

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 20, 2001

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Dr. Harold Bales, District Superintendent, United Methodist Church, Salisbury, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, when we lift our eyes to spacious skies, we know that You are there.

When as if two lightning bolts slice hotly through the high places and plunge us by the thousands into molten, crushing caverns, we know that You are there.

When heroic spirits, roused to action, steer a chariot meant for evil to the right and make a crater of courage in the rich soil of freedom, we know that You are planted there as if a seed, the seed of life.

When wild barbarians spur their murderous winged mount into the encampment of those who serve when called to liberating strife, we know that You are there.

And when representative forces of freedom meet to do their civilizing work, grant, O God, not only Your blessing on their work but grant Your presence there.

So please, God, bless this House and those within it, that through its actions and by Your presence here, justice, mercy, love, and peace may come to reign in every house upon this earth. 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 New York (Mr.

McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY 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 Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 231. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

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

S. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution permitting the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate to designate another member of the Committee to serve on the Joint Committee on Printing in place of the Chairman.

S. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution providing for members on the part of the Senate of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that the practice of reserving seats prior to the Joint Session by placard will not be allowed.

Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only, following the security sweep of the Chamber.

WELCOMING DR. HAROLD BALES, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is a true honor for me to have Dr. Harold Bales here to offer prayer to us at this most difficult time in our Nation's history.

Dr. Bales and his wife, Judy, have been friends of my husband, Ed, and myself for over 20 years, as well as pastor. Judy and their daughter, Suzannah, are here with him today.

He has served in many capacities in the Methodist Church, from being a

pastor to organizing the World's Fair in Knoxville to administrative positions; and many years ago in Charlotte, he was among the first to recognize our growing problem with homeless people. And our church, First United Methodist, was among the first to start a program uptown to help. He was also instrumental in building our homeless shelter.

When tornados raked through North and South Carolina in 1986, Harold was one of the first responders, not only with spiritual leadership, but also in a relief and recovery effort in the basement of First Methodist, over a hundred miles away.

Recently he has battled cancer, but that has not stopped him from caring and working for others. Harold relieves many tense situations with his wonderful sense of humor. He always makes everyone feel comfortable, and he has always got a real story to tell that is funny as the dickens.

He also writes poetry. One of his masterpieces is called Ode to Okra. Yes, that is the vegetable. Harold loves okra.

As an instrument of reconciliation, Harold has repeatedly brought together people of diverse beliefs and different factions to celebrate their similarities in honor of God. His surgeon, who coincidentally was also my surgeon for breast cancer, recently shared something with me. She has become a dear friend, also.

Dr. Teresa Flippo told me that he always had an aura of calm about him. Whenever he would come in and when she would go in to see him, he would end up ministering to her and really being concerned about all the stresses that she underwent in her profession, had far more concern for her than he did for his own condition.

That is Dr. Bales, a true servant of God.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches per side.

HELPING CHILDREN AFFECTED BY SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORISM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in scenes worse than a horror movie,

Americans witnessed hijacked planes slam into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and fall to the ground in Pittsburgh. In the blink of an eye, thousands of lives were snatched and Americans lost our sense of safety.

For millions who watched the carnage, the harrowing images will be imprinted forever in our memory. But for the children who lost a parent in this catastrophic act of terror, their lives will never be the same again.

Today, I am proud to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), in introducing H. Con. Res. 228. This resolution calls for immediate benefits for children who lost one or both parents or guardians in the multiple tragedies.

H. Con. Res. 228 will ensure that services for these children will include, but not be limited to, foster care, medical assistance, and psychological services which they so desperately need.

All the money and the services in the world could never replace the loss of their loved ones. But although money cannot heal their scars, with the passage of this resolution, we can begin to bandage their deep wound.

I hope our colleagues sign on to H. Con. Res. 228.

HELPING AIRLINES TO RECOVER

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

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, every day for the past 8 days, we have watched with deep respect and gratitude as our firefighters, emergency medical personnel, police, soldiers, counselors, and volunteers rescued and then continued the search and the clearing of the debris of the buildings and lives left by the terrorists.

This morning, I want to especially recognize another group of brave and caring people, our airline pilots, cockpit crews, and flight attendants who went back to work and continue to work every day to get us to our destinations safely and comfortably.

Thank you to those at American who took me to mine last weekend and those at all of the other airlines which serve the many cities in all of our districts.

In a few days, we will have the opportunity to really show our gratitude and pass a package to keep our planes flying and thousands of people in the jobs they need so they can provide for themselves and their families. Let us do it.

KEEPING FOCUSED ON KEEPING AMERICA STRONG

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, this past week the response of Congress and the American people has been tremendous. We have seen patriotism, bipartisanship, and spiritual renewal, which has been unprecedented in our lifetime.

The focus of Congress has been on the best interests of the country, not on personal ambition or party superiority. The key question is this: What will our focus be next week, next month, and next year?

The best thing that we can do as a Congress to combat terrorism is to, first, display unity of purpose, to serve the national interests above all else; second, provide total commitment, staying power over the coming months and years. This is not going to be a sprint; it is going to be an endurance race. And victory will not go to the swiftest, but to those who have the most resolve and the most commitment.

Third, I think we must support the administration and the military and avoid micromanaging. We cannot become military and tactical experts from this floor.

The Nation will be watching. Our enemies will be watching. Congress will set the tone, one way or another.

A TIME FOR WAR

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as was written long ago, there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to tear down, and a time to build; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Tonight, as our American President will again walk the blue carpet of this Chamber to lead our Nation in a time of war, my hope and my prayer, Mr. Speaker, is that this President will reflect the heart of the American people from this Chamber. I know there is a need to plan, to prepare, to deploy. But justice is inherently impatient, and so am I.

Mr. Speaker, I pray that the President knows in the defense of our Nation, now is the time to tear down. Now is the time for war.

REOPENING AMERICA'S AIRPORT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, America's airport, National Airport, remains closed as a lasting symbol of the attack of September 11. Until it is opened, the terrorists have a temporary victory.

I would be the last to want us to be reckless. Not only do I live here, 600,000

people whom I represent live here. But they want this airport opened with security, and so does America. Part of the problem may be that there are so many issues with which our country must cope that National Airport may not be getting the attention it deserves.

The Congress and the administration must focus on National Airport because of what it means, not to the capital of the United States, but to our country. As immediate steps, the recommendation that the shuttles be opened is most important, because it would unite Washington with New York and Boston, the two cities that were the objects of attack.

We must make National Airport a pilot for airport security for the Nation. To be sure, many jobs and the economy of this city and region are at stake. More important, opening the airport would be a giant symbol of our willingness to fight back.

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UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT OVERREACT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the attacks of last week were the most evil, tragic actions ever carried out in this country.

I have said many times that we need to take the strongest possible action against bin Laden and other terrorists. However, we must be very careful not to overreact. If we go overboard and have an almost panic-type reaction, we will be doing just what the terrorist want us to do.

The Wall Street Journal reports today that bin Laden's fortune is nowhere close to the \$300 million stated in some stories, that his fortune has been wildly exaggerated, and bin Laden's network is a "primitive and cheap force." Besides that, we have just appropriated \$40 billion in emergency funding, and today we start on a bill to give the military the biggest increase in history following 6 straight years of multi-billion dollar increases.

I believe bin Laden has probably been shocked by the worldwide condemnation he received even from people and countries he probably thought would support him. We need to take the terrorists' threats very seriously, but it would be a very bad mistake to greatly overreact. We need to carry on the other functions of government too, and as President Bush has urged, try to get back to normal as soon as we possibly can.