



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005

No. 148

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 9, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Mac Hammond, Living Word Christian Center, Brooklyn Park, MN, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this historic place, we ask Your continued blessing on our country. Thank You for our divine heritage of being one Nation under God and for the liberty we enjoy as a result. We look to Your word for guidance and grace as we pray for each Member of this House. I ask You to give them wisdom and understanding in every decision they face, so that Your truth will continue to be reflected in our laws. During this session, may they be responsive to Your direction, aware of Your grace, and guided by Your precepts.

We also ask You to protect, strengthen and encourage our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the myriad of other places around the world where they are courageously protecting and promoting our liberty. Lead each Member in Your ways, and bless their families as You do.

May Your grace abound to all and continually remind each citizen of this great country that we are loved by You. This we pray in the name which is above all names. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BLACKBURN 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 PASTOR MAC HAMMOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome this morning's guest chaplain, Pastor Mac Hammond. Pastor Hammond and his wife, Pastor Lynne, who is with us in the gallery, are pastors of the Living Word Christian Center, a vibrant church in the Third Congressional District located in Brooklyn Park, MN.

This is an incredible story. On November 12, 1980, Mac and Lynne Hammond stood before a gathering of 12 people in a small meeting room at a hotel in Plymouth, Minnesota. On that day, Living Word Christian Center was born. Today, 25 years later, Living Word has grown to an active congregation of more than 10,000 members.

Pastor Mac Hammond's inspiring life has spanned several careers, from Air Force captain, where he served as a

pilot, to owner of an air cargo business, to gifted minister of the gospel. The people of our area, of our State are so grateful for Pastor Mac Hammond and his ministry to the community.

The Living Word Christian Center is home to a number of important ministries that are truly doing the Lord's work here on Earth. Close to my heart, the Living Free Recovery Services program provides treatment to families struggling with the ravages of drug and alcohol addiction. Living Word also operates Maranatha Christian Academy and Maranatha College, two highly respected, God-centered academic institutions in our area.

The church's Compassion Center ministers to inner-city residents, and CFAITH provides online missionary outreach.

We are all very grateful, Madam Speaker, for these wonderful ministries and for the faith, hope, and love brought to so many by Pastors Mac and Lynne Hammond. As you heard in his moving prayer, Pastor Hammond is a tremendously gifted speaker and a true man of God.

I knew Mac would offer a truly inspirational prayer this morning, and God knows we needed it. Many thanks, Pastor Hammond, for your moving and thoughtful prayer and for serving the House of Representatives as our guest chaplain.

FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the Republican fiscal mismanagement is so bad, and their budget proposals so dreadful, that even the Republican Caucus is having difficulty swallowing it. Mainstream Republicans do not

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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agree with K Street Republicans, who do not agree with Wall Street Republicans; but they are hopelessly out of touch with the street where most Americans live.

The Republican Congress seeks to mask their fiscal irresponsibility with cuts for millions of poor, the sick, for students and their families, literally taking food from the mouths of poor children to pay for more tax cuts for people who need them the least.

There is much talk of scandal here in Washington D.C., but to have a proposal offered up that would actually increase the deficit more than if they just gave up and went home is a scandal. It is a scandal how tragically out of touch my Republican colleagues are from the needs and desires of the average American.

HONORING VETERANS

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the sacrifices of their local veterans by cosponsoring H.R. 1951, which would mint a coin for America's disabled veterans. The proceeds would be used for a Disabled Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart all support our bill for a first-of-its-kind tribute to America's disabled veterans.

This Congress needs to remember the sacrifices of veterans not only on Veterans Day, but throughout the year. For that purpose, we also must pass the SAVE U.S. VETS Act to restore the equitable VA funding to veterans health care facilities in the Northeast. The VERA formula is unfair and ineffective. A GAO study found that through 2002, VERA misallocated nearly \$1 billion in funds that should have gone to the Northeast veterans hospitals like Montrose and Castle Point in New York's Hudson Valley.

