

PERMISSION TO INSERT PROGRAM AND REMARKS OF MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE HOUSE AT GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CEREMONIES

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the program and the remarks of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the two Members representing the House of Representatives at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Washington Monument for the observance of George Washington's birthday on Monday, February 22, 1999, be inserted into today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON

267TH BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

Monday, Feb. 22, 1999, Washington, DC

PROGRAM

Opening: Arnold Goldstein, Superintendent, National Capital Parks Central.

Presentation of Colors: Joint Armed Services Color Guard.

To the Colors: Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

Pledge of Allegiance: Michael Gutierrez, Cub Scout Pack 461, Bethesda, MD.

RETIRE THE COLORS

Welcome: Superintendent Goldstein.

Poetry Readings: Shawn Bolden, Tamika Wall, Emon Baritteau; Rudolph Elementary School; Washington, DC.

Musical Selection: Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

REMARKS

Russell Train, First Vice President, Washington National Monument Society.

Terry Carlstrom, Regional Director, National Capital Region, National Parks Service.

Hon. James P. Moran, Eighth District, Virginia, U.S. House of Representatives.

Hon. Frank R. Wolf, Tenth District, Virginia, U.S. House of Representatives.

PRESENTATION OF THE WREATHS

The Wreath of the U.S. House of Representatives, Hon. James P. Moran, and Hon. Frank R. Wolf.

The Wreath of the Washington National Monument Society, Russell Train.

The Wreath of the National Park Service, Terry Carlstrom.

TAPS

The National Park Service and the Washington National Monument Society acknowledge with appreciation Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps Military District of Washington.

"First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."—Said by Lighthorse Harry Lee eulogizing George Washington.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON

(By Congressman Frank R. Wolf)

Today is an important day. It is a day when we give honor to one of the greatest leaders the world has known—the Father of our Country, and our first president, George Washington.

I am proud to speak in his honor. He was born in Virginia and served America and the Commonwealth in important positions

throughout his life. Washington was only 16 years old when Lord Fairfax, a land baron, sent him to the Shenandoah Valley, which I represent, to join a surveying party. He spent a number of years surveying frontier areas of Virginia and what is now West Virginia. The city of Winchester, which I also represent, is where Washington had his surveying office in 1748 and his headquarters during the construction of Fort Loudon in 1756 and 1757. That building still stands today.

Washington first ran for elected office from Frederick County. He lost the first time, but he was not to be deterred. He ran again and on July 24, 1758, was elected to a term in the House of Burgesses. He served in the House of Burgesses for more than 15 years, representing first Frederick County and later Fairfax County.

This monument is illustrative of the many buildings, monuments and historic sites which remind us of those who forged this land and gave us this great country. The Washington Monument inspires all Americans to greatness and to keep alive the values and principles for which men like George Washington stood—freedom, democracy, and patriotism.

George Washington gave us the greatest example of what it means to be an American in that he placed the good of the nation before his own personal interests. He inspired, and continues to inspire, men to greatness—not only by his greatness as a great military commander or by his political abilities as a man who literally founded this country—but by something even more foundational. By his character. By his virtue. Not necessarily by what he had done, but even more importantly, who he was, before God and before men.

In 1789, Washington was elected to serve as the first President of the United States by unanimous vote. His ability to lead the nation as well as he had led its army was soon recognized, even by those who had opposed him.

Through the years of hard work and unselfish devotion, Washington, together with our founding fathers, launched the new government on its course and laid the foundation for a strong government which has well-served each succeeding generation of American citizens.

This year is especially significant in remembering George Washington because we will commemorate his death 200 year ago. He died at the age of 67 at his home in nearby Mount Vernon, where special events will take place throughout this year in remembrance of his passing. And although we will pay tribute to him throughout 1999, we know that the memory of him will never fade, as long as there is an America.

George Washington had a vision—a vision of a land that was marked by liberty and freedom for all men. But it was also a vision of a nation of people committed to their country, to the common good, and to one another. If we as a nation continue to work together to make our country great, not just materially, but great in goodness and in virtue, then that vision will continue to lead and guide us for generations to come. Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON

(By Congressman James P. Moran)

We are assembled here today at this great Monument in remembrance of our first president, George Washington.

This year marks the 200th Anniversary of the death of George Washington. While during the passage of time since the death of

Washington our Nation has changed in many ways, we have not lost sight of the heavy debt we owe to Washington and the other founders of our nation. The project to restore our national monument to Washington's memory is an expression of our gratitude.

George Washington is universally known as our first president, and as commander in chief of the Continental forces during the American Revolution. But what is not as celebrated or well-known is that after Washington resigned his military commission and returned to his home at Mt. Vernon, Virginia, he became increasingly dissatisfied with the weakness of the government under the Articles of Confederation. Dispute and rivalry threatened to destroy the gains of the newly independent 13 former colonies; they were not yet a union of states, but a fractious confederation. Washington joined the movement to reorganize the government and hosted the 1795 conference at Mt. Vernon that catalyzed the Constitutional Convention. Washington himself presided over this critical Convention. History records that his influence in securing the adoption of the Constitution was incalculable. This Constitution, a short but brilliant document, has guided our nation, and has proved the best plan for a democratic republic the world has ever seen. If George Washington had not lived, it is impossible to know if the independent-minded colonies would have been able to transform themselves into an enduring united nation.

Our presence here today not only evokes and pays tribute to the greatness of the man who is called the Father of our Country, but is designed to keep his contributions still very much alive in our hearts and our minds.

