



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008

No. 128

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rabbi Peter E. Hyman, Temple B'nai Israel, Easton, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and merciful God, bless and protect the lawmakers and officials of our land as they carry out the sacred responsibilities entrusted to them by the people of our Nation.

Grant to the President, his counselors, advisers, and all who hold in their hands the destiny and well-being of our country a measure of Your wisdom and a portion of Your spirit.

Impart to those in positions of leadership the courage to temper justice with mercy. Strengthen those who engage in the give-and-take of democracy with passion alloyed with humility.

May those who stand here in righteous debate be ever mindful that Your divine image is reflected in the eyes of those they face; remembering that it is in Your likeness we are all created.

Shield and guard those who, responding to the call of duty and service, stand in harm's way.

Bless, O God, the work of those who labor here, and may the work they do be a blessing to us and to all the world.

And let us say, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI PETER E. HYMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I want to talk about Rabbi Hyman who just gave the opening prayer.

There is a midrash, one of the many parables, that embellish upon the Torah. In this particular midrash, there is a man from the land of Israel, a businessman, who was in another country, and when he was there, he was accused of being a spy. He was then told by the judge that he would be executed. He asked for 30 days to go back to the land of Israel and while there finish up his business and come back. The judge initially laughed, but he turned to him and said, "My friend will sit in a jail for me, and if I'm not back, he will be executed."

The judge had to see this, and so the man went into jail. And the gentleman went back to the land of Israel and he finished his business. And he would have made it back in time, except there was a storm at sea.

And when he finally arrived there, the man, his friend, was about to be hung, executed. And he yelled out as he came closer, "It is I who am to be executed, not him." But his friend said, "No, you're too late; it is to be me."

They caused such confusion and commotion that the two men were brought before the king who had to see this, and after listening to their stories, he said, "I will forgive you and pardon you on one condition, that I become your third friend."

There is nothing like a friend in life. You helped me at a hard time, at the beginning of my political career, Rabbi, but more than that, Temple

Shalom in my district radiated that peace, that friendship, that loyalty to everyone, that interracial, ecumenical clergy association you headed, not just Anti-Defamation League, but anti-violence summit that you held.

Shalom. Thank you for being the friend you are, not just to me, but a dealer of hope to many in my district.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minute requests on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING STATE SENATOR MIKE CONNOLLY

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate my friend and mentor, Iowa State Senator Mike Connolly. Mike has represented the City of Dubuque and Dubuque County in the Iowa General Assembly for the past 30 years. He has also served for 30 years in the Dubuque community schools as a teacher and as an administrator.

When Mike was getting started in the General Assembly, Iowa was facing tough economic times. The farm crisis was challenging the entire State, especially Dubuque, but Mike believed we could rebuild. He is an integral part of the leadership team that has guided the economic and cultural rebirth of Dubuque and Iowa. He has worked tirelessly to make Iowa schools among the best in the Nation, to make health care affordable and accessible, and create sustainable and good-paying jobs.

Madam Speaker, integrity and humility are two trades we could use a lot more of in American politics. Mike Connolly has always served with integrity and humility. He has sacrificed to make his community a better place

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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