

Reform be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 386) to recognize and celebrate the "232d Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 386

Whereas the text of the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence was signed by most of the delegates in the Second Continental Congress on August 2, 1776;

Whereas August 2, 2008, marks the 232d anniversary of the signing of the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas the signing of the Declaration of Independence marked the formal dissolution of the ties of the thirteen American colonies with Great Britain, the beginning of their statehood and national identity, and the dawning of a new era of freedom in America and the world;

Whereas these Founding Fathers, relying on the direction from and protection of Divine Providence, pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their Sacred honor in defense of this action;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence paved the way for the birth of the Republic;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence has become part of the national culture, and its principles are part of the consciousness of all Americans;

Whereas the fundamental genius of the United States is embodied in the Declaration's recognition that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas the principle that the rights of man are bestowed by the Creator and are unalienable was derived from Scripture, which antedates the existence from any government;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence affirms that governments are instituted to protect those rights; and

Whereas the Declaration acknowledged these self-evident Truths, which constituted one of the most revolutionary philosophical developments in history and began an unparalleled national experiment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress recognizes and celebrates the 232d anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measures just considered.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WATT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LYNCH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PERLMUTTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KANJORSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1193. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 3341. An act to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on September 17, 2008, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 5938. To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide secret service protection to former Vice Presidents, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes

a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 10 a.m.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
SUBMITTED BY MR. SKELTON,
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ARMED SERVICES, REGARDING
THE AMENDMENT OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO S. 3001

The Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives offers an amendment to S. 3001, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, as received in the House on September 18, 2008. The amendment consists of an agreement between the managers of the bill in the House of Representatives and the Senate on the reconciliation of H.R. 5658 and S. 3001, as passed by the respective chambers from which each bill originated. This agreement is memorialized in the offered amendment and described in the remainder of this Joint Explanatory Statement submitted on behalf of Mr. Skelton and Mr. Hunter for the House Committee on Armed Services and Mr. Levin and Mr. Warner for the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Although not required by the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Joint Explanatory Statement includes the disclosure of member earmarks and congressionally directed spending items as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

In this statement, the provisions of H.R. 5658, the House passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, are generally referred to as "the House bill." The provisions of S. 3001, the Senate passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, are generally referred to as "the Senate bill." The final form of the agreements reached during an informal conference between the managers of the bill in the House and the Senate are referred to as "the agreement."

The House amendment strikes the text of the S. 3001 and inserts the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, as amended by the agreement between the managers of H.R. 5658 and S. 3001, as passed by the respective chambers from which each bill originated.

This Joint Explanatory Statement fulfills the authority granted to the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services by H. Res. 1476 to file explanatory material for the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009. Mr. Skelton, the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, does not intend to file any additional material pursuant to H. Res. 1476 beyond this Joint Explanatory Statement.

Submitted by Mr. Skelton, Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services (for himself, Mr. Hunter, ranking Member of the House Committee on Armed Services, Mr. Levin, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and Mr. Warner, Acting Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services).