

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 28, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sunset today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,820 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Mr. Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational 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 today without the protection we should have given them.

But perhaps tonight, Mr. Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,820 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children

in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also 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 finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. 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 28, 2008—12,820 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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.)

□ 1215

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE H. PASCHAL, PRINCIPAL OF STEVENS CREEK ELEMENTARY

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to a faithful and innovative public school educator in my 10th Congressional District of Georgia. Michelle Paschal is the principal of Stevens Creek Elementary School in Columbia County, Georgia. Her school boasts the county's only foreign language department for elementary schools, and that program is extraordinary.

On January 10, I had the opportunity to observe a first grade class under the tutelage of Senora Olga Biancheri. The entire 30-minute session was conducted in Spanish, with the teacher doing her teaching through song and storytelling. I was utterly amazed to see the children comprehending and responding to what the teacher said.

According to Biancheri, upon completing the fifth grade, these students are more conversational than most high school students who have studied Spanish for 2 years in any school system. Many of these children are fluent.

Unfortunately, this remarkable foreign language program has fallen victim to State budget cuts. The 2007–2008 school year is the first year the school received no help from the State. Ms. Paschal kept the program alive by petitioning the Columbia County Board

of Education and parent-teacher organizations for funding. She also used half the salary for an enrichment position, about \$40,000, to pay for the Spanish teacher. Ms. Paschal and the Stevens Creek Elementary facility are to be commended for their innovative commitment to the students of Columbia County and their academic success.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise, also, to honor and pay tribute to an exceptional public school system in my 10th Congressional District in Georgia.

Like so many school systems in Georgia, over the past two decades the Habersham County schools have been home to a growing number of immigrant students. The State mandates that schools serve these students through a program known as ESOL, or English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Since the introduction of the first Laotian family to Habersham County schools in 1985, Superintendent Dr. Judy Forbes has been there from the very start, although at that time she served as instructional supervisor over the program.

Today, more than 22 percent of the school system's 6,800 students are enrolled in ESOL. With just 10 teachers serving 15 schools, the Habersham County school system is doing an outstanding job. Many of the kindergarten and first grade students are speaking fluent English by Thanksgiving and by Christmas.

For the sixth through 12th graders, Habersham County has a language intensive Newcomers Academy. Through innovative teaching techniques, including collaborating with North Georgia Technical Institute and the Cornelia-Habersham County Library, ESOL instructors report that students are learning with enthusiasm, and graduation rates are climbing. The message that teachers send to their students is that in the United States children have opportunities, and education will give them the biggest payoff.

These educators' dedication to all of their students, especially those for who English is their second language, is why at the beginning of this calendar year Habersham County schools became one of four Title 1 Distinguished Districts in Georgia.

I applaud their achievement and commend Habersham County and its educators on a job well done.

THE HOUSE HAS GONE HOME WITHOUT PASSING THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is now 12:17 p.m. This House came into session today at 10 a.m., 2 hours and 17 minutes ago. Across this Nation, many folks at work are taking a lunch break, others are probably preparing to go to lunch. Those on the second shift