

the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. Speaker, during the years in which Dr. King served as a leader of the civil rights groups like the Montgomery Improvement Association and the SCLC, he took out a tissue of truth and wiped away the dirt of discrimination from the American dream. Thanks to Dr. King, the American dream today is alive and accessible to millions of Americans who might otherwise been left out in the cold. This, too, is Dr. King's legacy.

Dr. King's legacy can also be found in our churches every week. Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was a believer in the power of God to change the lives of Americans for the better. He served as a pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. In short, Dr. King was a devout man of faith who believed that God had a place, a central place in American society.

That is important to recognize as part of Dr. King's legacy. Nowadays, there seems to be a serious effort under way to run God out of America. America without God's direction is like a man who does not have a heart. Neither entity can survive for very long.

Indeed, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed that laws were meaningless unless they had a moral component to them. In his Letter From the Birmingham Jail, Dr. King wrote, "A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law and a law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law."

Dr. King felt he was morally justified in fighting segregation and discrimination because he knew that Jim Crow laws violated God's law. Mr. Speaker, this evening, as we consider laws here in Congress, we should start holding each other up to the same standard Dr. Martin Luther King set for laws. We must ask, is this law we are considering a morally just law? Or, we must ask, would it be morally just if we did not pass this law?

Every Member of Congress should remember the words of Dr. King when he said, human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men and women willing to be coworkers with God.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if all of us as Americans will come together, Republicans, Democrats, liberal, conservative, red, yellow, brown, black, or white, we can make our schools places where children will shoot for the stars instead of making schools places where our children are shot at. If we as Americans will all reject our prejudices and stereotypes and work together, we can end this horrible drug epidemic which is killing our young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as we all consider this great resolution before us, let us each resolve to examine ourselves this evening. Let us ask ourselves what are we doing today to keep Dr. King's legacy alive.

We must ask ourselves, are we teaching our kids to respect and love people of all races? Are we leading by example in this area? How many hours have we spent with our kids this week? Are we actively encouraging our children in their studies and in talking with them about their problems? Are we showing our children that we care about them?

If we are falling short in any of these areas, Mr. Speaker, we are stomping all over the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. However, if we teach our kids right from wrong, spend time with them and encourage our kids to love others, we are keeping Dr. King's dream alive and, at the same time, preserving the American dream for our children, our children's children, and millions of new Americans to come.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 247

Whereas the life work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., serves as an inspiration to all people who believe in justice, equality, and human rights;

Whereas Dr. King advanced his goals and principles with determination, faith, dignity, and courage in the face of life-threatening opposition;

Whereas Dr. King raised the consciousness of the Nation to fundamental injustices and inequalities in American society and moved the Nation significantly forward on the long and unfinished road to racial harmony and reconciliation;

Whereas the work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect for individuals, communities, and the Nation as a whole, to act cooperatively and courageously to establish tolerance, justice, and equality among all people;

Whereas Dr. King's life and political philosophy advocated the need for men and women to strive to overcome oppression without resorting to violence;

Whereas Dr. King was the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize for his unrelenting efforts to bring about social and racial justice;

Whereas Dr. King believed in, practiced, and urged others to achieve political change and social equality through nonviolent means and dedicated his life to achieving the goal of a fully integrated society;

Whereas there is still much work to be done in achieving full reconciliation among America's racial, social, and ethnic communities and in creating a colorblind society;

Whereas Dr. King's life was tragically ended on April 4, 1968, before completing his work and fulfilling his dream of a Nation where people are not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character; and

Whereas Dr. King's political philosophy and life's work shine as a guiding light for all people who would live peacefully together in freedom, both nationally and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the civil society and freedoms of the United States of America;

(2) recognizes that Dr. King's life was tragically taken before the full achievement of his goals; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate Dr. King's life and ideals in order to fulfill his dream of civil and human rights for all people.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 399

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of House Resolution 399.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

DESIGNATION OF THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE A. MORELLA OR HONORABLE THOMAS M. DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH APRIL 21, 1998

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 1, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable THOMAS M. DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Tuesday, April 21, 1998.

NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the designation is agreed to. There was no objection.

□ 2200

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 419, BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 87) to direct the Secretary of the Senate to make certain corrections in the enrollment of the Senate bill, S. 419, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as Members recall, the House passed S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act, on March 10, 1998. Since that time, we have become aware that certain corrections are required in the enrollment of the bill. This concurrent resolution directs the Secretary of the other body to make those changes. The concurrent resolution has been cleared with the Minority on the Commerce Committee, and I am not aware of any objection to its approval.