

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 14, 2001

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 14, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, the psalmist cannot find enough words to express trust in You.

Personal experience of Your presence, care, and abiding guidance gives rise to his song: "O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer. My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, the fullness of my salvation, my stronghold."

Stir in our hearts today Your holy spirit. Touch the soul of this Nation that we may see Your saving work in our work, Your strength behind our weakness, Your purpose in our efforts at laws of justice, Your peace drawing all of us and the whole world to lasting freedom.

You are ever faithful, O Lord, worthy of all of our trust, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL 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.

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, February is American Heart Month as designated by Congress in 1963. I want to thank my colleagues for taking time to come to the floor today to draw attention to the impact that heart disease and stroke have on our own society.

Perhaps in no other instance is a quick reaction more important to saving lives than during heart attacks. There is an important chain of survival which, when followed, can make an impact on the devastating effect of America's number one killer, heart disease.

The first step is preparation, understanding; and reacting quickly to cardiac events saves lives. Knowing the warning signs of heart attack and being ready to react can save precious moments. Warning signs include: uncomfortable pressure, fullness or pain in the center of the chest lasting more than a few minutes; pain spreading to the shoulders or neck; nausea, sweating or shortness of breath.

The third step is calling 911. The earlier emergency medical personnel can begin resuscitation, the better chance of survival.

Finally, learn CPR. It is important that we maintain this life-saving skill throughout our lives. One never knows when one will be in the situation to implement the chain of survival. The more of us that know it, the more lives that can be saved.

CHILDPROOF HANDGUN ACT

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, children are killing children by gunfire. These deaths are occurring in homes and streets and in schools. The failure of Congress in recent years to shoulder the ultimate responsibilities of safeguarding our communities from gun violence is inexcusable. It is time to get past the rhetoric by the extremes on both sides of the gun control issue and pass sensible anti-gun violence legislation.

Today I will introduce in the House of Representatives the Childproof Handgun Act. This legislation requires that gun manufacturers develop personalized guns within the next 5 years. This technology would guarantee that only authorized users could operate the weapon. This is not something out of science fiction. A prototype exists that

can read and recognize the gun owner's fingerprint allowing only the owner to fire the gun. This will keep weapons out of the hands of children and criminals.

The Federal Government sets standards for child safety cigarette lighters and insists that children riding in cars be buckled in approved car seats, and it demands that manufacturers put childproof caps on aspirin containers. For guns, we have nothing.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, in 1963 Congress designated February as American Heart Month; and today is Valentine's Day, a day not only about flowers and candy, but also about love and family. It is fitting that we recognize and congratulate the efforts of the American Heart Association and other organizations to reduce the enormous burdens, physical, emotional and economic, that heart disease places on American families.

The fact is that an American dies from cardiovascular disease every 33 seconds killing 1 million Americans annually, about 41 percent of all deaths in the United States. Every American, young or old, male or female, is at risk.

Madam Speaker, today I encourage every American to learn the signs of cardiac arrest and the causes of cardiac disease. Together we can reduce the burden of cardiac disease and its imposition on our families so that everyone can celebrate not only this day as Valentine's Day but many more in the future.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Madam Speaker, later today I will be introducing with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) the Character Learning and Student Success Act. Society is growing increasingly concerned about the steady decline of our Nation's core ethical values, especially in our children.

There exists in Tennessee and across the country successful character education programs that have improved

□ 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.