

to represent the House of Representatives at appropriate ceremonies for the observance of George Washington's birthday to be held on Friday, February 21, 2003.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. JO ANN DAVIS OR HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH FEBRUARY 25, 2003

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 13, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable ROSCOE G. BARTLETT to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through February 25, 2003.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

HONORING JIM SACKETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like the opportunity to recognize the career of a leading personality in Palm Beach County.

For 25 years, the Treasure Coast of south Florida has been graced by the reassuring voice of WPTV News Channel 5 anchorman Jim Sackett. Mr. Sackett has distinguished himself over the years by providing outstanding coverage of some of south Florida and the Nation's leading stories. From Hurricane Andrew to the 2000 presidential election, from the Lake Worth, Florida, school shooting to the horrific events of 9-11, Jim Sackett's presence on West Palm Beach's NBC affiliate station gave south Floridians a place of trust to turn to during these difficult times.

His life and work, however, have not centered solely on reporting the tragic events. Mr. Sackett is known throughout south Florida as a journalist of tremendous character and a committed member of the community. He has a weekly segment called "Thursday's Child," which profiles hard-to-place adoptable children, and so far has benefited hundreds of young children. He is recognized for his continued efforts the last couple of decades. The Friends of Abused Children presented Mr. Sackett with their Child Advocate of the Year award.

Due to circumstances in his family, Mr. Jim Sackett is also a long-time

supporter of the leukemia and lymphoma society and has been a passionate fund-raiser and advocate for the society. He has also served for 3 years as co-chairman of the American Heart Association's heart walk, yet another cause to which Mr. Sackett devotes his time and energy.

Mr. Sackett has been a fixture of the West Palm Beach area since 1978, both on and off air. He is a great news broadcaster, but an even greater citizen. He dedicates himself to the cause of pursuing journalistic excellence.

I want to take a moment to commend my good friend and Channel 5 news anchor Jim Sackett. I commend him for his service to south Florida. I congratulate him on 25 phenomenal years at WPTV News Channel 5, and I hope against hope that these 25 years are really just the beginning. Best wishes on his anniversary. Keep going.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED ABOARD "COLUMBIA"/STS-107

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2003, the space shuttle *Columbia* and her crew, Commander Rick Husband, Pilot Willie McCool, Specialist Michael Anderson, Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, and Ilan Ramon, rocketed off launch pad 39 A, the same launch pad which was used to launch Apollo 11, the first manned mission to the Moon. I was there on that day on January 16th. It was a beautiful launch, filled with tremendous excitement and hope for the potential work of the crew of *Columbia*.

They left on a 16-day research mission, and they were performing research in a number of disciplines, from biological and medical research to physical sciences, Earth sciences and space sciences, as well as product development. In total, an amazing 86 different research experiments were ongoing during this extended shuttle mission.

This required the crew to work 24 hours a day in two different 12-hour-a-day shifts. Their motto for the mission was "ex orbe scientia": from orbit, science. Many people are saying that

we should abandon research in low-Earth orbit and head straight to Mars, but I can tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, as a medical doctor, I can attest to the myriad number of medical problems a crew to Mars may face.

The crew of STS-107 was working hard on a number of experiments to help us understand better and counteract some of the challenges medically and physiologically that a crew would face on an extended voyage such as a trip to Mars. I will just cite a couple of examples of the types of research they were doing.

One of the principal challenges of zero gravity is a decline in bone mass that occurs when we are up in space. It is actually we lose 1 percent of our bone mass each month we are on orbit. If we are to venture out truly into long-duration space missions, such as a trip to Mars, we need to find ways to counteract this bone loss that occurs on orbit.

The crew of STS-107, the *Columbia* mission that was tragically lost, was trying to understand better the bone loss that occurs in space and things that can be done to counteract it. Needless to say, as a physician, I know full well the tremendous potential that this research could have yielded back on Earth. I took care of many patients who suffered personal tragedies from the consequences of osteoporosis, the same phenomenon that occurs on orbit with our astronauts.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the research experiment was actually done on the astronauts themselves, and so a tremendous amount of knowledge and understanding about the effects of space on bone loss was lost with the crew.

