

□ 1315

VACATING ORDER OF HOUSE OF TODAY VARYING CLAUSE 11(a)(1) OF RULE X

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House by unanimous consent of today varying clause 11(a)(1) of rule X be vacated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AMENDING RULES OF HOUSE RELATING TO COMPOSITION OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 51) amending the Rules of the House relating to the composition of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 51

*Resolved*, In clause 11(a)(1) of rule X—  
(a) strike “18” and insert “21”; and (b) strike “10” and insert “12”.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 111

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as cosponsor of H.R. 111.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING JOHNNY CARSON

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 40) honoring the career and philanthropic contributions of Johnny Carson, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 40

Whereas Johnny Carson was born as John William Carson on October 23, 1925, in Cor-

ning, Iowa, to Homer “Kit” and Ruth Carson;

Whereas Johnny Carson moved with his family to Norfolk, Nebraska, in 1933, served his country as a Navy ensign during World War II, and received a bachelor of arts degree in radio and speech in 1949 from the University of Nebraska;

Whereas Johnny Carson became known as the “King of Late Night” as he entertained millions of Americans from 1962 until 1992 as the host of “The Tonight Show”;

Whereas Johnny Carson won six Emmy Awards, was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1987, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992, and received the Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993;

Whereas Johnny Carson continued to recognize his Midwestern roots by generously donating millions of dollars to communities and institutions in Nebraska and Iowa;

Whereas the United States was saddened by the death of Johnny Carson on January 23, 2005, at the age of 79: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors Johnny Carson for making us laugh and for his many philanthropic contributions; and

(2) expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will not take that much time.

I want to rise in support of House Resolution 40 that honors the life and career of Johnny Carson. Mr. Speaker, the former Tonight Show host passed away on Sunday after 13 years of retirement at the age of 79. His show delighted viewers every weeknight for three decades during an incomparable late-night run from October of 1962 until May of 1992.

Much has been said in recent days about Johnny Carson, and rightfully so. Carson’s career was extremely decorated. He was a six-time Emmy Award winner and a member of the Television Hall of Fame. Carson was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992, and he received the Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993.

But, undoubtedly, Johnny Carson’s greatest accomplishment was in making millions of people laugh at the end of days that were not always that funny. The Tonight Show aired during a period that included some of the most sobering events in American history: the Civil Rights Movement; the Vietnam War; the Watergate saga; the assassinations of President Kennedy, Senator Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., to name a few. Johnny Carson’s grace through his 30 years was as important to his longevity as was his sense of humor.

Since his Tonight Show in 1992, Americans everywhere have longed for his return. His personal life was always intensely private; so we have seen or heard little of him over the last 13

years. With his passing on Sunday, we know we will never see Johnny Carson. And as David Letterman, whose own program followed the Tonight Show each night for 10 years, said this week, “We will not see the like of him again,” either.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), our new colleague.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday America lost a brilliant entertainer, a gifted comedian, and a generous philanthropist. Johnny Carson, who passed away at the age of 79, lived much of his life in California, but he never forgot his Nebraska roots. Johnny Carson was born in Corning, Iowa, but at the age of 8, he and his family moved to Norfolk, Nebraska, a community which continues to embrace him.

Johnny Carson graduated from Norfolk High School in 1943, and, by the way, Mr. Speaker, that is where he happened not to make the cheerleader squad three times. He then served his country as an ensign in the Navy during World War II. He attended the University of Nebraska and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in radio and speech in 1949.

Although much attention has been paid in recent days to the impact that Johnny Carson had on television, I would like to focus on his generosity, which took on many forms. The list of his financial contributions to communities and institutions is very impressive. It seemed that whenever a project in the Norfolk area was short of funds, Johnny Carson came to the rescue. But he did it in his trademark modest and unassuming style, and, in fact, many of his donations were made anonymously.

Over the years he developed an impressive philanthropic legacy. He gave \$2.27 million for the Cancer Radiation Center in Norfolk, \$1 million for the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College, \$600,000 to the Norfolk Public Schools for the Johnny Carson Theater, and \$500,000 for the Norfolk Library Foundation. He gave to numerous other projects both in Nebraska and Iowa.

Johnny Carson also did not forget his alma mater. Last year he donated \$5.3 million to renovate and expand the Temple Building, which houses the University of Nebraska-Lincoln theater department. He also provided funding for four merit-based scholarships and donated millions of dollars toward the construction of the Lied Center for the Performing Arts at the University.

In 1988, he explained his generosity by saying, “I have always felt that if you’re lucky enough in this life to accumulate enough funds to live better than you have the right to, then you have a moral obligation to pay back to the community or to the country or to the place that brought you up.”

