

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, February 7, 2008

The House met at 10 a.m.

Pastor Wes Davis, Riverton Friends Church, Riverton, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

Father God, maker of heaven and Earth, You are Lord of all things created and sovereign over this great Nation. We humbly bow before You this day to thank You for Your mercies being new every morning.

It is because of Your great mercy that we would again ask for Your blessing and Your favor over these women and men who gather here as representatives of our Congress. Please extend to them Your mercy and Your grace and remind them that You love them.

Your scriptures tell us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." May these, Your people, sharpen one another today as their ideologies clash together, as one philosophy grates against another philosophy different than their own. Help them to see this diversity, not as tearing, for these are not people of sheer fabric. For they have been forged stronger by the rigors of politics and public scrutiny. But help them see this clashing and grating as an opportunity to sharpen thought, to cut through rhetoric and to pierce conscience for the benefit of humanity.

May their actions and decisions of today not become future apologies, but may they be a statement of this Congress' character, their firm resolve, and a hope for a better America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. SIREs 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 Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced

that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3541. An Act to amend the Do-not-call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal "do-not-call" registry.

WELCOMING PASTOR WES DAVIS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. BOYDA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, Rev. Wes Davis left the beaches of California in the early 1990s to pastor a small church in Kansas in the town of Riverton. He helped to construct the building that is the Riverton Friends Church in Cherokee County, and he helped to grow the congregation from about 100 to nearly 400 people. He did this while sharing his knowledge and faith from around the world, from Haiti to Liberia to Hungary.

In addition to being a pastor, family man, and missionary, Pastor Davis is the executive director of STOA Ministries. STOA in Greek means "porch." In Solomon's day, people gathered on area porches to discuss theology and their faith. Wes Davis is a man of faith who has made the world his porch, always striving to help others learn God's grace.

Pastor Wes Davis, thank you for expanding your porch to the Halls of Congress today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute speeches on each side.

LOOMING INFRASTRUCTURE CRISIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, for the first time in American history, the highway trust fund is running a deficit this year. What is the solution from this administration? Well, instead of having a comprehensive approach to dealing with the shortfall, they just want to steal some money from the mass transit administration account and walk away. This will only delay the problem for 1 year, and it will push mass transit into deficit the next year, instead of a practical solution to fix

the looming transportation trust fund crisis.

This is consistent with their consistent underinvestment in our Nation's infrastructure. It is why the American Society of Civil Engineers has rated our infrastructure a D minus, and estimates it will cost us \$1.6 trillion over the next 5 years to repair water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure, a crisis not just for the Federal Government but even worse for State and local governments.

A hundred years ago, Teddy Roosevelt had a vision for a national conference to develop a plan to deal with the Nation's infrastructure. It is time for this Congress to revisit that concept, maybe have a transportation vision for this century.

HONORING THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 14, 2007, the varsity football team from Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, won the Class AAA State football championship in Hershey, clinching the Jaguars' second title in 4 years. With a final score of 28-3, the Jaguars finished a perfect season. Zach Decicco, Thomas Jefferson's quarterback, threw for 137 yards and two scores, ran for 11 yards and a score, and picked off a pass on defense.

Coach Bill Cherpak became just the third head coach in western Pennsylvania history to achieve a perfect win record in more than one appearance at the State championship game in Hershey.

Thomas Jefferson High School and the West Jefferson Hills School District also excel in academics, ranking in the top 20 of Pennsylvania's 501 school districts.

Congratulations to coach Bill Cherpak and the Thomas Jefferson High School Jaguars for being champions on the field and champions in the classroom.

BUSH BUDGET HAS MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, our national budget should invest in our

□ 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.