

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, October 27, 1999

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 27, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. George Gray Toole, Towson Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

O God, be with our representatives as they govern this Nation. Great and broad are their responsibilities and enough to tax any human being. Without Your guidance, they are at a disadvantage, for who can rightly judge between so many issues and events. Surrounded by those vying for one action over another, it can be so difficult to decide which path to follow. When pressures increase, calm them with Your peace. When confusion builds, grant them Your wisdom. With integrity grounded in allegiance to You, lead them in paths that confirm their best efforts, so that peace, justice and the welfare of all people may be the product of their work. 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 Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARDIN 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced

that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint resolution and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution to grant the consent of Congress to the boundary change between Georgia and South Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 196. Concurrent Resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1235. An act to amend part G of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to allow railroad police officers to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy for law enforcement training.

S. 1485. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to confer United States citizenship automatically and retroactively on certain foreign-born children adopted by citizens of the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize 15 one-minutes from each side.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND DR. GEORGE GRAY TOOLE

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to welcome Dr. George Toole as our guest chaplain today. He is here along with his wife, Donna. We are certainly honored to have him here with us. He is the senior minister at the Towson Presbyterian Church in Maryland.

His parents were Scottish immigrants. They loved their new country. His father attempted to enlist in the Navy during World War II but was told he was too old. That did not stop his father. He tried two other times and finally was allowed to enlist in the Navy just before the statutory age limit and served his Nation, his new Nation, with distinction because of his love of our Nation. It was that inspiration that has led Dr. Toole to his public service.

Dr. Toole has been very active in community service. In New York as a police commissioner, he helped successfully to convince an armed individual to release his spouse in a hostage situation. And in Maryland he is a familiar face in community service.

We thank Dr. Toole for his public service and for being with us today.

This is a great honor for me to follow Dr. George Toole, the senior minister at Towson Presbyterian Church, one of Maryland's finer churches. Before I begin, I would also like to recognize Dr. Toole's wonderful wife, Donna, who is in the gallery today.

Dr. Toole tells me this is a great day for his family. After hearing his father's story you will understand why.

You see, his parents were Scottish immigrants who fell in love with their new country. So much so that when World War II rolled around, Dr. Toole's father wanted to give back to the country that had opened up a new life of freedom for him and his family. "This is my country and I owed her," he later explained to his son. He went to enlist in the Navy.

But there were a few small problems. Dr. Toole's father was 38 years old. He had a wife. And he had two sons. The U.S. Navy said thanks, but no thanks.

But that didn't stop the elder Toole. Remember: "This is my country and I owed her." So Dr. Toole's father waited and tried again. Same response, thanks but no thanks.

They say the third time's the charm. That certainly proved true in this case. Two weeks before the absolute age disqualification date for service in the Armed Forces, Pentagon brass relented and allowed Dr. Toole's father to join the Navy. He served proudly in the South Pacific and Dr. Toole tells me the younger men on-board his ship called him "Pop." If he treated them half as well as he treated his son who is here with us today, they were probably some happy sailors.

Dr. Toole tells this story as a way of demonstrating what a difference it made to have such a caring and patriotic father. It probably goes a long way to explaining why the Baltimore County Police recognized Ensign Toole's son, today's guest chaplain, several years ago for bravery and community service. Dr. Toole, a former police commissioner in Bath, NY, spent over 4 hours negotiating with an armed man who had taken his wife hostage in their home. The man had been to a service at Dr. Toole's church a few days before the incident and told the police this was the only person he would talk to.

Just like his father refused to give up on the Navy, Dr. Toole refused to give up on this distraught man. The man eventually gave up his gun and released his wife. We are a better country for both of these refusals. Thank you for your remarks today, Dr. Toole, and please keep up the good work in Towson.

REPUBLICAN VIEW ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

□ 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.