Nebraska was truly fortunate that it was the place that brought him up. We

as a Nation were fortunate to have a man that made so many people laugh. Johnny Carson's generosity to the State will continue to provide benefits for future generations. And for those who remember, his personality will live on in our hearts.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

And without deference to the origins of the Speaker or to the other gentleman from Nebraska, I rise today to reclaim Johnny Carson as a loyal Iowan and a favorite son of the great State of Iowa, who migrated to the West across the Missouri River and made his home over on the Nebraska side. Iowa has much to be proud about, and Johnny Carson is one of those rare gems that will certainly be missed.

Johnny was born as John William Carson on October 23, 1925, in Corning, Iowa, down in mighty Adams County to a Homer, "Kit," and his mother Ruth Carson. A few years later he attended kindergarten in Red Oak, Iowa. He has not forgotten his roots at Red Oak either.

No comic has been able to duplicate the comfortable format that Carson emitted to his audiences nightly. As Harold Meyerson puts it, he was the "country boy who had become the urban hipster." In Corning, Iowa, everyone knows everyone, and Johnny brought that same small town feeling to Americans who watched him every evening.

And although he moved to Nebraska, Carson never forgot his Iowa roots. His generosity through the John W. Carson Foundation will be long remembered in Iowa. One such example is his support for providing classroom and rehearsal space at the Performing Arts and Education Association of Southwest Iowa, which is located at Red Oak. He understood what it was like to grow up in rural Iowa, and he understood rural America. And those people down in that region had not had access to performance amenities until Johnny made his contribution.

So in keeping with the spirit of the person whom everyone in America loved, he really did not just belong to Iowa or just belong to Nebraska, but Johnny Carson belonged to America. And he would be quite pleased if I took this opportunity to also reclaim Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns as an Iowan and also reclaim Roger Craig, great running back from Davenport, Iowa, who slid his way through Lincoln and went on to win three Super Bowl rings in San Francisco. There are others. And I appreciate the life of Johnny Carson and the spirit that he brought to this great country.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for composing this resolution, and I thank my colleagues for their comments.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 40, a resolution honoring the career and philanthropic contribution of Johnny Carson. I want to thank Congressman FORTENBERRY for joining me in introducing this timely resolution, and I appreciate the opportunity to join my colleagues in honoring an American legend.

Mr. Carson, known to millions around the world simply as "Johnny," was not only the king of late-night comedy, but a true American icon whose wit and social commentary help defined generations of American entertainment and popular culture. During his 30-year reign of late night, he commanded the loyalty of millions of television viewers. He did this not just by being a gifted comedian, but by being everyone's favorite next-door neighbor, who always knew how to put his audiences at ease. His jokes on politics were always sharp and perceptive, but never below the belt. His monologues reflected the pulse of our Nation. He is and always will be the fabric of American society.

Johnny brought heartland values with him to show business, and he departed a class act. After he finished his final show in 1992, he never returned for guest appearances or prime-time specials. Instead, Johnny demonstrated his well known sincerity by letting his remarkable achievements speak for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to this great American icon, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 40.

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

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

#### MEETING WITH IRAQI WOMEN CANDIDATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I traveled with the Iraqi Women's Caucus members, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Tauscher) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) to meet with Iraqi women to discuss election procedures.

We held the meeting in Amman, Jordan. These were women who were candidates for the January 30, 2005, elections in Iraq. And it seems kind of strange that we would be training them in election procedures, how to campaign, when certainly that is a very different place, and the elections are being held in a war zone, and it is very difficult for candidates to get their name out, to even have their picture out and so that they are on lists which provides for the different groups. The women were from all different parties that are involved in the election. There are over 100 parties.

We had 20 of these women that came to discuss the elections. But we were so amazed and so impressed with the caliber of women. They are educated, articulate, well spoken, and at least five of them have Ph.Ds. But they are not only running for election, where we talk about how you have to speak against opponents, and you might say that you are going to really kill each other; they are actually putting their life on the line. So many of them have been intimidated. They have been threatened. One of the women has lost her 17-year old son along with her guard. Last week there was an assassination attempt on her again with four insurgents dressed as Iraqi policemen. Fortunately, they did not succeed, and she is still running.

One woman had been kidnapped and held for ransom and was finally released. Another woman lost her son. Another woman had five family members who have been killed just recently. And yet they are willing. Because they believe so much in democracy, they are willing to put their names on a list to be elected.

And fortunately for the women of Iraq, this is a national constituent type of election, and so it is not what we think of as having districts or provinces. But there is a list of the different parties, so people will have one vote for the list, and then the number of people that are elected will receive—will be included in the government that is being elected and will have the