Additional research was being done on the immune system. As we all know, our Nation, our world, has been wracked by new challenges, medical challenges that affect the immune system in humans, and what has been discovered is that the immune system of astronauts on orbit is impaired. Whether it is the stress of rocketing off into space or adaptation to zero G or other features of the unique features of space environment, astronauts on orbit experience a loss of immune function, and the crew of STS-107 was studying this issue as well.

They were studying pharmacokinetics that are changed in space. Pharmacokinetic is the absorption of drugs from our gastrointestinal tract and how they are handled and eliminated by our body, and there are some very, very unique features of the zero G environment that this crew was studying.

Protein turnover in space. We all lose muscle mass as we age. As well, we lose muscle mass in space, and this loss of muscle mass with aging, there may be ways to counteract that, and there may be links to counteracting this muscle mass loss in space and what we

can do here on Earth to help the elderly or people with physical conditions that involved significant muscle mass.

Renal stones, they were doing research in this arena.

The vestibular system which controls our balance, they were doing research on. This is very, very critical for many elderly people who experience difficulties with their balance system and experience falls as they get on in years, and the crew of STS-107 was doing research in this area as well.

Perhaps one of the most promising areas of research for the American people is the work they were doing on cancer research. The work they were doing with prostate cancer specifically involved the bioreactor, and regrettably all of this research was lost.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by just saying this was a great human tragedy, the loss of this crew. It was a great blow to our space program. It was also a great blow to the advancement of science.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, 108TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for publication in the RECORD.

COMMITTEE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE 108TH CONGRESS

(Adopted February 11, 2003)

RULE 1—APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES

The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in Committees and subcommittees. Each subcommittee of the Committee is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.

RULE 2—COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS REGULAR AND ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

(a)(1) The regular meeting day for the Committee shall be at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in such place as the Chairman may designate. However, the Chairman may dispense with a regular Wednesday meeting of the Committee.

(2)(A) The Chairman of the Committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(B) The Chairman shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular and additional meeting of the Committee at least 24 hours before the time of

the meeting, except under circumstances the Chairman determines to be of an emergency nature. Under such circumstances, the Chairman shall make an effort to consult the ranking minority member, or in such member's absence, the next ranking minority party member of the Committee.

WIRELESS TELEPHONE USE PROHIBITED

(b) No person may use a wireless telephone during a Committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(c)(1) The Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by the Committee, and the subcommittee Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee or the subcommittee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chairman or the subcommittee, Chairman, as the case may be, shall consult with the ranking minority member and make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Clerk of the Congressional Record and the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(2) Meetings and hearings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House rule XI.

QUORUM AND ROLLCALLS

(d)(1) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for business and a majority of the members of any subcommittee shall constitute a quorum thereof for business, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(2) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.

(3) There shall be kept in writing a record of the proceedings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees, including a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(4) A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one member. With respect to any record vote on any motion to amend or report, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the report of the Committee on the bill or resolution.

(5) No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

POSTPONING PROCEEDINGS

(e) Committee and subcommittee chairmen may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment, and may resume proceedings

within two legislative days on a postponed question after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

CALLING AND INTERROGATING WITNESSES

(f)(1) Committee and subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member may be extended only with the unanimous consent of all members present. The questioning of witnesses in both Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the ranking minority party member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. Except as otherwise announced by the Chairman at the beginning of a hearing, members who are present at the start of the hearing will be recognized before other members who arrive after the hearing has begun. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) regarding the 5-minute rule, the Chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member may designate an equal number of members of the Committee or subcommittee majority and minority party to question a witness for a period not longer than 30 minutes. In no event shall the Chairman allow a member to question a witness for an extended period under this rule until all members present have had the opportunity to ask questions under the 5-minute rule. The Chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member may permit Committee staff for its majority and minority party members to question a witness for equal specified periods of time.

(3) So far as practicable: (A) each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of the appearance of the witness, a written statement of the testimony of the witness and shall limit any oral presentation to a summary of the written statement; and (B) each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years.

(4) When a hearing is conducted by the Committee or a subcommittee on any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman of the majority of those minority members before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of the hearing thereon.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS

(g) Any meeting of the Committee or its subcommittees that is open to the public shall be open to coverage by radio, television, and still photography in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of House rule XI.