

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay well deserved tribute to one of the great religious leaders of our time, Pastor Adrian Rogers of Tennessee.

In the words of Billy Graham, "We need for ministers of the Gospel to defend the Bible as the infallible Word of God . . . I believe in my heart that Adrian Rogers is such a man. I know him personally. I have walked with him and prayed with him . . . I know God's hand is upon Adrian Rogers as he proclaims the Bread of Life from his church and through radio and television . . . I praise God for his ministry."

These comments echo the sentiment of millions who've been touched and inspired by the life-changing ministry of Pastor Rogers. The high regard in which he is held translated to his three elections as President of the Southern Baptist Convention—the world's largest Protestant denomination with 16 million members. With a passion and gift for applying the gospel message to everyday life, he has also shared the "good news" as a noted author with scores of books and instructional material to his credit; as a featured speaker at a number of historic conferences and international crusades; and as the founder and broadcaster with Love Worth Finding ministries which is played on over 14,000 broadcast and cable television outlets, on nearly 2000 radio stations and in more than 150 countries worldwide.

With all that he has given to people across the nation and the world, Adrian Rogers has etched a special place in Tennessee and Mid-South history as the pastor of the renowned Bellevue Baptist Church. Founded in 1903 in a small chapel on the "outskirts of Memphis, Tennessee," Bellevue Baptist Church was in 1972 already a significant pillar in the religious community with a membership of approximately 9,000 persons. In this year, however, the entrance of Pastor Rogers and his wife, Joyce, served as a milestone in Bellevue's history. From this new beginning, the congregation grew from 9,000 to 29,000 members and expanded to a campus and multifaceted ministries that now stand as a model for houses of worship worldwide.

Through the growth and success, Pastor Rogers gives all credit to God saying that "Bellevue is what she is because of the love of Jesus. . . . Jesus is the glue that holds Bellevue together." These words are particularly significant as Adrian Rogers makes his transition from active Pastor to Pastor Emeritus of this great ministry.

For his humility and his worthy example of all that faith should represent, I would ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives would join with me in honoring a servant of God and a friend to humanity—Pastor Adrian Rogers.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of America's Blood Centers. At this moment, someone in America is in vital need of a life-saving blood transfusion. Donated blood is needed every two seconds across the nation. Today, American's will use thirty thousand units of donated blood. One out of seven hospital patients will require blood transfusions. One out of three people in this chamber will need donated blood at least once in their lifetime. Technological and scientific advancements in the medical field continue to rapidly develop, but there remains no substitution for the blood transfusion. Blood cannot be manufactured nor reproduced. This life sustaining substance can only be transfused from one person to another. Life-saving blood remains a gift from one person to the rest of society. Through blood donations we help each other to survive and overcome medical hardships. Blood donations connect and unify us as a people who care.

Today I stand to recognize America's Blood Centers, our nation's largest not-for-profit, community-based network of blood centers that keep on giving the gift of life. America's Blood Centers, founded in 1962, has grown to include seventy-two independent, community owned blood centers, which collect nearly half of the nation's blood supply. This June marks 10 years that Southwest Missouri's own Community Blood Center of the Ozarks has been providing blood to all Seventh District hospitals under the national guidance of America's Blood Centers. America's Blood Centers operate more than 600 collection sites that give the gift of blood to more than 150 million people and more than 3,300 U.S. hospitals. Not only do America's Blood Centers give blood, but they also ensure that their gift is safe and adequate by developing new tests and technologies as well as actively engaging in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine. Members of America's Blood Centers ardently work together to share resources and best practices, rising to meet increased national blood supply needs in times of peace, in times of war and in times of disaster. America's Blood Centers were the first to respond to the Oklahoma City bombing, Columbine shootings, and 9/11, and have since worked with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services to ensure adequate blood supply and rapid response in times of national disaster or acts of terrorism.

Additionally, America's Blood Centers continue to support U.S. military operations around the globe. Together the centers promote donor recruitment and societal awareness of blood donations as a top priority, working to guarantee that America will have the blood it needs to continue to live and thrive. I recognize and commend America's Blood Centers on transfusing life into our nation whenever and wherever needed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, during roll call vote number 74 on H.R. 1268, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "yes." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the record immediately following roll call vote number 74.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my colleagues WAYNE GILCHREST and NORM DICKS, legislation to reauthorize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation was established in 1984 when President Ronald Reagan signed into law legislation introduced by then Congressman John Breaux. Since that time, the foundation has financed more than 7,200 conservation projects both here in the United States and throughout the world. By leveraging a small amount of Federal assistance each year, they have been able to successfully raise millions of private dollars which have been spent to encourage Coral Reef conservation, enact an early warning system for invasive species, support oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay, help save endangered wild tigers and assist in the conservation of habitat critical for endangered marine sea turtles.

The foundation is governed by a board of directors consisting of 25 Americans who are dedicated to conservation. These distinguished men and women serve without compensation. In addition, the foundation is prohibited from using any Federal money to pay administrative expenses and both the foundation and its grantees may not use any Federal dollars to engage in litigation or lobbying activities.

In my own State of California, the foundation has approved hundreds of conservation projects. These projects have included: California Rangeland Trust, California Saltwater Wetlands Habitat restoration, California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, Point San Luis Lighthouse improvements, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Sacramento River Riparian restoration.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act is a simple, bipartisan and non-controversial bill. It will extend the existing authorization levels for an additional 5 years, clarify the requirement that Congress must be given a 30-day congressional notice requirement prior to the issuance of any conservation grant or expenditure of funds and modify the matching requirement to ensure that the foundation is not required to satisfy this provision in those cases where it does not receive any contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation can continue its worthwhile conservation efforts in the future.

