

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, following President Bush's veto of the Democrat plan for defeat, the House voted yesterday to uphold the veto and override the Democrat attempts to micromanage the war.

It is crucial that we achieve victory in Iraq as the central front in the global war on terrorism. Retreat will embolden our enemy. This will lead to the re-establishment of terrorist training camps from which our enemies would launch attacks against us and our allies.

We should trust the leadership of General David Petraeus and our military leaders. As the father of an Iraqi veteran and four sons in the military, I know firsthand of the excellence of our troops.

We must face the enemy overseas or we will face them again in the streets of America.

I urge Democrat leaders to work with Republicans to pass a clean supplemental bill and get our troops the funding they need to carry out their mission to protect American families.

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

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to this, the first Thursday in May, as the National Day of Prayer. The 56th annual National Day of Prayer is being recognized today, May 3, across our great Nation in tens of thousands of ceremonies and services nationwide.

The National Day of Prayer traces its history back to 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a Nation. In 1952, a joint resolution of Congress was signed into law by President Truman. In 1988, President Reagan signed a law permanently marking the first Thursday of every May as the National Day of Prayer.

As in previous years, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation regarding the 2007 observance. He specifically asked that the Nation remember in their prayers the members of our Armed Forces, their families, as well as the students and families affected by the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Chairman Shirley Dobson and Vice Chairman Brian Toon have done an outstanding job in coordinating these events that will take place across this land. Dr. Charles Swindoll will serve as Honorary Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, across the street, here on Capitol Hill in the Cannon House Office Building at noon is when the events will begin. However, whether you're in Washington, D.C., you're in Alabama, North Dakota, I encourage the American people to come together in the spirit of Jesus and take a few minutes to thank God for the blessings upon this Nation, and ask Him to guide and protect us in the days to come.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 368) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 368

*Resolved*, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—Mr. Davis of Alabama.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 364 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 364

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1592) to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 1592 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 364.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 364 provides for consideration of H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, except those arising under clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the bill, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and of the underlying legislation. H.R. 1592, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, is a bipartisan piece of legislation that has already passed the House multiple times with Members from both sides supporting it.

In the 109th Congress, this legislation passed as an amendment to the Child Safety Act by a vote of 223-199. And in both the 108th and 106th Congresses, hate crimes legislation passed with bipartisan support.

With such a demonstrated history of strong bipartisan support, it should come as no surprise that this bill has also garnered the support of 171 cosponsors, Republicans as well as Democrats.

I would like to take note for my colleagues that H.R. 1592 has the support of more than 210 civil rights, education, religious and civic organizations. Equally as important, it has the support and endorsement of the law enforcement community, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs Association.

Mr. Speaker, it makes sense that this bill has attracted such a wide range of support. Hate crimes are a serious problem everywhere. They continue to plague our society, and they happen in every State and in every community.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has documented over 113,000 hate crimes since 1991. In 2005 alone, nearly 7,200 crimes were identified by the FBI as hate crimes. But despite this marked occurrence of violent hate crimes, current law limits the ability of the Federal Government to provide assistance to States and localities to prosecute and investigate these crimes. It is long past time that Congress address these shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, some will claim that this law is not needed. Others will claim that it adversely affects free speech. I strongly, very strongly disagree with both these claims.

First, while we have made progress toward equality in many facets of our society, hate crimes continue to spread in cities and towns across the country.