THE BEAST, H.R. 45

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a new category of beast has come to plague and menace the American scene. That beast, of course, is H.R. 45, a bill that intends to ship 77,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste, the most dangerous, toxic substance known to mankind, across this Nation into my home State of Nevada.

I say to my colleagues, your communities will not be spared from playing host to this transportation of high-level nuclear waste. In fact, if my colleagues vote in favor of H.R. 45, they will have voted to endanger the very constituents that they were sent here to protect and represent, because a vote for H.R. 45 is a vote to open the floodgates to transport nuclear waste from over 100 nuclear reactors through their communities and neighborhoods. A vote to support H.R. 45 makes my colleagues responsible forever for the dire consequences that will inevitably occur when a mobile Chernobyl has an accident causing untold devastation.

Protect your districts. Represent your families. Represent your constituents. Oppose H.R. 45.

**WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES RECERTIFICATION OF MEXICO AS COOPERATING PARTNER IN WAR ON DRUGS**

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a government report says last year not one major drug dealer was arrested in Mexico. Last year, seizures of drugs and arrests for drugs in Mexico declined. Last year, they say nearly all of the drugs and narcotics sold on the streets of America come from Mexico.

Think about it. America is drowning in cocaine and heroin; and, after all that, the White House has announced they will once again certify Mexico as a full cooperating partner in our war on drugs. Beam me up here.

Mexico is a partner all right, with Colombian drug dealers, not with Uncle Sam, and this tough love policy is just not working. Ladies and gentlemen of Congress, there is no war on drugs without the help of the military at our border. It is time to get on to that discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back all the addiction, death and health care costs in our country.

**REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT**

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, as a part of a bipartisan effort, I am introducing a bill that takes the first step toward reauthorizing the Older Americans Act, the premier senior citizens services law. It is past time for Congress to get off the dime and improve the services our seniors need and expect.

The Act performs a vital role in the everyday lives of millions of senior Americans by providing nutrition, disease prevention, health promotion and in-home services. Millions of seniors have benefited from the Act's programs.

In 1996, the Older Americans Act provided 238 million meals to over 3 million seniors. The Act also funded approximately 6,400 senior centers, 40 million rides, and more than 13 million requests for assistance.

I am ready to work with the committee chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING); the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON); the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY); and the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ); to move this reauthorization through the House; and I look forward to working with my friends from both sides of the

aisle to achieve a good bipartisan reauthorization.

**MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS DESERVE TAX RELIEF AND THEY DESERVE IT NOW**

(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, recently the President, in a talk to college students, revealed what he really thinks of tax relief for American families. He said, and I quote, 15 years from now, if the Congress wants to give more tax relief, let them do it, end quote.

So, does this mean that the college students to whom he was speaking must wait until they are in their thirties, most likely married and with children and with steep financial commitments like home mortgages, to receive relief from heavy taxation?

Ridiculous.

This is certainly unwelcome news to all the middle class American families I hear from, who already spend more in taxes than they do for food, shelter, transportation and clothing combined.

With this mentality, it is a good thing the President is only in charge for another 2 years, not 15. Middle class Americans, moms and dads, workers, even students, deserve tax relief; and they deserve it now.

**MIXING SOCIAL SECURITY WITH OPERATING EXPENSES, NO BUSINESS IN AMERICA COULD DO THAT**

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, by Washington definition, we have a budget surplus, only by Washington definition. Because what we have done is mix Social Security, our retirement, in with operating expenses. No business in America could do that. The President, instead of wanting to put 100 percent of the surplus back where it belongs into the Social Security retirement account, he wants to spend 32 percent of it on other programs, new programs.

One of them, for example, is to expand AmeriCorps. You may not be familiar with that. That is the one where they pay volunteers, teenagers, to do work that they were doing for free. The Clinton administration now pays them and calls it AmeriCorps.

I think we should preserve Social Security. We should protect it. We should put 100 percent of the surplus back where it belongs, into Social Security, not into teenage volunteer payment programs. That is part of the whacky fringe left agenda and, Mr. President, my grandmother says no.

**IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE**

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support the President's proposal to take the overwhelming majority of the budget surplus and place it into the Social Security Trust Fund to protect Social Security and Medicare. We have begun the process of balancing the budget, but we have not yet completed it until we repay the Social Security Trust Fund and totally strengthen Medicare. We can do that under the President's proposal by taking the overwhelming majority, 80 percent of the surplus, and putting it back towards strengthening Social Security and Medicare. That then allows us to take a small portion of the budget and to invest it in other critical needs such as defense preparedness and education.

If we work together, we can strengthen Social Security and Medicare. We can pay down the debt, which in the long run will lower interest rates and give a real tax cut to the middle class by lowering interest payments on mortgages, car payments, credit cards; and that is the way that we get more dollars back into people's pockets.

**FEDERAL BALONEY**

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's Governors are in town this week; and many of them are here with their hands out and their minds closed.

I am referring to several Governors who have taken aim at the President's budget proposals for education reform.

The President has proposed an ambitious education agenda based on accountability, performance, competition and competency. He proposes to give States and school districts the resources they will need to modernize their schools, hire qualified teachers and reach higher standards.

What are the Governors saying about these proposals? The Governor of Arkansas says that he wants the dough without the strings. The Governor of Mississippi called the administration's proposals Federal baloney.

These statements betray an alarming ideological shift among these State executives. Fundamentally, what they are saying is that they would like to spend tax dollars with impunity. They should know, as most citizens do, that just as the private sector cannot spend money without accountability, neither can government.

Let us give the States the resources they need but let us do it in a sound and sensible way, with accountability.