

core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet another day has passed, Madam Speaker, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this discussion presents this Congress and the American people with two destiny questions.

The first that all of us must ask ourselves is very simple: Does abortion really kill a baby? If the answer is "yes," there is a second destiny question that inevitably follows.

And it is this, Madam Speaker: Will we allow ourselves to be dragged by those who have lost their way into a darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the predatory survival of the fittest prevails over humanity? Or will America embrace her destiny to lead the world to cherish and honor the God-given miracle of each human life?

Madam Speaker, it has been said that every baby comes with a message, that God has not yet despaired of mankind. And I mourn that those 4,000 messages sent to us today will never be heard. Madam Speaker, I also have not yet despaired. Because tonight maybe someone new, maybe even someone in this Congress, who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,798 days spent legally killing nearly 50 million children in America is enough. And perhaps they will realize that America is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 6, 2008—12,798 days since *Roe v. Wade*—in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I was ill today and was not present for naming bills S. 2110 (Roll No. 23) and H.R. 4140 (Roll No. 24). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. RONALD F. SURAL

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I join with those who are recognizing the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished constituent Dr. Ronald F. Sural who recently retired. His career was one of remarkable contributions to the practice of medicine, and manifold successes and abiding dedication to the people of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Ron was born in Saginaw, Michigan, and educated in a one-room schoolhouse. He knew he wanted to be a doctor at an early age after seeing how a local physician took care of the people in his hometown and the respect and admiration the physician enjoyed. Not being from a wealthy family, Ron worked to put himself through college and medical school.

Ron is a 1967 alumnus of the University of Michigan Medical School. Shortly after his medical residency Ron joined the United States Air Force as a surgeon. He faithfully served his Nation during the Vietnam War, eventually being promoted to the rank of Major.

In 1974, after retiring from the Air Force, he moved his family to North Carolina after visiting the state only once. He immediately fell in love with Greensboro and decided that it was the place he would raise his family.

Ron served the people of the Greensboro area as a urologist for 33 years, providing help and healing to the young and old alike, sometimes without pay. He never refused to help anyone in need and those patients often showed their appreciation by bringing him vegetables from their gardens or firewood—the only payment they could afford.

He served the Greensboro community through his involvement with the Summit Rotary Club of Greensboro, the Knights of Columbus and as a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. He is a member of the Greensboro Country Club, where he has skillfully won several golf championships.

He is the proud, adoring father of four children, three grandchildren, and the loving husband to his wife of 41 years, Sharon.

Dr. Sural exemplifies all of what is good and positive about the practice of medicine. And now, his 33 year career as a physician, servant and educator has come to a close. He has left an indelible mark on his patients and on the medical professionals with whom he has worked, mentored, advised, and inspired. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we commend Dr. Ronald Sural for being a distinguished physician, father and husband, and an exemplar of strong character and generosity.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

##### Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Air Force nuclear security; to be followed by a closed session in SR-222.

SR-325

10 a.m.

##### Commerce, Science, and Transportation Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Federal Aviation Administration.

SR-253

##### Budget

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for defense and war costs.

SD-608

##### Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, and the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007.

SD-406

##### Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine ways to address healthcare workforce issues for the future.

SD-430

##### Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James Randal Hall, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Richard H. Honaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, Gustavus Adolphus Puryear IV, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee, and Brian Stacy Miller, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

SD-226

11 a.m.

##### Appropriations

##### Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

SD-138