



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2005

No. 79

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 15, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEB BRADLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Dr. Edward D. Johnson, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Ocala, Ocala, FL, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, I thank You for each Member of the House of Representatives. I thank You for the sacrifice they give in order to represent our communities; time spent away from their families, time spent here in Washington and time spent in serving others. I am aware of the enormity of their responsibility in making decisions about issues that not only affect our incomes, but also affect our national security, our moral well-being and our precious freedoms as a nation.

I pray that You would bless these men and women with physical health, mental acuity, moral toughness and spiritual peace. You have established us as a "nation under God." You have reminded us that in Your Word, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Heavenly Father, we ask for Your continued blessing on our Nation and for peace and prosperity to abound through our land.

As a Christian, while I make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, I know that many others approach prayer in a different manner. We all ask for

Your blessings and for Your grace for our lives. 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 New York (Mr. NADLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NADLER 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 DR. EDWARD D. JOHNSON, SENIOR PASTOR, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OCALA, OCALA, FL, TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of delight and an honor for me to have my pastor, Dr. Ed Johnson, provide the opening prayer for the House of Representatives this morning. We were privileged today to hear his brief words of inspiration and guidance.

Dr. Johnson is the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ocala, FL, my hometown. This is a thriving church, and one of the largest in Marion County. My wife and I attend with our family, and we enjoy the warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Pastor Johnson has been with the First Baptist Church for 22 years,

where he and his wife Hilda remain active in helping throughout our community. Before arriving in Ocala, Dr. Johnson served in churches in Texas, Tennessee and West Virginia.

While attending to the needs of his flock, Pastor Johnson has served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention, chairman of the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions and the chairman of the Board of Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Although this is a distinguished record of service, more importantly, he is a respected man of the Lord.

I appreciate this opportunity to share Pastor Johnson's wisdom with my colleagues this morning, and I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to taking him to the White House for the picnic.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES BY KEEPING REGULATIONS FAIR

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today seeking support for H.R. 1167, which I introduced to enable Congress to better scrutinize laws and regulations imposed on America's small businesses.

In New York's Hudson Valley I represent small business owners who tell me time and again that unnecessary paperwork and unreasonable government regulations are the most severe problem they face at work each day.

Our Nation's small businesses create 7 out of 10 new jobs and are the primary engine of economic growth for our communities. However, the burden of regulatory compliance on these same small businesses is as much as 50 percent greater than it is for larger companies. It costs the average small business almost \$7,000 per employee each year. Small businesses should be

□ 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.

H4489

able to use this money to hire new employees to better serve their customers. Instead, they lose it because they are complying with excessive regulation.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this body to take a strong stand in support of our small businesses in the Hudson Valley and throughout the country. By passing my legislation, we can improve the transparency of regulatory decisions from our Federal agencies.

Congress and the GAO must fully evaluate unfair costs and impacts on small businesses before new rules are implemented. Please help our small businesses and keep regulations fair by cosponsoring H.R. 1167.

REPUBLICANS NOT CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, job creation under the Bush administration remains disappointing, despite 3 years of economic recovery. Last month the economy created only 78,000 jobs. There are fewer private sector jobs in the United States today than there were in January 2001 when President Bush took office. In fact, the economy must still create an additional 24,000 jobs just to get back to where we were in 2001. In the Clinton years we created 23 million new jobs. We did not lose private sector jobs.

Also on this President's watch, our economy has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs, including 7,000 more last month. The weakness of the job market is also showing up in the continued stagnation of workers' earnings. Today, on average, workers' hourly wages are down 1 percent from last year if you factor in inflation. That means workers are taking home less, at a time when their health care, education and gas bills are skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans had their chance to jump-start the economy. For 4 years they have been cutting taxes for the wealthiest few in the hopes that jobs and higher salaries would trickle down to the middle class. It has not happened.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a new approach.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, talk of bipartisanship in legislating real solutions for the American people must have been just that; talk. The 109th Congress commenced just 6 months ago, and some Members on the other side of the aisle are still scheming on how to derail practical solutions for reforming Social Security.