Additional co-sponsors of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2005: Congressman NORMAN D. DICKS.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chairman, despite many reservations, I am supporting the bill before us today because I believe it is essential that this body unequivocally supports our troops in the field and their families here at home. By providing \$2 billion more than the President's request for equipment and munitions, this bill will help to ensure that soldiers in the field finally have the body armor, night vision equipment, and vehicle armor they should have had since military operations began in Iraq. Additionally, by significantly increasing the Military Death Gratuity and the Subsidized Life Insurance benefit, this bill will help to guarantee that the families of deceased soldiers will have adequate financial resources in their time of need.

While it is critical that this bill provides soldiers and their families with the protection and benefits they so rightfully deserve, I remain deeply concerned that it continues to leave the Administration and the Department of Defense unaccountable for the expenditures in Iraq. I am distressed by the alleged reports of waste, corruption and mismanagement of previous funds earmarked for the military operations and reconstruction in Iraq. Further, I am troubled to learn that, according to several studies, only a portion of every dollar spent on rebuilding Iraq has gone to improving the lives of Iraqis. Unfortunately, the efforts made by me and other members of Congress to insert accountability and transparency into the funding process, including the most recent bipartisan effort to establish a commission to investigate the costs of the reconstruction in Iraq, have been repeatedly rejected by the Majority in Congress.

I am similarly disappointed that this Administration insists on funding the war in Iraq using the emergency appropriations process—a process that should be reserved for true emergencies, like tsunami relief. While the Bush Administration claims that it excludes these costs from the annual budget process because it cannot anticipate future war costs,

the true reason for this exclusion is to make the already massive deficit look slightly, albeit artificially, lower. This Administration is therefore abusing the emergency appropriations process in order to help obscure and hide the extent of its fiscal recklessness from the American people. This is the same sort of fuzzy accounting that was employed by the likes of Enron and WorldCom, and yet, while those corporations were ultimately held accountable, this Administration continues not to be.

While I have significant ideological problems with this bill, I cannot in good faith turn my back on the courageous men and women who have so valiantly served to preserve the peace in Iraq. They deserve to enter the battlefield with adequate armor and equipment and are similarly entitled to an increase in benefits for them and for their families. However, I vote in favor of this bill with the sincere hope that this is the last time the Administration abuses the emergency appropriations process and comes to this body with such a request.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I voted against H.R. 1268 "The Emergency Supplemental Bill for Fiscal Year 2005." While it contained some good measures, humanitarian assistance for Darfur, funds for tsunami relief and aid to support the newly elected leadership of the Palestinian Authority, like many pieces of legislation these days, it also contained an egregious and completely non-germane addition, the REAL ID Bill. I already voted against this bill. It fails to make us safer and it does nothing to reform our immigration laws in useful ways. Instead of focusing on meaningful reform, this bill makes it much more difficult for an immigrant fleeing persecution to find asylum in our country, and essentially mandates a national identity card.

This vote was primarily about our ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. I supported the use of force in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime sheltered and supported al Qaeda terrorists who attacked our country and made plain its determination to continue. I wish we had committed sufficient troops and resources to complete our mission in Afghanistan, kill or capture Osama bin Laden, and commit to the country's reconstruction. I voted against the use of force in Iraq. I wish I had

been wrong, but all that I feared has come to pass. Weapons of mass destruction have not been found. Terrible slaughter continues and civil war may yet break out. But the ongoing violence in Iraq does not constitute a budgetary emergency and should not have been unforeseen. We were at war when the FY05 budget was proposed. Why then the pretense of a Supplemental Budget?

I honor the sacrifice of our soldiers and their families and the courage of the millions of Iraqis who risked their lives to vote in a free election. I hope that their elected leaders will deserve their trust and that they will negotiate an inclusive government and draft a constitution that respects human rights. I hope they can demonstrate a prudence and foresight that our own government has not shown. I voted for the FY05 Department of Defense appropriations bill and I hope that I will be able to vote for the FY06 Defense appropriations as well. My vote was a vote of no confidence in the President and in his conduct of foreign affairs.

REMEMBRANCE OF TILLIE K. FOWLER

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, along with my fellow Members of Congress, it is my honor to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague, Tillie Fowler. I extend my very deepest sympathy to Tillie's husband, Buck, to her daughters, Tillie and Elizabeth, and to Tillie's family on the great personal loss of their loved one. It was my privilege to call Tillie Fowler my colleague in Congress and know her as a friend.

Tillie always had her priorities in order. I always recall her first concern in all matters was for Buck, her husband, and her daughters. Tillie as I knew her also had a great love of our country. She ran for office to make her community, our State of Florida and our nation a better place for all. And she never stopped or hesitated in that effort.

Because of the public service of Tillie Fowler, many lives in the Jacksonville area and across our great land have been changed. Tillie and I were elected to Congress together in 1992. With Tillie's leadership the Congress was reformed, people who only had welfare as a choice had their lives changed and our nation's military found a new, strong advocate at their side. Many lives have been affected by the efforts and determination of Tillie Fowler.

It was my honor to serve with her for eight years and share borders of our Congressional Districts over the years. It was my honor to have her at my side during congressional redistricting in 2002, when I inherited a large portion of her old district and faced a formidable reelection challenge. Her support and