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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 29, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM LATHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Reverend Michael O. Canady, Director, Missions and Ministries Division, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, how great and how majestic is Your Name in all the Earth. We give thanks to You for the gift of life and for Your loving grace that enables us to enjoy Your presence each day.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, the Cabinet, Members of the House of Representatives and their families. We ask Your divine blessings upon each of them as they give direction to our country. Give them wisdom, strength, and courage to accomplish the task of leading our great Nation.

Lord, we ask You to bless our soldiers and members of the Armed Forces that are in harm's way. Please watch over them with Your protective hand and give them courage to face each day with resolve and strength, and bless their families with Your daily presence and love.

Father, we give thanks unto You, for You are good and Your mercy endures forever. How majestic is Your Name in all the Earth.

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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 28, 2005, this is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

BETTY DICK RESIDENCE PROTECTION ACT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 432) to require the Secretary of the Interior to permit continued occupancy and use of certain lands and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 432

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, FINDINGS, AND PURPOSE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Betty Dick Residence Protection Act''.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Prior to their divorce, a married couple, Fred Dick and Marilyn Dick, owned as tenants in common a tract of land that included the property identified in section 2(b) of this Act.

(2) When Fred and Marilyn Dick were divorced, Marilyn Dick became the sole owner of the tract, but Fred Dick retained the right of first refusal to acquire it if Marilyn Dick ever chose to sell it.

(3) In 1977, Marilyn Dick sold the tract to the United States for addition to Rocky Mountain National Park, but Fred Dick, asserting his right of first refusal, sued to cancel the transaction.

(4) In 1980, the lawsuit was settled through an agreement between the National Park Service and Mr. Dick and his heirs, successors and assigns.

(5) Under the 1980 settlement agreement, Mr. Dick and his new wife, Ms. Betty Dick, were allowed to lease and occupy the 23 acres comprising the property identified in section 2(b) for 25 years.

(6) Mr. Dick died in 1992, but Betty Dick has continued to lease and occupy the property identified in section 2(b) under the terms of the settlement agreement.

(7) Betty Dick's right to lease and occupy the property identified in section 2(b) will expire on July 16, 2005, at which time Ms. Dick will have attained the age of 83 years.

(8) Ms. Dick wishes to continue to occupy the property for the remainder of her life, and has sought to conclude a new agreement with the National Park Service that would permit her to do so. However, the Park Service has not been willing to agree to such an arrangement and is demanding that she vacate the property by July 16, 2005.

(9) Since 1980, Betty Dick has consistently occupied the property identified in section 2(b) as a summer residence and has made it available for community events. During that period, she has been a good steward of the property. Her occupancy has not been detrimental to the resources and values of Rocky Mountain National Park and has not created problems for the National Park Service or the public.

(10) Under the circumstances it is appropriate for Betty Dick to be permitted to continue her occupancy of the property identified in section 2(b) for the remainder of her

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natural life under the terms and conditions applicable to such occupancy since 1980.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to require the Secretary of the Interior to permit continued occupancy and use of the property identified in section 2(b) by Betty Dick for the remainder of her natural life.

SEC. 2. RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall permit continued occupancy and use of the property described in subsection (b) by Betty Dick for the remainder of her natural life, subject to the requirements of this Act.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF PROPERTY.—The property referred to in subsection (a) are the lands and improvements within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park identified as ''residence'', ''occupancy area'', and ''barn'' on the map entitled ''Betty Dick Residence and Barn'' dated January, 2005.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Occupancy and use of the property identified in subsection (b) shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as specified in the document entitled ''Settlement Agreement'' between the National Park Service and Mr. Fred Dick dated July 17, 1980, except that Betty Dick shall be required to annually pay to the Secretary of the Interior an amount equal to one twenty-fifth of the amount specified in section 3(B) of such agreement.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to permit construction of any structure not in existence on November 30, 2004, or to apply to occupancy or use of the property described in subsection (b) by any person other than Betty Dick.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as our troops fight the war on terror, it is imperative that we show our appreciation for all of their sacrifices, their efforts and their courage. As Secretary Rumsfeld said, ''Our country is proud of every member of our Armed Forces, and we are deeply grateful for those who have sacrificed for the cause of liberty.''

