

ability. I do think that we have a couple of people with talent, but it certainly does not go past a couple. And I just wanted to get the record straight for purposes of history.

When I was elected to this body, this hallowed hall, I made a commitment to the people of my district, to my family and to my God that I would not come here to call people names, that I would not come here and disrespect my colleagues. I might disagree, but I would never disrespect.

I did not realize that there was a prayer group here. The second week after I was sworn in, the gentlewoman from my State of Missouri invited me to the prayer breakfast. I came to the prayer breakfast with some uncertainty. I had no idea what it was about. I had no idea whether I would get anything from it. That quickly melted into the woodwork of that room where we meet.

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My commitment not to call names, my commitment not to be disrespectful is now empowered by the Hour of Power, the prayer breakfast. It is an opportunity for renewal for me to be with people who are like minded, men and women of faith.

There is a great deal of discussion taking place across the length and breadth of this Nation about the relevance of religion in politics. It is important for me to say that there is great relevance between faith and public service through elective office. If there is not relevance, then faith is frail. All of us are informed by our faith, albeit differently, because self-interest, unavoidably, creeps into our theology. So there are times when I am absolutely certain that I hear the voice of God, when in fact I may be hearing my own voice, disguised.

And so, because of that, in our prayer breakfasts there is no proselytizing. No one comes to the prayer breakfast to speak about legislation and the rightness or wrongness of it, or whether God has embraced it or whether God is against it. We come there in prayer. We come there as men and women looking for a moment. If we can just snatch this little moment where we can come into a setting where nobody is trying to do anybody any harm. It is a nonpolitical hour. You do not find Democrats standing up trying to present a donkey prayer. There are no elephant prayers. Men and women come to pray. So I am convinced that through that prayer breakfast we are able to build up our own personal faith so that it can inform us on how we conduct ourselves politically.

I realize that in this Congress there are no saints, just elected sinners who, for the most part, are trying to do the right thing and coming to the prayer breakfast reminds us that we are trying to do the right thing. Now, everybody here is fallible. We are flawed. We make mistakes. But I am convinced, at least based on what I have seen, that

everybody is here trying to do the right thing, and those of us who come to the prayer breakfast are working on it. We are not a complete product, but we are in fact working on it. We realize that working on our faith is a tortuously difficult and long process, but this helps.

I have family in Tanzania, Africa, in the City of Arusha, which sits in the shadows of Mount Kilimanjaro. When last there, I went to the Episcopal church, which is in downtown Arusha, such as it is, and I listened to a priest reprimand one of his parishioners. You see, in Tanzania, many of the people who live in huts build a little prayer spot somewhere near their door, usually a back door, and the priest can walk by and see whether there is a well-worn path from the door to the prayer spot. And I listened to a priest say to one of his parishioners, I saw much weeds growing in your prayer path, which meant that he had not been frequenting the place where he had established a relationship with God.

Without the prayer breakfast, I do not think that I would have the well-worn prayer path that I have now. For me, Thursday morning at 8 o'clock is the Hour of Power. There are people here who are in powerful positions, there are people here even now trying to become even more powerful in this Congress, but the real power, for me, the power that enables me to continue to function is the Hour of Power on Thursday mornings, and I thank God for it.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague very much. We appreciate all that he contributes each Thursday, and certainly his knowledge of scripture and his use of scripture has been something that has been an inspiration to all of us.

I would like to conclude this time, Mr. Speaker, by just making a few other observations and reflections. We want to make sure that people understand this is not an exclusive hour. We have many foreign dignitaries. These are all members of parliament, members of governments around the world. You have to be an elected member to attend. Some of them are Muslims, some are Jews.

We have had many of our Jewish Members in the Congress who have come and shared with us, and we want to have each person who comes to understand that they are cared for, that they are accepted, and that they are loved during that hour. So we find that by being inclusive in that way that we are able to share what we are put on this earth to do.

I would like to conclude by just reading a brief excerpt from a book by David Barton. Again, he was alluding to some of the Founding Fathers. And we know they had tremendous foresight and great anticipation of what was to come. "Franklin had warned," and Barton says this, "Franklin had warned 'forgetting God' and imagining

we no longer need his 'concurring aid' would result in international disputes, the decay of the nation's prestige and reputation, and a diminished national success. Washington had warned if religious principles were excluded, the nation's morality and political prosperity would suffer."

So these were some words from 200 years ago that I think resonate today. And certainly not necessarily as warnings but as indications that this Nation was founded on spiritual principle, and that forgetting those principles and moving away from them does have an inherent danger in it.

Reggie White is certainly much more contemporary. Reggie was a great defensive football player from the University of Tennessee and later played in the National Football League. Reggie said something that I thought was rather profound at one time. He said, "God honors those who honor him." I think Reggie was talking on a personal level, that certainly those individuals who honor God will in turn be honored, but I think Reggie also was referring to the fact that this is true at a national level, that those nations who honor him and remember him, and serve him and honor him will also be honored by God or divine providence, as Franklin and as Washington mentioned.

So it is worth mentioning and worth remembering at this time that this Nation is in a time of peril and a time of crisis and, therefore, we feel that the Thursday morning breakfast serves a useful purpose. And we hope that by having this hour this evening and having these Members come and share, that maybe the general public would get a little better understanding of what this assemblage is about and some of the things we think are important.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2601, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-175) on the resolution (H. Res. 365) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HIGGINS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and until July 21 on account of a district emergency.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and July 19.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and July 19.

Mr. OTTER, for 5 minutes, July 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, July 19 and 20.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, July 19.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 15, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1001. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, as the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building".

H.R. 3071. To permit the individuals currently serving as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and General Counsel of the Office of Compliance to serve one additional term.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 19, 2005, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2737. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for a FY 2006 budget amendment for the Department of Veterans Affairs; (H. Doc. No. 109-46); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

2738. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the De-

partment's quarterly report as of December 31, 2004, entitled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account," pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2739. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting information submitted to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2740. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intention to close the Defense commissary stores at Aschaffenburg and Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany by the end of July 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2741. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of March 31, 2005, entitled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2742. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's STARBASE Program 2004 Annual Report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2743. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the fifteenth annual report on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637 note, Public Law 100-583, section 8 (102 Stat. 2969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2744. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Ninety-First Annual Report of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System covering operations during calendar year 2004; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2745. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Canada, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2746. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Australia for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-22), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2747. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-24), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2748. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-26), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2749. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Australia for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-16), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2750. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of De-

fense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 04-05 which informs you of our intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Concerning the Medium Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) between the United States and the United Kingdom as pursuant to Executive Order 11958, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

2751. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement with Australia (Transmittal No. DTC 009-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

2752. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of a proposed license for the export of major defense articles or defense services sold commercially to Australia (Transmittal No. DDTC-007-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2753. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2754. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles that are firearms controlled under category I of the United States Munitions List sold commercially to the Government of Ghana (Transmittal No. DDTC 003-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2755. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles that are firearms controlled under category I of the United States Munitions List sold commercially to the government of Haiti (Transmittal No. DDTC 010-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2756. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Inspector General's semi-annual report for the period October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2757. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2758. A letter from the Investment Manager, Treasury Division, Army & Air Force Exchange Service, transmitting a copy of the Retirement Savings Plan and Trust for Employees of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for the year ending December 31, 2003, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2759. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the six-month period ending March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2760. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board Of Governors, transmitting the Annual Program Performance Report on the FY 2004 Performance Plan, pursuant to