

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, if there ever is a time that we need almighty God, it really is now. If there ever is a time we need to pray, it is now. If there is ever a time that we need to humble ourselves as individuals, it is now. If there is ever a time that we need to plead for forgiveness, it is now. If there ever is a time that we need peace, it is now. If there ever is a time that we need healing, it is now.

□ 1745

I pray that we as a Congress and as a Nation can join together in prayer, supporting this resolution, calling for prayer, fasting and repentance.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, in this century, the United States has led the world in transforming industry, communication, and technology. We have found cures for oncofetal diseases and introduced freedom and democracy to the world. We sit on the threshold of a new century, and new millennium with a great mandate: laying the groundwork for a daring, new world.

On the brink of the nineteenth century, our Founding Fathers faced a similar mandate. One whose impact would reach beyond anything they could have imagined, and one which we live each day. They gathered together to establish a form of government that no other nation had ever attempted with freedoms that no other nation had ever even dreamed of: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion.

The work of these men was truly inspired. The wisdom in the words of the Constitution serves as the very cornerstone of hope and liberty. But these men did not rashly pull the Constitution together without forethought. The delegates of the Continental Congress debated over the course of months to author a document which changed the course of history for all people. It was during this debate, that they came to a standstill. On June 28, 1787, 212 years ago this week, the delegates hit a stalemate over many issues.

Ben Franklin saw that the impasse could not be reconciled by any human means: "The small progress we have made after four or five weeks' close attendance and continual reasonings with each other—our different sentiments on almost every question . . . producing as many noes as ayes—is, methinks, a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding . . . I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessings on our deliberations . . ."

Franklin recognized that the future of the Constitution, and the nation, depended upon Divine intervention. In the faces of the Congressional Delegates he saw pride, determination and no hope of compromise. Franklin knew that the only way the Constitution could be agreed upon was to call the delegates to humility and prayer. He recognized the need of each individual to search their hearts and seek the will of God.

Franklin called on the Members of the Congress to take three days of prayer and fasting. At the end of these three days, the delegates humbly returned, and were able to complete the framework of the Constitution which is the basis of the law of our nation.

As Americans, we are all grateful that Ben Franklin recognized the need for God and prayer within the political agenda. Each of the delegates had a strong understanding of right

and wrong. They knew the laws of the land needing to reflect a moral standard, a moral law. It is time we call our nation back to this morality.

Two weeks ago I offered an amendment called the Ten Commandments Defense Act, and you, my distinguished colleagues, helped to pass this legislation. It was a public declaration that God is not dead, despite the violence and confusion that haunts the current age.

Now I, along with the gentlelady from Idaho and others speaking on behalf of this resolution, call our country to set aside a time of reflection, a time to search our hearts and seek God's guidance. We must approach our families, our jobs, and our communities with the same humility and desire for reconciliation as our Founding Fathers sought in establishing the law of this land.

Today, we stand, not only on the brink of a new century, but at the dawning of a new millennium. We have the great honor, and the weighty responsibility, of setting the groundwork of the next thousand years. Let us do this with courage. Let us do this with honor. Most importantly, let us humbly set a precedent for the new millennium, and recognize God as the source of wisdom, goodness and strength.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the language of the resolution before us.

The religious faiths and practices of all of us as Americans are as important as they are personal.

This country was founded in part by people of strong religious beliefs who came to this new land seeking the freedom to worship totally beyond the reach of government. The doctrine of completely separating church and state was written into our Bill of Rights to protect our fundamental right to worship whenever we want, however we want, or even if we want.

I am very uncomfortable with this Congress—in a formal resolution—voting to observe "a day of solemn prayer, fasting, and humiliation before God".

The way for us to urge prayer and humility before God is by our example as individuals—not our political rhetoric as members of Congress.

I believe the teachings of Jesus as written in Matthew 6 verses 4-6 has application to the resolution before us:

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:4-6)

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I will vote "Present" on this resolution. I believe it is very important for people of all faiths to pray, reflect and seek divine guidance. It is not, however, the business of government to direct or prescribe this fundamental activity.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House sus-

pend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 94.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed today in the order in which that motion was entertained. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2280, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 226, by the yeas and nays; and

House Concurrent Resolution 94, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

#### VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2280, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2280, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 257]

YEAS—424

Abercrombie	Biggert	Camp
Ackerman	Bilbray	Campbell
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Canady
Andrews	Bishop	Capps
Archer	Biley	Capuano
Armey	Blumenauer	Cardin
Bachus	Blunt	Carson
Baird	Boehert	Castle
Baker	Boehner	Chabot
Baldacci	Bonilla	Chambliss
Baldwin	Bonior	Chenoweth
Ballenger	Bono	Clay
Barcia	Borski	Clayton
Barr	Boswell	Clement
Barrett (NE)	Boucher	Clyburn
Barrett (WI)	Boyd	Coble
Bartlett	Brady (PA)	Coburn
Barton	Brady (TX)	Collins
Bass	Brown (FL)	Combest
Bateman	Brown (OH)	Condit
Becerra	Bryant	Conyers
Bentsen	Burr	Cook
Bereuter	Burton	Cooksey
Berkley	Buyer	Costello
Berman	Callahan	Cox
Berry	Calvert	Coyne