One promising proposal, the creation of personal retirement accounts, has already been taken off the table by the Democrats before genuine debate has even begun. I believe that younger workers should have the opportunity to plan for a higher retirement income than that which the current system would allow. Workers retiring after about 2042 can only expect to receive about 73 percent or less of what they are being promised today.

I hear from my constituents daily about broken promises by our government. Personal accounts are a perfect example of a way we can give the American public control of their hard-earned income and avoid broken promises to its people.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fair to working Americans that we have true debate on Social Security reform before tossing out so-called partisan ideas.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN LEE VASQUEZ

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to and recognize Army Staff Sergeant Justin Lee Vasquez. Sgt. Vasquez was killed in the line of duty while serving his country in Iraq. Justin Vasquez was proud of his service in the Army and willingly wore his country's uniform. We should honor his dedication, courage and leadership.

Each day men and women in the Armed Forces willingly face unknown dangers in the hope to bring peace and prosperity to those in need. We must not forget the individual stories of these soldiers who have served our country with courage and honor.

Justin Vasquez was from Manzanola, Colorado. He played football in high school and loved to hunt and fish with his family. He was known throughout his squadron as being a dedicated leader who always wanted to help other people.

Justin Vasquez was serving his second tour of duty. He was given the option not to return to Iraq. Instead, he returned, because he did not want to leave his men alone.

On Sunday, June 5, 2005, Staff Sergeant Justin Lee Vasquez was killed when his military convoy was attacked.

Justin Vasquez made the ultimate sacrifice by courageously and honorably serving his country. To him it was everything to be a soldier.

My heart goes out to Justin's parents Vicki and Tino, his wife Riley, and his son Justin. The Vasquez family has demonstrated exceptional selflessness and courage in such trying times.

Mr. Speaker, I submit this recognition to the United States House of Representatives in honor of their sacrifice, so that Justin Lee Vasquez may live on in memory.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE MADE BY LANCE CORPORAL AARON MANKIN

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice made by Lance Corporal Aaron Mankin of Rogers, Arkansas. I grew up with Aaron's father Steve, and my children grew up with Aaron. They are a wonderful family.

Last month Aaron, a photographer and writer for the Public Affairs Office at Camp Fallujah, was badly wounded while serving in Iraq. He suffered intense burns and major lung damage when the armored vehicle he was traveling in ran over a land mine in Northern Iraq.

I had been in Fallujah several weeks before, and by chance Aaron saw I was there. He actually showed us around, and I cannot tell you how proud I was of him and how proud he was of being a marine serving his country in Iraq.

Aaron was sent to Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio and placed in the ICU. The damage to his lungs was so extensive that he was placed on a ventilator. He had third-degree burns on his arms and had to have his thumb and two-thirds of his index finger on his right hand amputated.

Aaron's will to persevere is strong though, Mr. Speaker. He is off the ventilator, and he recently took his first steps since the accident. He has told his parents that he is looking forward to rejoining his fellow marines after rehab, and because of the Lord and His blessing, the doctors at Brook Army Medical Center feel positive about his chances of doing that.

Mr. Speaker, at the young age of 23, Aaron has made a tremendous sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Aaron and his family in their thoughts and prayers as he continues down the path of recovery.

HOUSE MUST TAKE UP CHEMICAL SECURITY IMMEDIATELY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Homeland Security will hold a hearing on chemical security, something that has been put off for far too long.

It has almost been 4 years since the attacks of September 11 showed us just how determined terrorists are to attack us. In that time the House has taken action to deal with nuclear security, cybersecurity, port security, border security and airline security, just to name a few. But we have yet to deal with chemical security, something that Richard Falkenrath, a former Bush administration official working on homeland security, called "uniquely deadly,