

Reverend Nelson received his calling to the Ministry early and entered Dallas Theological Seminary from 1977 to 1982 while he was Associate Pastor at Denton Bible Church. He has been pastoring at Denton Bible Church for 25 years and is presently the Senior Pastor.

Some of his outreach has included being a national speaker for the Fellowship of National Athletes and active leader for Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators.

In the past 15 years, Tom has built Denton Bible Church into one of the largest congregations in north Texas. Besides the four Sunday services at Denton Bible Church, Tom disciples 30-plus young men each year. The program includes ministry, evangelism, and service and meets four times a week. Tom also teaches two men's bible studies, one on Tuesdays in Lewisville at Lakeland Baptist Church and one on Wednesdays at Denton Bible Church. At home in Highland Village, I have attended his Tuesday bible study. His messages are powerful and prepare us well to go out into the playing field of life.

He has authored three books, "The Big Picture," "The Book of Romance," and "The Problem of Life With God," a commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes. He is also the teacher for three video series and his taped messages travel throughout the world.

His wife, Teresa, is his best friend and secretary. Their older son, Benjamin, and his wife Amanda, live in Lewisville, Texas, and have just made them the proud grandparents of a baby boy, Thomas Clark. Their other son, John Clark, played baseball for the University of Kansas Jayhawks, and has gone on to play professional baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals.

I am honored the Reverend Tom Nelson could be with us here today. I know his blessing will make us more respectful in our debates, more careful in our deliberations, and more accountable for our decisions.

STARVATION IS AN INHUMANE WAY TO DIE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, death by dehydration is a painful, agonizing, and arduous process that takes 10 to 14 days. In addition to feeling the pangs of hunger and thirst, the skin, lips, and tongue crack, the nose bleeds because of the drying of the mucus membranes, heaving and vomiting may ensue because of the drying out of the stomach lining, and the victim may experience seizures.

Compared to starvation and dehydration, death by hanging, firing squad, or even the electric chair seems humane. But right now that death sentence is being carried out not against murderers, rapists, and child molesters, but

on one of the most disabled in our midst.

Terri Schiavo is not on a respirator or any artificial life-support equipment. Any reasonable person who sees this woman reacting to her parents will realize she is not in a coma or, as is sometimes called, a persistent vegetative state.

Have we, as a Nation, become so callous that we have bought into the "quality of life" argument that some people simply are not worth the effort to protect and rehabilitate? I hope not.

SUPPORT BILL TO ELIMINATE TAX SHELTERS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the other Chamber for introducing bipartisan legislation to shut down abusive accounting tax shelters costing U.S. taxpayers over \$18 billion every year and leaving middle-class Americans to pick up the tab.

Fairness and economic growth should be synonymous with the tax code. That is why I will introduce companion legislation to eliminate the way firms market tax shelters to their audit clients. This bill will eliminate tax shelters created by the accounting firms selling "tax advice" directly to publicly-traded companies whose books they regularly audit. As today's hearing on tax shelters in the other body will show, this process makes a mockery of auditor independence and creates irreconcilable conflicts of interest for auditors.

Mr. Speaker, the economic principle of transparency and the American value of accountability are essential to economic growth. These abusive accounting schemes do neither, burdening the middle class and slowing down our economic recovery. I am proud to support this real reform to get real results.

PLIGHT OF TERRI SCHINDLER SCHIAVO

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Terry Schiavo smiles, tries to talk to her family and friends, and moves her arms and legs on command. But at the direction of her husband, and against the will of the rest of the family, her feeding tube was removed last Wednesday.

This is what Terri is experiencing right now in this, the 7th day of her court-ordered dehydration and starvation: Extreme thirst, nausea and stomach cramping, dry skin, dizziness, extreme headaches, cramping in her arms and legs because she is losing electrolytes, sodium and potassium in her

blood. Her mouth is very dry. Her saliva is thick.

And as the abuse continues, soon her lips and her mouth will crack, she will bleed, and her heart rate will increase, her blood pressure will drop, and she will probably experience stroke. She will finally go into shock as her whole body begins to shut down.

No one, Mr. Speaker, deserves to be treated with such incredible cruelty. Terri's life is valuable and she should not be sentenced to death because she has a disability or someone feels she is a burden.

Hopefully, the Florida Legislature will act in time and the Governor will intervene.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GOD IS AN OLD AMERICAN TRADITION

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, a steady assault on public religious expression undermines Americans' constitutional right to worship.

The Supreme Court announced it will hear a case alleging the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance establishes a religion. Not at all. Acknowledging the Creator, in public, is an American tradition, not a religion.

The Declaration of Independence declares that all men were given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by their Creator. The Declaration ends with "A firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence." Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg expressed his fervent hope that "This Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom."

Mr. Speaker, the question before the Supreme Court is whether America's tradition of free expression of religion will continue or be further undermined by a new creed of hostility towards religion. I echo Benjamin Franklin, who requested that prayer begin the Constitutional Convention, and every session of Congress since then, because, as he acknowledged, "God governs in the affairs of men."

GOD IS ON OUR SIDE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, last week Army Lieutenant General William Boyken was embroiled in controversy over suggesting that in our struggle against the regime of Saddam Hussein, that God was on our side. One commentator on the Fox News Network said, and I am quoting now, "That it is 'folly' to argue that God takes sides on battlefields." It may be wise to ask the question, but as President Lincoln famously said, it is more relevant to ask whether we are on God's side, rather than whether God is on ours."