Cramer Hulshof Nethercutt  
 Crane Hunter Ney  
 Crowley Hutchinson Northup  
 Cubin Hyde Norwood  
 Cummings Insee Nussle  
 Danner Isakson Oberstar  
 Davis (FL) Istook Obey  
 Davis (IL) Jackson (IL) Olver  
 Davis (VA) Jackson-Lee  
 Deal (TX) Ortiz  
 DeFazio Jefferson Ose  
 DeGette Jenkins Owens  
 Delahunt John Oxley  
 DeLauro Johnson (CT) Packard  
 DeLay Johnson, E. B. Pallone  
 DeMint Johnson, Sam Pascrell  
 Deutsch Jones (NC) Pastor  
 Diaz-Balart Jones (OH) Paul  
 Dickey Kanjorski Payne  
 Dicks Kaptur Pease  
 Dingell Kasich Pelosi  
 Dixon Kelly Peterson (MN)  
 Doggett Kennedy Peterson (PA)  
 Dooley Kildee Petri  
 Doolittle Kilpatrick Phelps  
 Doyle Kind (WI) Pickering  
 Dreier King (NY) Pickett  
 Duncan Kingston Pombo  
 Dunn Kleczka Pomeroy  
 Edwards Klink Porter  
 Ehlers Knollenberg Portman  
 Ehrlich Kolbe Price (NC)  
 Emerson Kucinich Pryce (OH)  
 Engel Kuykendall Quinn  
 English LaFalce Radanovich  
 Eshoo LaHood Rahall  
 Etheridge Lampson Ramstad  
 Evans Lantos Rangel  
 Everett Largent Regula  
 Ewing Larson Reyes  
 Farr Latham Reynolds  
 Fattah LaTourette Riley  
 Filner Lazio Rivers  
 Fletcher Leach Rodriguez  
 Foley Lee Roemer  
 Forbes Levin Rogan  
 Ford Lewis (CA) Rogers  
 Fossella Lewis (GA) Rohrabacher  
 Fowler Lewis (KY) Rothman  
 Frank (MA) Linder Roukema  
 Franks (NJ) Lipinski Roybal-Allard  
 Frelinghuysen LoBiondo Royle  
 Frost Lofgren Rush  
 Gallegly Lowey Ryan (WI)  
 Ganske Lucas (KY) Ryun (KS)  
 Gejdenson Lucas (OK) Sabo  
 Gekas Luther Salmon  
 Gephardt Maloney (CT) Sanchez  
 Gibbons Maloney (NY) Sanders  
 Gilchrest Manzullo Sandlin  
 Gillmor Markey Sanford  
 Gilman Martinez Sawyer  
 Gonzalez Mascara Saxton  
 Goode Matsui Scarborough  
 Goodlatte McCarthy (MO) Schaffer  
 Goodling McCarthy (NY) Schakowsky  
 Gordon McCollum Scott  
 Goss McCreery Sensenbrenner  
 Graham McDermott Serrano  
 Granger McGovern Sessions  
 Green (TX) McHugh Shadegg  
 Green (WI) McClinnis Shaw  
 Greenwood McIntosh Shays  
 Gutierrez McIntyre Sherman  
 Gutknecht McKeon Sherwood  
 Hall (OH) McNulty Shimkus  
 Hall (TX) Meek (FL) Shows  
 Hansen Meeks (NY) Shuster  
 Hastings (FL) Menendez Simpson  
 Hastings (WA) Metcalf Sisisky  
 Hayes Mica Skeen  
 Hayworth Millender Skelton  
 Hefley McDonald Slaughter  
 Herger Miller (FL) Smith (MI)  
 Hill (IN) Miller, Gary Smith (NJ)  
 Hill (MT) Miller, George Smith (TX)  
 Hilleary Minge Smith (WA)  
 Hilliard Mink Snyder  
 Hinchey Moakley Souder  
 Hinojosa Mollohan Spence  
 Hobson Moore Spratt  
 Hoefel Moran (KS) Stabenow  
 Hoekstra Moran (VA) Stark  
 Holden Morella Stearns  
 Holt Murtha Stenholm  
 Hooley Myrick Strickland  
 Horn Nadler Stump  
 Hostettler Napolitano Stupak  
 Houghton Neal Sununu

Sweeney Toomey Waxman  
 Talent Towns Weiner  
 Tancredo Traficant Weldon (FL)  
 Tanner Turner Weldon (PA)  
 Tauscher Udall (CO) Weller  
 Tauzin Udall (NM) Wexler  
 Taylor (MS) Upton Weygand  
 Taylor (NC) Velazquez Whitfield  
 Terry Vento Wicker  
 Thomas Visclosky Wilson  
 Thompson (CA) Vitter Wise  
 Thompson (MS) Walden Wolf  
 Thornberry Walsh Woolsey  
 Thune Wamp Wu  
 Thurman Waters Wynn  
 Tiahrt Watkins Young (AK)  
 Tierney Watt (NC) Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Allen Cunningham Ros-Lehtinen  
 Blagojevich Hoyer Watts (OK)  
 Brown (CA) McKinney  
 Cannon Meehan