Many Americans want to thank our troops; they just do not know how. There is a great program that America should know about. It is called America Supports You. It is a nationwide program run by the Department of Defense to recognize and communicate support by citizens for our military men and women. The program highlights many ways that Americans can get involved and join in the support effort. By going to www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil, you can donate frequent flier miles to provide tickets to hospitalized soldiers and their families, provide prepaid phone cards so their family members can keep in touch or just write a letter of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we showed the troops how much we care. With the 4th of July approaching, let us take time to show our appreciation and give back to those who have made so many sacrifices for us and for our liberty.

AmericaSupportsYou.mil lets all Americans say thanks.

CORPORATE WELFARE DEMONSTRATES NEED FOR LOBBYING REFORM

(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, on Monday, oil topped at $60 a barrel, and yet the House energy bill contains more than $8 billion in taxpayer funded giveaways to oil companies.

American taxpayers are being asked to subsidize big oil to do one thing: execute their business plan. So we pay twice, once at the gas pump and once on April 15. That is just business as usual here in Washington.

As USA Today points out today, corporate donors have given more than $120 million to Republicans during the last election, and now they are receiving their reward for loyalty.

Tobacco companies gave more than $40 million to Republicans, and they got a sweetheart deal from the Justice Department.

Pharmaceutical companies gave over $100 million to the Republican party and got a prescription drug bill resulting in $138 billion in additional profits.

To those industries, it is just good business: Invest a little now for a bigger return from Congress.

Special interests have attached themselves to Congress, and this is a parasitic relationship that is having a corrosive effect on the People's House. Congress has told corporate America to clean up their act. We have told professional sports to clean up their act, but when it comes to the People's House, things are squeaky clean.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) and I have introduced lobbying reform legislation.

Mr. Speaker, when the gavel comes down, it should mark the opening of the People's House, not the auction house.

WHO TOOK MY HOME?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court has opened the gate of chaos by allowing local governments to forcibly seize private homes so they can sell to private developers for the greater tax revenues. The result of this land-grabbing decision, in violation of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution, the protection of private property, is occurring now even in the remote New England town of Weare, New Hampshire.

A developer has filed necessary papers with the city to condemn a local home, have it seized and destroyed so he can build a brand new hotel and museum. That will give the city greater tax revenue.

The Supreme Court should realize there are consequences for decisions that they make. They affect all Americans. The homeowner has no recourse, no place to turn.

So I say, to the homeowner, Supreme Court Justice David Souter who voted for the land-grabbing decision, your decision shows the Supreme Court has lost its way, and you may lose your home.

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a comprehensive reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

Throughout my career and as chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group, I have been actively involved in advancing domestic violence legislation.

Although domestic violence is blind to race, ethnicity, racial and ethnic minority women, immigrant women especially, we face unique challenges to reporting and getting help for these victims.

The comprehensive reauthorization of VAWA includes provisions that address these concerns.

The bill includes language that would help communities establish specialized domestic violence courts in order to speed up the processing time of domestic violence cases. Also, the bill includes a provision that would help educate minority and immigrant communities on how to prevent domestic violence and provide services available to those victims.

Our efforts to educate the public about domestic violence must directly address factors like cultural differences, linguistic differences and immigration issues.

It is my hope that the reauthorization for the Violence Against Women Act is comprehensive and meets the needs of all women.

GITMO GETS THE DEMOCRATIC GO-AHEAD

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight comments published in Tuesday's edition of The Hill from Members of Congress who recently visited the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

One Democratic Senator described the tour as ''an eye-opening experience.''

''We found a well-run and well-organized camp,'' he added. ''Everything we heard previously was negative, but what we saw was much different from