

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained attending my son's high school graduation and missed rollcall votes 303-310. If I had been here, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall 303: No (delaying implementation of Department of Veterans' Affairs VERA system).

Rollcall 304: No (striking prohibition against dredging until National Academy of Sciences study complete).

Rollcall 305: No (prohibiting designation of ozone non-attainment areas).

Rollcall 306: No (prohibiting administration of Communities for Safer Guns Coalition).

Rollcall 307: No (shifting funding from space station program to increase the number of new low income housing vouchers).

Rollcall 308: No (prohibiting Department of Housing and Urban Affairs from implementing settlement agreement with Smith and Wesson).

Rollcall 309: Yes (final passage).

Rollcall 310: No (withdrawal from World Trade Organization).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, June 16, 2000, in order to fulfill official commitments in my district on Friday, I took the last plane from Washington to my California district. I missed the following record votes and would like to place in the RECORD my position on these issues: Rollcall number 285, present; rollcall number 286, yes; rollcall number 287, yes; rollcall number 288, no; rollcall number 289, no; rollcall number 290, yes; and rollcall number 291, no.

PRAYER AT FOOTBALL GAMES

(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, the Supreme Court begins every session every day with a prayer that goes something like this, "God save the United States and this honorable court." This Congress, every Congress begins every session every day with a prayer by a chaplain paid with tax dollars.

The First Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the Federal government from creating any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion, yet the Supreme Court ruled on Monday that students may not give voluntary prayers before football games even if students vote to do so.

In issuing this football prayer decision, the Supreme Court fumbled. They fumbled before. There is nothing sacrosanct about the Supreme Court decision. They reversed themselves over 100 times in our Nation's history.

They fumbled in 1857 when they said Dred Scott was not a person because of the color of his skin. The Supreme

Court fumbled Monday when it ruled against free voluntary speech. Rather than preserving our rights, the court eroded them, and they ensured years of costly litigation for lawyers.

But I hope, yes I pray, if I am allowed to do so, that one day this decision will be overturned also.

MEDICARE RX MEETS INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

(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, there are almost 40 million Medicare beneficiaries in the United States, and I can say with confidence that no two beneficiaries are just alike. So why would this administration want to create a one-size-fits-all Medicare prescription drug program?

Our seniors should not be forced into a big government Washington-based drug benefit program, a program run by Washington bureaucrats that do not know the difference between Motrin and Resulin. Our seniors and disabled Americans deserve and want a better plan.

The House bipartisan prescription drug benefit plan will provide an affordable, available, and voluntary drug benefit program allowing each Medicare beneficiary to choose which program best serves their individual needs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people cannot afford the \$100 billion Clinton-Gore cookie cutter prescription drug plan scheme, whatever you call it, which thoughtlessly neglects individual health care needs of our seniors.

GARY GRAHAM

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak out against murder. In the past few weeks, there has been a ground swell of support for Gary Graham, a man placed on death row in Texas at the age of 17.

This case and others have drawn public attention to the death penalty in this country and especially in Texas where Governor Bush says that he is confident that each of the 134 people killed under his watch were guilty. But we must be mindful that confidence of one man or 1,000 men cannot right a wrong.

In a case where a man will die because of suspect eye witness testimony, Governor Bush's confidence is not enough. In a case where already two witnesses who said the man was not the killer, Governor Bush's confidence is not a enough. In a case where those two witnesses were not even called to

the stand by the defense to testify, Governor Bush's confidence is not enough. Mr. Speaker, in a case where the gun found at the arrest was not the gun used to kill the murder victim, Governor Bush's confidence is not enough.

I urge Governor Bush to remember that simply saying that one is confident is not enough to right a wrong.

GARY GRAHAM

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, in the Bible, justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream. But in Texas, it is just a trickle.

Is it not ironic that, in the State of Texas, a juvenile is tried as an adult, but in Connecticut, an adult is tried as a juvenile?

Texas has executed more juvenile offenders than any other State in America. Another 26 juvenile offenders now sit on Texas' death row.

George Bush boasts of his international experience. Well, his death row experience has put Texas right in line with Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Democrat Republic of Congo as executionists of juvenile offenders.

A Federal court has already stated that there is significant evidence to support Gary Graham's claim of innocence.

Why not let the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles review the new evidence?

Should George Bush kill Gary Graham? He could very well be killing an innocent man. Or does George Bush want to follow in the footsteps of his "Willie Horton" father to win brownie points in a close election?

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RESPONSIBILITY OF HIGH GAS PRICES FALLS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, many Americans are becoming very upset about the great and tremendous rise in gas prices around the country, and certainly they should be upset about this. Let me just point out a few things though.