□ 1807

Mr. HEFLEY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device may be taken on each additional motion to suspend the rules on which the chair has postponed further proceedings.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AT THREE SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, SYNAGOGUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 226.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 226, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, answered "present" 1, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 258]

YEAS—425

Abercrombie Baldwin Bentsen  
 Ackerman Ballenger Bereuter  
 Aderholt Barcia Berkley  
 Allen Barr Berman  
 Andrews Barrett (NE) Berry  
 Archer Barrett (WI) Biggart  
 Armeey Bartlett Bilbray  
 Bachus Barton Bilirakis  
 Baird Bass Bishop  
 Baker Bateman Bliley  
 Baldacci Becerra Blumenauer

Blunt Ganske Lowey  
 Boehlert Gejdenson Lucas (KY)  
 Boehner Gekas Lucas (OK)  
 Bonilla Gephardt Luther  
 Bonior Gibbons Maloney (CT)  
 Bono Gilchrest Maloney (NY)  
 Borski Gillmor Manzullo  
 Boswell Gilman Markey  
 Boucher Gonzalez Martinez  
 Boyd Goode Mascara  
 Brady (PA) Goodlatte Matsui  
 Brady (TX) Goodling McCarthy (MO)  
 Brown (FL) Gordon McCarthy (NY)  
 Brown (OH) Goss McCollum  
 Bryant Graham McCreery  
 Burr Granger McDermott  
 Burton Green (TX) McGovern  
 Buyer Green (WI) McHugh  
 Callahan Greenwood McClinnis  
 Calvert Gutierrez McIntosh  
 Camp Gutknecht McIntyre  
 Campbell Hall (OH) McKeon  
 Canady Hall (TX) McKinney  
 Capps Hansen McNulty  
 Capuano Hastings (FL) Meek (FL)  
 Cardin Hastings (WA) Meeks (NY)  
 Carson Hayes Menendez  
 Castle Hayworth Metcalf  
 Chabot Hefley Mica  
 Chambliss Herger Millender-  
 Chenoweth Hill (IN) McDonald  
 Clay Hill (MT) Miller (FL)  
 Clayton Hilleary Miller, Gary  
 Clement Hilliard Miller, George  
 Clyburn Hinchey Minge  
 Coble Hinojosa Mink  
 Coburn Hobson Moakley  
 Collins Hoefel Mollohan  
 Combest Hoekstra Moore  
 Condit Holden Moran (KS)  
 Conyers Holt Moran (VA)  
 Cook Hooley Morella  
 Cooksey Horn Murtha  
 Costello Hostettler Myrick  
 Cox Houghton Nadler  
 Coyne Hoyer Napolitano  
 Cramer Hulshof Neal  
 Crane Hunter Nethercutt  
 Crowley Hutchinson Ney  
 Cubin Hyde Northup  
 Cummings Insee Norwood  
 Danner Isakson Nussle  
 Davis (FL) Istook Oberstar  
 Davis (IL) Jackson (IL) Obey  
 Davis (VA) Jackson-Lee  
 Deal (TX) Olver  
 DeFazio Jefferson Ortiz  
 DeGette Jenkins Ose  
 Delahunt John Owens  
 DeLauro Johnson (CT) Oxley  
 DeLay Johnson, E. B. Packard  
 DeMint Johnson, Sam Pallone  
 Deutsch Jones (NC) Pascrell  
 Istook Jones (OH) Pastor  
 Jackson (IL) Kanjorski Payne  
 Jackson-Lee McClinnis Pease  
 Deal (TX) Kaptur Pelosi  
 Dingell Kasich Peterson (MN)  
 Dixon Kelly Peterson (PA)  
 Doggett Kennedy Petri  
 Dooley Kildee Phelps  
 Doolittle Kilpatrick Pickering  
 Doyle Kind (WI) Pickett  
 Dreier King (NY) Pitts  
 Duncan King (NY) Pombo  
 Dunn Kingston Pomeroy  
 Edwards Kleczka Porter  
 Ehlers Klink Portman  
 Ehrlich Knollenberg Price (NC)  
 Emerson Kolbe Price (OH)  
 Engel Kucinich Pryce (OH)  
 English Kuykendall Quinn  
 Eshoo LaFalce Radanovich  
 Etheridge LaHood Rahall  
 Evans Lampson Ramstad  
 Everett Lantos Rangel  
 Ewing Largent Regula  
 Farr Larson Reyes  
 Fattah Latham Reynolds  
 Filner LaTourette Riley  
 Fletcher Lazio Rivers  
 Foley Leach Rodriguez  
 Forbes Lee Roemer  
 Ford Levin Rogan  
 Fossella Lewis (CA) Rogers  
 Fowler Lewis (GA) Rohrabacher  
 Frank (MA) Lewis (KY) Rothman  
 Franks (NJ) Linder Roukema  
 Frelinghuysen Lipinski Roybal-Allard  
 Frost LoBiondo Royle  
 Gallegly Lofgren Rush