

leaders should be just the catalyst we need to begin the discussion and to begin the strategy in this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this. Support the American families. Support our fathers. Fathers in the Congress, let us take responsibility and work for H. Res. 417.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, we have one more speaker on our side, and I would like to recognize him now. He is a freshman colleague of mine and also a father of four boys, who is expecting his fifth child sometime later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING).

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution recognizing the importance of fathers in America and also recognizing the hard and good work of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH). My wife is a godmother of the gentleman's recent new addition to his family, to his daughter, and we proudly celebrate that.

As the gentleman mentioned, I am the father of four boys, four boys, ages 8, 6, 4 and 2; and we have just learned recently that the fifth is coming. This is my first public announcement of that good news, and so we are looking forward to maybe finding a little girl, maybe, somewhere in our house.

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Today I rise first to recognize the role of my father and grandfathers in my life, not because it is unique to me, but it is because of what fathers and grandfathers have offered this country over our proud history. They taught me leadership and discipline. They showed me what sacrifice and service means. They showed me commitment and integrity to faith and to community. They have gave me the role model and the example and the path to follow.

As we approach Father's Day, I want to first recognize the role of my own father and my grandfather, one who was a farmer and one who was a high school principal and teacher and dean of men, and the role they played in my life.

My grandfather was committed to his wife, to his community, and to his church. He taught me what hard work meant and the joy of it. My father, who is now a Federal judge, taught me about public service. He is now the proud grandfather of 14 grandchildren, all under the age of 11. So with Father's Day coming, I thank them.

As we ask ourselves, what is the importance, what is the role of fatherhood in our country, let us put it in context. Let us put it in perspective. With the recent news of India and Pakistan and the possible escalation of the nuclear arms race, we say that that is a great threat to our security. We need to prepare for it and provide the resources, whatever it takes to defend ourselves in the future.

But I say, the greatest threat to our security is the loss of fathers in the home, and the lack of men stepping up and taking on the responsibility of being at home to teach and to provide for the well-being of their family.

As we look at education today, the greatest indicator of whether we will have educational success or failure goes back to the home and the role of the father being there. Violence and drugs are again tied back to the breakdown of the family, the loss and the lack of the male role model, of men and fathers being there; poverty.

Again, everything that we see facing our Nation, the greatest threats to our Nation, the greatest risk that we have, the greatest single determinant, the greatest factor that goes back to time and time again is whether men have accepted their role and have stepped up to the plate and assumed their responsibility. They have made a commitment and they have kept it.

Our challenge today is to call all men to assume their role, their responsibility in their home to be good husbands and to be good fathers. More important than anything we can do in this place, in Congress, is what happens in the home and what happens in the House, what happens with our families.

As the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. J.C. WATTS) said, the most important title to him is not Congressman, but daddy. There is no title, there is no position greater; the President of the United States, congressman, teacher, doctor, lawyer, whatever your title may be. The highest honor and the greatest obligation and responsibility, the greatest joy, is being called daddy and playing the role, and accepting the responsibility of being a good father.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying this is a resolution, as we have heard from people who are fathers and potential fathers, on how important the role of a father is. I think we simply have to look at the environment in which we live, where there are fatherless children, and those children usually run afoul of the law and have some kind of problem. We generally do not find that in a home where a father is present.

I was raised with a family of 10 children, but that important ingredient we had in our home to make our lives a success was our father being there for us in our time of need. I would simply say to all of my colleagues, this is a resolution that should get a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first say, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California and all of the speakers on the Democratic side who have been wonderful supporters of this resolution. It truthfully is a bipartisan effort.

Second, a very quick point, some people have asked me, what about the

mothers involved? Of course, mothers are critical to the raising of our children, rearing of our children. I know I could not do it without my wife, Ruthie. And I know how much my mother meant to us, because, in fact, my father died when I was only 5 years old, and she had to serve both the role of mother and father in our family.

But I think everyone knows that all of us in my family and every family where they may not have an ideal circumstance, we truly wished my father could have been there and been with us. What we are trying to say in this resolution is, to the fathers of America, do all you can to be there, to love your daughters, love your sons, and be a great father to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 417, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 417.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 4, 1998, during the consideration of House Joint Resolution 78, I apparently voted contrary to my intent on one part of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia.

I correctly voted "no" on the second part of the amendment, but thinking and intending to vote "no" on the first part, I apparently made a mistake and pushed the wrong button, and inadvertently voted "yes" on rollcall 198. I was shocked and disbelieving, Mr. Speaker, to discover my unintended vote of "aye" on the first part of the amendment, which would have stricken the reference to, and I quote, "acknowledge God in our Constitution" and replaced it with "freedom of religion." I did not and do not support that proposal.

As I said in my statement, Mr. Speaker, on House Joint Resolution 78, ". . . we do need to stress that faith in God and raising our voices in prayer continues to be one of the most important things that Americans can do." Mr. Speaker, the right to acknowledge