



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2006

No. 42

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 5, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLY MOORE CAPITO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Clyde P. Thomas, Pastor, Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church, Gaffney, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we humbly come to You today to seek Your guidance knowing that we take only one step at a time. Illuminate each step as only You can and keep us strong in our path.

O Lord, grant that we will live together as people of vision and understanding as well as promise and peace. We pray for our President and Members of this body as they serve. Encourage and strengthen them with Your power and wisdom. Protect our military and our law enforcement men and women. Give comfort to their families and refresh their spirit. Make us mindful of our responsibilities and grateful for our opportunities to do Your will. We pray this in the name above every other name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND CLYDE PICKNEY THOMAS, JR.

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, the opening prayer was given by the Reverend Clyde Pickney Thomas, Jr. Reverend Thomas has served in the ministry of the Southern Baptist Church since 1974 and is now the pastor of Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church in Gaffney, South Carolina, a pulpit that he has filled with distinction since 1979.

Reverend Thomas is not only a prominent preacher of the gospel, but a pastor who has developed courses of study for adults, youth, and children, conducted an extensive sports ministry, and taken at least 10 mission trips to places as far away as the Amazon. He is married to Joanne Cash Thomas, and they have two sons, Clyde Preston Thomas and James Grady Thomas.

I have had the privilege of attending Sunday services at Cherokee Avenue and, afterwards, having lunch in the fellowship hall. I can attest to the fact that the preaching and the cooking were both first rate.

I want to thank Reverend Thomas and thank also the Speaker and Father Coughlin for allowing Reverend Thom-

as to open today's session with prayer. Thank you very much.

THE NEW YORK TIMES GOT IT RIGHT AGAIN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, last week I sat on this House floor and did something I never thought I would do: I praised the New York Times for accurately reporting the facts about the success of the new Medicare prescription drug program.

They say lightning never strikes the same place twice, so you can imagine my surprise when the New York Times ran an April 3 editorial that said about Medicare part D: "Complaints and call waiting times are diminishing, and many uninsured patients are clearly saving money on their drug purchases."

It is refreshing that the mainstream media is finally beginning to acknowledge that millions of seniors are saving thousands of dollars a year on their prescriptions under Medicare part D. This benefit has already lowered average monthly premiums from \$37 to \$25, and those seniors with limited incomes will incur nearly no expenses at all.

It is a real shame that my Democratic colleagues refuse to admit that this benefit is making a positive difference. Instead, they prefer to bash the program and scare seniors into thinking it is "confusing." The Main Street press is finally starting to pay attention to millions of our seniors' success stories. It is about time that Democrats remove their ear plugs and start paying attention, too.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1455

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this is a turtle. In Maryland, we call it a terrapin. Fear the turtle. But today we need to revere the turtle. Sixteen magnificent young women got on a court in Boston, and we had one of the most exciting, well-played basketball games, male or female, in the history of our country.

Madam Speaker, this morning I want to congratulate Coach Brenda Frese and the University of Maryland women's basketball team on winning the championship last night with a stunning 78-75 overtime victory over a valiant Duke University team. This game, Madam Speaker, was a demonstration of college athletics at its best.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina just spoke; our athletic director comes from North Carolina, Debbie Yow, and she recruited Brenda Frese. We thank you for that.

The Terrapins erased a 13-point second half deficit, the second largest in history, and Maryland freshman guard Kristi Toliver hit a three-point shot with 6.1 seconds remaining to send the game into overtime. "We've played like this all year," said Terp Marissa Coleman. "Nothing gets to us. We never thought we were going to lose this game." The Terps' win caps a tremendous 34-4 season and makes Maryland only the fourth college in America whose men's and women's basketball teams have captured national championships.

Madam Speaker, I know that all of us join together to congratulate those 16 young women who showed America what women can do and what an extraordinary athletic event they can provide. Both teams were magnificent. We in Maryland are proud of our victory. But those in North Carolina who come from Duke ought to be proud of their team as well.