New York veterans served our country in areas throughout the world. They should not be punished now for living in the northeast area of our country that is being neglected by bad funding through the VERA formula. VA funds must reach these areas where veterans' needs are the greatest. The health care needs of all northeast veterans must be met, as they count on us to protect them with the same loyalty with which they protected our country.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOES NOT REFLECT AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, tomorrow the House is planning to vote on America's future. The budget vote will decide who wins, who loses. The Republican budget does not reflect

America's priorities. Where else would you protect corporate welfare like \$16.5 billion in handouts, taxpayer handouts to oil and gas companies, and all the while throwing America's children over the side. A Republican Congress, of course.

Where else would you cut \$9.5 billion from children's health care affecting 6 million children, while helping protect big oil and gas companies. Where else would you cut 330,000 children from child care assistance while protecting big HMOs. Where else would you cut 40,000 children from nutrition programs while protecting America's polluters. Where else would you cut \$14.3 billion in student college aid, the single largest cut in the history of the student aid program. A Republican Congress, but of course.

These are not the right priorities for America. They are not America's priorities for its future. Madam Speaker, we should cut spending, but we should not jeopardize our future by cutting programs for our children. It is time we made a change. It is time that we choose our priorities. We can do better, not protecting Big Oil at the expense of taking America's children and throwing them over the side.

RESTRICTIONS ON PARENTING

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the out-of-touch notorious Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has struck again. They have created their own version of restrictions on parenting. These wayward judges rule that parents do not have a constitutional right to prevent a public school from teaching students whatever it wishes, including sexual information.

Instead, they say that the State has ultimate power over the education of our children. This ruling stems from a case filed by parents whose children, ages 7 through 10, were given a survey that asks questions pertaining to sex that are even too expressive to repeat on this House floor.

According to the education police judges, when parents decide to send their child to a public school, the parents lose authority and control over what the child is taught. The State decides.

This ruling violates the Constitution. The Supreme Court long ago ruled that parents do have the fundamental right to make decisions about the care, custody, education, and control of their children. This is just another example of elite judges trying to replace parents with bureaucrats. Out-of-control judges are taking away property rights, our pledge rights, and now they are after our parenting rights. This ought not to be.

STATE OF THE UNION

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, for the first time in about 50 years, the Republicans control the White House, the House, and the Senate. So let us look at the real state of the union and what they have given us:

\$8 trillion in debt. In fact, this Nation is borrowing \$907 million a day, \$188 million a day going to Iraq, \$33 million a day going to Afghanistan. In fact, this President and this Republican Congress have borrowed more money from foreigners in the past 5 years than the previous 42 Presidents combined. And all this before the hurricane season. Now they are proposing in tomorrow's budget reconciliation cutting Medicaid \$12 billion, cutting food stamps and farm programs \$3.7 billion, cutting student loans \$14.3 billion. And for what? To pay for another \$70 billion in tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year.

Madam Speaker, these are not my priorities. These are not America's priorities. These are not the kinds of conservative, small-town values that I was raised on and still believe in.

RENEWABLE DOMESTIC FUELS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, in July of this year, the President signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which enacted the first-ever renewable fuel standard in order for a portion of our Nation's fuel supply to be provided by renewable domestic fuels like ethanol from corn and biodiesel made from soybeans. This provision is an example of public policy that is moving in the right direction. For example, E-85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol fuel, is becoming more and more available in the Midwest and it costs less at the pump. Just this week in my southern Illinois district, E-85 was on average 22 cents cheaper than regular gasoline at the pump. In some cases, E-85 stayed below \$2 per gallon.

The expanded use of renewable fuels like E-85 helps stretch domestic oil supply and decrease our reliance on foreign imports of oil. As we all know, no crude oil refineries have been built in the United States since 1976. During that time, close to 100 ethanol refineries have been built. It is my hope that this growth continues to happen. Renewable fuels are an environmentally friendly, domestic alternative fuel source that we can utilize to increase U.S. supply and decrease our reliance on foreign imports of oil.

CUTS TO STUDENT AID

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, when I was