



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005

No. 23

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 3, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE 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:

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, You pursue us with untiring love. At certain moments of life, any one of us can be overshadowed by sickness or the death of a colleague, relative, or friend. Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord. Comfort all those who are lost in grief. Dispel the shadow of death with Your bright promise of new life. Lift Your people from their meandering questions of doubt and darkness; lift them into the peace and light that comes from Your presence.

Confirm them in love which never dies but lives on and on. 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 Georgia (Mr. PRICE)

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive ten 1-minute speeches per side.

FREEDOM FOR JOSE DANIEL FERRER GARCIA

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Ferrer Garcia is a peaceful pro-democracy activist in Cuba.

In January 2002, he was forced from a bus and beaten by the tyrant's thugs. In March 2003, 2 years ago, he was arrested as part of the dictator's crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists and in a sham trial sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag because of his support of democracy.

Mr. Ferrer is a brilliant example, Mr. Speaker, of the heroism of the Cuban people. The totalitarian gulag is full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Ferrer, they refuse to accept tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out against the grotesque disregard for human rights, dignity, and freedom just 90 miles from our shores. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jose Daniel Ferrer and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TILLIE FOWLER: IN MEMORIAM

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, never before in my years in this House have I taken the floor with such sadness. It is the sadness that penetrates to my very core, for I have lost a dear friend and Congress has lost one of its most distinguished Members.

Everyone was stunned by the news that our former colleague, Tillie Fowler, suffered a massive brain hemorrhage on Sunday. Now that she has died, we mourn her passing with the heaviest of hearts.

Tillie and I were Members of the class of 1992 and for some time the only women serving on the House Committee on Armed Services. She was a source of inspiration, a sister, a soul mate. We can take some comfort in knowing that she did not suffer and that her beloved husband, Buck, and her daughters were by her side. But nothing can bring her back, and she cannot be replaced.

Never partisan and always principled, the Congress and the country are better places because of her service, and she leaves a legacy we all learn from.

I will miss Tillie, my wonderful friend and staunch ally. We looked at the world the same way, through the same kind of eyes, and for me, for a while, the path ahead will be less clear without her.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America's Social Security system has been described with nearly every word in the dictionary: crisis, problem, trouble, bankruptcy. One can play the semantics game with Social Security all

☐ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H945