in January of 1973, he met his Lord and he spent much of the last 32 years on his knees. He travels the country speaking on behalf of his beliefs and his faith. He has built a remarkable church in Woodstock, Georgia, with 14,000 members.

Since his life has changed, he has changed the lives of thousands of other people at First Baptist and has made it his goal to tell as many people as pos-

sible about the new life that can be experienced through faith and spiritual guidance.

Today, the First Baptist Church of Woodstock serves the community in a number of ways, conducting Sunday services, providing mission training for trips abroad, providing daily child care, conducting English-as-second-language classes, and allowing individuals the chance to discuss a variety of issues affecting daily life.

His inspiring prayer will remain with us, and his dedication to the ministry will always be appreciated. I am very proud to have Dr. Johnny Hunt serve as our chaplain to the House today.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PFC TRAVIS ANDERSON

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Army Private First Class Travis Anderson, who was killed in the line of duty while serving his country honorably in Iraq.

He was extremely proud to wear his Nation's uniform, and we should all pay tribute to this brave and courageous young man.

Each day our men and women willingly face unknown dangers as part of the effort to promote peace and democracy throughout the world. Their individual stories of honor and courage must not be forgotten.

Travis Anderson was from the San Luis Valley in Colorado, and he loved hunting and fishing. He was an excellent marksman and was one of the best known coyote hunters around. Travis knew from an early age that he wanted to use his talent to serve his country. His passion for serving his country and marksmanship earned him a place in the elite Special Forces.

On May 13, 2005, Pfc Travis Anderson was killed when a car bomb detonated

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.

H3439

near his convoy in Iraq. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He was 28 years old.

My heart goes out to Travis's family: his grandmother, Violet; his mother, Barbara; and his siblings, Toscha, Amanda, Bissy, and Buddy. They too have sacrificed for our Nation. I am humbled by their strength and perseverance in the face of such hardship.

Pfc Anderson died performing the most noble of deeds serving and protecting his Nation and fellow countrymen. Travis and his family have exhibited a rare form of selflessness and courage.

I submit this recognition to the United States House of Representatives in honor of their sacrifice so that Travis Anderson may live on in memory.

BIPARTISANSHIP IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we passed the first of 10 appropriation bills by a large bipartisan majority. It was nice to see and has become somewhat of a common practice this year.

The energy bill was passed by this House by a vote of 249 to 183 with 41 Democrats supporting. The highway bill passed with a vote of 417 to 9 with 198 Democrats supporting. The class action reform passed this House with a vote of 279 to 149 with 50 Democrats supporting. The death tax repeal passed, 272 to 162 with 42 Democrats supporting. Bankruptcy reform passed this House by a vote of 302 to 146 with 73 Democrats supporting. And the continuation of government passed by a vote of 329 to 68 with 122 Democrats supporting.

The public needs to know that this is a very impassioned body, and we should really appreciate that; but the true test of how we work together is when we count the votes.

ASTRONOMICAL ARROGANCE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the administration is considering putting weapons in outer space to give the United States the power to control the world. This astronomical arrogance pushes not simply aggression to new heights but may well preclude our Nation from spending money for anything other than weapons which will cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 states that it is "the policy of the United States that activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind." Space was envisioned as a place of cooperation, of confirming human unity, a place where we could aspire to

build a new platform of peace, fulfilling the prophecy of the poet Browning, who wrote: "But a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"

What has happened to our country? Why are we projecting fear and paranoia to such heights? Have we so lost our way and our faith that we are prepared to transform the heavens into hell? If the kingdom and the will of God is to be done on Earth as it is in heaven, what is to happen when the United States takes nuclear fire up to the gates of heaven? Such an offense against humanity could bring the wrath of God upon this Nation.

JUSTICE JANICE ROGERS BROWN DESERVES A FAIR VOTE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for over 200 years, judges have been confirmed by a simple majority vote.

When President Clinton was in office, his nominees required only 51 votes to be confirmed by the Senate. Unfortunately, Democrats have changed the rules and require today's nominees to receive an unprecedented 60-vote standard.

Justice Janice Rogers Brown of California is one of the many highly qualified nominees who are being denied a fair up-and-down vote. Justice Brown is the first African American to serve on California's highest court and was retained with 76 percent of the vote statewide in her last election. However, Democrats are denying her the opportunity of a fair vote simply because she was nominated by President Bush.

On Monday, Majority Leader FRIST explained in USA Today why the Democratic obstructionism is harmful to the American people and the constitutional process. When our court-houses sit empty, Democrats should not be focused on partisan games.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes events happen one after another and no one calls attention to a pattern. Today, alarm bells should be going off about the rising threat of anti-Semitism. When Arab countries practiced anti-Semitism, when textbooks made Jews out to be devils, commentators here said, Well, that is just the Israeli conflict; do not worry. When some countries voted against Israel in the United Nations as a matter of routine, the pundits said it is just to win favor with oil-rich nations: Do not worry.

When synagogues are desecrated in France and Jews attacked in that country, the calm observers said: It is just peculiar to France, do not worry.

On April 22, the British Association of University Teachers representing nearly 49,000 higher education professionals decided to boycott all relationship and exchanges with Bar-Ilan and Haifa University in Israel. Now what do the "do not worry about anti-Semitism" crowd say? The very citadels of civilization are experiencing a rising tide of anti-Semitism. Not only Britain but the academics and intellectuals of Britain. We must call it out, confront it.

We have learned this lesson: the answer to anti-Semitism is not silence; it is not acquiescence. It is to call it by its name and fight. I call on the Bush administration to join me.

HARRY REID AND FBI FILES

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns about a character assassination. This is a 21st-century form of McCarthyism being perpetrated by the Democratic leadership in the United States Senate.

I was deeply troubled by the Senate minority leader's statement on the floor of the Senate on Thursday about His Honor Judge Henry Saad of my home State of Michigan. Judge Saad, whose nomination to the Sixth Circuit Court of the United States Court of Appeals has been obstructed by the Democrats in the Senate, was unfairly and unjustly targeted by the Senator during the debate about filibustering.

The minority leader publicly alluded to Judge Saad's confidential FBI file. He intimated there was something troubling or at the least disconcerting in the file. These FBI files are raw. They have not been fully vetted, and every judicial nominee has one. What is most troubling to me is that the Senate minority leader either knew, or should have known, that this was a low blow. He either knew, or should have known, that Judge Saad cannot even see his own file. He cannot even defend himself. The Senator is smearing a man who is not allowed to respond by the Senate's own rules. That, of course, is hitting below the belt.

Mr. Speaker, the Senator is instituting a modern-day version of McCarthyism. I ask him to stop smearing and to start leading.

ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA, MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise very proudly to congratulate Antonio Villaraigosa as the newly elected