

Without question, my family. My mother, I have to apologize for how I put her through three elections in the last six months. Between my younger brother becoming a judge, me winning a primary and the special election. Mom, I guess you are going to have to get used to it, because it is going to have to happen a couple more times. I hope to be here awhile.

My wife Debra, who again, was the one that when you come home, as anybody knows, to your spouse, there is somebody there that is going to help you, that is going to ask you how your day was and get you out in the morning to start another day. So, Debra, I thank you and love you.

To my children, Bobby and his wife, my daughter-in-law Maria, who stands behind me, as your children and your family stand behind me, they stood behind me.

My lovely daughter, Kimberly, my little kindergarten teacher, I can never forget my Kimberly who says, "Geez, dad, I am taking off Monday and Tuesday. I hope you can get sworn in on Wednesday," but it happened on Thursday, so she got a whole week off. So she is happy.

For my mother-in-law and father-in-law for putting up with me, and my brother-in-law Rick, my brother Frankie, his wife and little Taylor. My sister-in-law, Roseann, and my brother Frankie. I hope I don't miss anybody, but they are family, they will understand.

And I have two jewels. I have two jewels in my life. I have a little 18 month old granddaughter by the name of Serena and a little four year old granddaughter by the name of Alexandra. They are my two jewels. She is up there laughing now. Hi, baby.

They are interest on an investment, the grandchildren, and I love them dearly. When I look at them, I see my father, because my father fought a war for us to be here, got wounded a couple times for us to be here, and he cannot physically be here, but he is up there being here right now today.

I know that I am honored to be here. I did not think I would be this humbled. It is hard to humble me in the city that I come from. They tried 10, 15 years ago, and it has not worked and I am pretty callous to it. But I am humble today because of what has happened.

I thank all my colleagues, I thank all my old friends, I thank hopefully all my new friends, and I appreciate all the kind words, and I look forward to working with you. Sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow. It is a lot easier to follow. I do not care. I am a team player. I do not care if I have to pitch, catch, batboy, I just want to be on the team. As far as I am concerned, the team that I am on is the team of the United States of America.

So thank you all, and I appreciate that.

RABBI MOSHE BOMZER

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join with all of my colleagues in congratulating BOB, and look forward to working with him here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce to the Members of the House my good friend Rabbi Moshe Bomzer, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Abraham-Jacob of Albany, New York. Rabbi Bomzer delivered the opening prayer today, and, incidentally, for those who have been around here for a while, he also delivered the opening prayer 20 years ago this month.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who has led Brooklyn congregations for the past 45 years, Rabbi Bomzer is now celebrating the 13th year, his "Bar Mitzvah year," Mazeltov, as the spiritual leader of the largest Orthodox Jewish Congregation in our State's Capital District.

In addition to his congregational duties, Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Bomzer is also the Chairman of the Chaplaincy Committee of the Capital District Board of Rabbis, serving as Chaplain at the Albany Correctional Facility, St. Peter's Hospital, and Teresian House.

In 1996, Governor George Pataki appointed him to the Kosher Law Enforcement Advisory Board. Last year he was appointed a National Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Mr. Speaker, he has won the respect and admiration of his congregation and of our community as a whole, for his tireless dedication to the preservation of Judaism and the Jewish heritage. We are honored to have him here today, along with his wife, Rachael, and a large delegation from the Hebrew Academy of the Capital District.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me just say a word of special thanks to my friend Moshe for the part of his prayer that dealt with saluting the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years. Had it not been for their service, we would not have the privilege of bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the earth.

Freedom is not free. On behalf of my brother Bill, who made the supreme sacrifice, and all of those who made the supreme sacrifice, and all of those who served in our Armed Forces through the years, like the late Pete D'Alessandro from Watervliet, New York, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Moshe, I thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, May 20, attending a family funeral. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 165 through

174. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 165, "no" on 166, "yes" on 167, "yes" on 168, "yes" on 169, "yes" on 170, "yes" on 171, "yes" on 172, "no" on 173 and "yes" on 174.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

GIVE ME LIBERTY

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment of the Constitution is the most famous and most effective campaign reform proposal in history. It has effectively protected the political freedoms of American citizens for over 200 years. If we leave it alone, it will protect the freedom of our citizens for the next 200 years.

So why are some Members of this House so desperate to change the First Amendment? They want the government to have a greater role in determining how elections are financed and how campaigns are run. They want a bigger government bureaucracy, they want to sharply limit campaign contributions, and they want the taxpayers to finance political campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of government intrusion into the election process would make Thomas Paine turn over in his grave. Now is the time for all good men to stand firm against Big Brother. Vote for free speech, and against amendments that take away free speech from our citizens.

SILENCING AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, my California colleagues join me in bringing attention to an orchestrated campaign to silence America's working families.

Proposition 226, on California's June ballot, will undermine unions' efforts to advocate on behalf of our Nation's workers. By subjecting union members to a cumbersome annual verification of their dues, Proposition 226 will cripple organized labor's ability to promote fair wages, health care, retirement security and worker safety.

This initiative is harmful and unnecessary. The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that workers have the right to refuse to contribute to their union's political activities. This anti-worker movement is not about paycheck protection for workers, it is about the systematic disenfranchisement of American workers, such as our