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# Congressional Record

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# Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, 2005, at 2 p.m.

# House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2005

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY).

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
*Washington, DC, May 4, 2005.*

I hereby appoint the Honorable PHIL GINGREY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

The Reverend M. Susan Peterson, Senior Pastor, Gloria Dey Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, offered the following prayer:

God of grace, healer of the nations and source of all that is generous and good, we call You by many names, yet we seek the same hope. We travel on different pathways but long for the same promise of peace. Help us to discover within the great variety of Your people a common purpose to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly on earth. Grant our elected leaders the wisdom and courage to stand for what is life-giving. And in full measure, support them in work both tedious and challenging to seek the well-being of all people.

Help each of us to overcome the barriers that separate us one from another, to advocate for those who have no voice, and to allow the freedom we know in this great land to move us to act with concern and compassion on behalf of others. May Your wisdom prevail in this place, and Your blessing rest on all who serve here. Together, we pray. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## WELCOMING THE REVEREND M. SUSAN PETERSON

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our guest chaplain, Reverend Susan Peterson of St. Paul, Minnesota. I often tell students when they come to the Capitol that the first official act of the Continental Congress was to appoint a chaplain. The second thing they did was they prayed. They prayed for an hour and a half. We have long understood the importance of faith in our society.

Reverend Peterson is the senior pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul. She was the first woman in the ELCA to be called as a senior pastor to a large Lutheran congregation. A proud Minnesota native, she attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota; Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois; the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia; and in 1985, she and her family moved to St. Paul where she was called to the position of associate pastor at Gloria Dei.

Susan has served in a variety of leadership positions for the St. Paul Area Synod, as well as a number of other church-related institutions.

I thank the Reverend Peterson for her service as guest Chaplain for the United States House of Representatives.

## EMPLOYEE PENSION PRESERVATION AND TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayer through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, has already assumed nearly $10 billion in unfunded pension liabilities from

two airlines in bankruptcy. I repeat, $10 billion. Something has to be done, and that is why I am introducing the Employee Pension Preservation and Taxpayer Protection Act today.

If a major airline files for bankruptcy, taxpayers lose, employees are out of jobs, retirements are jeopardized, and the economy suffers. My legislation would allow airline carriers to adopt new funding rules for their pension systems so the American taxpayer is not footing the bill.

Under this plan, the airline carriers must meet all of their current obligations, and the part that should make every taxpayer happy, this bill provides absolutely no subsidy from the Federal Government and thereby the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, pensions are not something workers hope to receive, or something we think might be there when we retire. Americans work hard and save for retirement, understanding that nothing can steal away a hard-earned pension. That is the way it should be, and that is what my bill will do. I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation.

## EDUCATION FUNDING CUTS WORTHY CONTEST

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, again this year the repeat State champions from my neighborhood high school, U.S. Grant, has had another outstanding national contest finishing second against the 1,500 students competing in the ''We the People'' Constitutional contest.

The Grant High School performance has a simple formula for success: Hard work, dedicated teachers, outstanding students and parents all joined together in a creative program. They demonstrate year in and year out what works in education.

I am sad to note that for some inexplicable reason the national program that inspired such interest in learning about our Constitution is absent from the President's budget, eliminating $29.4 million in civic education from the Department of Education. I hope we will be able to correct that deficiency. This is exactly the type of program and the positive reinforcement that the champions from Grant High School and students from across America deserve.

## HONORING SPECIALIST GAVIN COLBURN

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ultimate sacrifice made by an American hero, Specialist Gavin Colburn of Frankfort, Ohio. He was an Army Reservist with the 542nd Transportation Company serving in the war on terror in Iraq.

Specialist Colburn would be considered a hero by anyone's standards for being willing to answer his Nation's call to duty. Yet, Gavin was a hero in an even greater sense. On April 22 when a roadside bomb exploded near Specialist Colburn's truck, he threw himself in between the bomb and a fellow soldier, saving her life while sacrificing his own.

As we struggle to deal with the loss of this young man, let me assure Members that Specialist Gavin Colburn's life was not sacrificed in vain. Specialist Colburn was a young man full of promise, passion, bravery and heart, a young man fighting for what he believed was right and fighting for a cause he believed to be true.

Gavin loved his fiancee, his family and friends. And he loved his country. His family, his fiancee, his friends, the community of Frankfort, Ohio, and the United States of America, will never forget the incredible sacrifice this young man has made, for Specialist Gavin Colburn was born more than a soldier, he was an American patriot and an American hero. May God rest his soul.

## DEVELOPING PEACEMAKING SKILLS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, has Congress gotten use to the idea of the U.S. being in a war, an occupation in Iraq?

Congress endorsed the President's actions over and over again even though those actions were based on misinformation and falsehoods. It has appropriated over $270 billion for the war. It has provided money to build new bases in Iraq. It has not held a single investigative hearing that has made one bit of difference in the administration's conduct of the war.

But if the war cannot be justified, then neither can the occupation. Some are now content to say well, we are there, we have to stay there.

Mr. Speaker, it was wrong to go in and it is wrong to stay in. We attacked a nation that did not attack us. We waged war against a people who did not want war with us. We have killed people who have more quarrel with us. We are occupying a nation that does not want us there.

This Congress has the power to end the war. We should work together to set a day for withdrawal and a cutoff of funds. We acted decisively to get into war, we should act decisively to get out. In doing so, we must begin to develop peacemaking skills superior to our war-making skills or our world will not survive.

## UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR

(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, if U.N. reform is the issue, then John Bolton would make a good ambassador to the United Nations. He supports a United Nations that is transparent and effective. He supports a U.N. that does not work against American interests. He supports a U.N. that respects the sovereign laws of member nations, and he supports the ability of the U.S. to act according to its own national interest.

The Senate Democrats do not agree with him. These senators support a U.N. that even works against American interests, a U.N. that is not accountable to member states. A classic tactic of people hiding their true agenda is do not debate the issue, attack the person.

Their cynical strategy has made the number one qualification for ambassador good manners, not experience. Because a partisan political operative accuses John Bolton of being rude to staff, he is not qualified.

Mr. Speaker, if being rude to staff disqualifies John Bolton, then probably half the Members of Congress would be disqualified as well. Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.

## MISCONDUCT OF COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has an elaborate set of rules and regulations to ensure that Members' commitment to the public interest is never undermined by a conflict of interest. Unfortunately, the very House body charged with enforcing these rules and regulations is itself suffering from a conflict of interest.

At the start of this year, three Republican members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct were removed by their party because they were not friendly enough to the leadership. Two of the replacement members have given $15,000 to a legal defense fund for a member of the Republican leadership who likely will become subject to an ethics investigation.

Does any Member believe these two Members can fairly and independently, without bias, judge a Republican House leader while at the same time helping to pay his legal bills? The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has not even yet met, but the deck is already stacked against getting to the real truth and restoring the high standards of this House. The American people should be rightfully troubled and outraged.