

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR of Georgia). All Members are reminded that rules of the House prohibit recognition of visitors in our galleries.

REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP ON
FLOOD AID NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. GINGRICH. I want to report to the House on the negotiations on flood aid, but before I do, I must report that I just learned to my great delight that Reverend Baggott was in fact a high school student of mine at Newnan where I taught a class. I was teaching in west Georgia and I taught a class in the afternoons for high school students. And it is probably a sign of how long I have been hanging out that he is now a pastor. But we are glad to have his son and daughter with us. That was an additional delight here this morning.

I want to say to all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that we are making progress. I have been deeply committed to getting flood aid to the victims I visited in Minnesota and North Dakota. I know how important it is to get them the aid.

I was very disappointed when the President vetoed the flood aid on Monday. We believe we are very close to having it worked out and hope in the next few hours to announce and then move a supplemental appropriations bill to provide the flood aid.

But I would say for the country and for all my colleagues that insisting that the Government stay open is not a small thing; that if Senator DASCHLE will give his word today and get a unanimous consent agreement in the other body to bring up at an appropriate time a continuing resolution to keep open the Government, that he will have guaranteed that the aid will go through much more rapidly, and he has it in his power to do so; and that, frankly, ensuring that Americans are counted in the census by enumeration as the Constitution requires is not a small thing.

I believe that we will have language worked out this morning with the administration to require the census to develop a track of being able to enumerate every citizen, not just have somebody make an estimate, which can easily be politically manipulated. That is a constitutional requirement that goes back to 1790, and we have an obligation.

These are not minor issues, these are not political games. Keeping open the American Government and ensuring that every citizen is counted are important to the people of this country. We believe we have an agreement. We hope to be able to bring this bill to the floor sometime late today.

CONGRESS SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR
SLAVERY

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, generations have passed since the end of slavery. In that time, Congress has done much to undo the effects of that horrible wrong, but we have never apologized. And I was stunned to learn that fact from the Congressional Research Service.

Today I will introduce a resolution apologizing to the African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. My resolution will not fix the lingering injustice resulting from slavery, but reconciliation begins with an apology. I hope this apology will be a start of a new healing between the races.

Though no one alive today is responsible for slavery, all Americans share our shameful heritage and we all suffer from the consequences of a divided Nation. Therefore, it is fitting for the Congress, as the representatives of the American people, to offer this apology. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to admit we were wrong and ask for forgiveness.

DADS HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN
OUR HEARTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is that time of year again when America honors its dads. This Sunday, we will celebrate Father's Day, a day to acknowledge the special place which dads hold in our hearts, a day to recognize the role dads have played as father, husband, teacher, mentor, provider, caregiver and friend.

Mr. Speaker, every American has a father, but not every American has a dad, one whom they know, love, spend time with and trust. Because of this fact, our country has suffered. Indeed, the United States is now the world's leader in fatherless families. This has taken its toll in our society.

We know men across America struggle to be good dads, and Members of this House know the sacrifices we have to make to live up to our responsibilities as fathers. Many of us are co-laborers in the struggle. Mr. Speaker, this is why several Members have joined me today to establish the Congressional Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion.

With colleagues from both sides of the aisle, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. MCINTYRE], the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN], and the gentleman from Texas [Mr. TURNER], I have established the Fatherhood Promotion Task Force, first as a result of the unsavory fact that fatherlessness is a reality for far too many American children and, second, because it is time that men who hold

high places be the ones to mold a new reality. We must lead by example.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for fathers to take hold of and be proud of their role as dad.

I wish every father a happy Father's Day and ask you: Have you loved your children today?

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO
PREVENT BURNING OF OLD
GLORY

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in America it is illegal to burn trash, but we can burn the flag. In America it is illegal to remove a label from a mattress, but we can rip the stars and stripes from the flag. In America it is illegal to damage a mailbox, but we can destroy the flag.

Scholars say the Constitution allows it. Maybe so, but the original Constitution allowed slavery and treated women and Indians like cattle. Mr. Speaker, it is time to change the Constitution.

A people that do not honor and respect their flag is a people that does not honor and respect their neighbors or their country. If individuals want to make a political statement, they can burn their bras, burn their pantyhose, burn their BVD's, but they should leave Old Glory alone.

It is time to amend the Constitution.

FATHERHOOD

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

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the fathers who do it right. A good father should first be a good husband and show his children by example the love and respect that their mother should receive. A father is one who is there, who quietly and faithfully sees needs and fills them. From diapers to bicycles to homework to growing to adulthood, fathers must be powerful forces of leading by quiet example.

Fathers keep things strong and solid, but they keep it simple. My father set an example for hard work. He came home for dinner. He stayed with the family in the evening, but he had his own business to build and he went back to work late and would work until midnight and then be back home. He set an example.

My father helped me through college, the first to my knowledge in my whole family tree, to get a college degree.

When I married, my wife's father took it on himself to stock our kitchen and our pantry with its first set of food and supplies for us. Simple but significant.

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I hope and pray that I will be as good a father to my five children as my father has been to his five children and