SECURITY SUCCESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the American Forces Press Service reported on Monday that Iraqi and coalition forces have scored several successes against insurgent fighters, seizing weapons caches and capturing suspected enemies during missions over the past several days.

From Karabilah to Ramadi, Iraqi troops and coalition forces have captured terrorists during raids and discovered weapons including hand grenades, rocket propelled grenade launch motors, sticks of plastic explosives, and AK-47 rifles. The Victory in Iraq Caucus is grateful to recognize their successes to protect American families in the central front of the global war on terrorism.

With every terrorist they detain and each weapon they discover, Iraqi troops

and American forces save lives and improve our security. The events over the past several days are commendable, but they are not unique. By facing the terrorists overseas, we are confronting mass murderers before they strike American families again at home.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, later today, the Bush administration, with the aid and comfort of the Republican Congress, will once again propose to remove all congressional oversight of nuclear waste in this country to be stored at Yucca Mountain and double the amount of nuclear waste to be stored in the mountain.

Let me remind everybody that Secretary Bodman, the Secretary of Energy, just testified last week that he has no idea how much Yucca Mountain is going to cost, and he has no idea how long it is going to take to ensure that they could build Yucca Mountain; but he wants to remove congressional oversight over the nuclear waste budget.

Let me remind everyone, there are no radiation standards now. The court threw them out. There is no way to safely transport nuclear waste across our country. And after 9/11, it is incomprehensible to me that we have not come up with a threat assessment. There are no canisters that currently exist that will not corrode. We have a thousand e-mails from the scientists at the National Geologic Survey that demonstrate that they fudged or made up the scientific data that went into making the decision that Yucca Mountain was okay.

Now they want to eliminate the oversight of Congress over the budget of Yucca Mountain. I think that would be a dereliction of our duty. We ought to stand up to the administration and do our job.

YALE WINS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Yale University has won first place in the Annual Campus Outrage Award. The award is given to universities that worship the God of political correctness. Yale wins this year because according to the College Network who bestows the award, "Yale enrolled a former Taliban official with a fourth grade education in the name of the sacred cow, diversity, which now appears to extend to the enemy combatants who make war on the United States."

According to the Washington Times, second place went to DePaul University, which "suspended a professor without a hearing after the professor

attempted to debate students handing out pro-Palestinian literature."

DePaul was also recognized for suppressing free speech rights of students who protested a professor's writings that said the United States deserved to be attacked on September 11, 2001.

Other universities who received awards were Stanford and Holy Cross for attempting to prohibit articles in their campus newspapers that criticized left wing philosophies.

Madam Speaker, have some of our universities lost their way by prohibiting liberty to those individuals who disagree with the university's elitist, narrow-minded snobbery? And that's just the way it is.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, just when we thought things could not get any worse at the Department of Homeland Security, today we find out that a senior official was arrested for child porn.

Last night Brian Doyle, the deputy press secretary at DHS, was arrested while attempting to seduce a detective posing as a 14-year-old girl. He has been charged with 23 counts related to using his computer to seduce a minor.

How did they catch him? He told the agent posing as a girl that he worked for the Department of Homeland Security, going so far as to give out his office phone number and sending her copies of his ID. He even used his office phone for explicit conversations. Not only that, he is giving out sensitive information.

This is not the first time something like this has happened. This week Frank Figueroa, another senior Department of Homeland Security official, is on trial for exposing himself to a teenage girl at a mall in Tampa.

From the Katrina disaster to now this. It gives a whole new meaning to the word "incompetence."

Madam Speaker, for once I am at a loss for words. What is going on at Homeland Security? How many things can go wrong and still nobody is held accountable?

The White House is under fire for spying on average Americans but maybe they should spend time looking into the backgrounds of people they hire in their administration. It is time for new priorities here in Washington.

BALANCE OUR BUDGET

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is budget time again. This is when people in Washington outline a