

Let's don't kill our seniors. Let's give them control. That's what Americans should do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MARKING ANNIVERSARIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, anniversaries, marking anniversaries, is a very important thing to do, and we do that on a regular basis.

In fact, just this past week, a great deal of attention was focused on that marvelous achievement when we saw Neil Armstrong 40 years ago take that first step on the Moon. We in just a few months are going to be marking the 20th anniversary of that amazing achievement, which many of us throughout our lifetimes thought would never happen, and that was the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, and there are countless other events that take place that are regularly remembered.

The importance of remembering events that have taken place, Mr. Speaker, is that we want to do everything that we possibly can to learn from those very tragic experiences and also from the good experiences so that we can ensure that the world is a better place.

Eleven years ago at this very moment, there was a tragic occurrence here in our Nation's Capitol, and I remember it just as if it were yesterday. It was when we saw a madman come into the Capitol, what is now referred to as Memorial Door. At that door, he

brutally murdered Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson of the U.S. Capitol Police.

Mr. Speaker, in just one moment, colleagues of ours and Members of the U.S. Capitol Police are going to be, for 1 minute, taking a moment of silence to remember the lives of those heroes who were here, defending the U.S. Capitol. Earlier today, here in the House Chamber, we all know that, in remembering that occurrence of 11 years ago, we did have a moment of silence in remembrance of those great men.

At this moment, since it is now 3:40, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that we have 1 minute of silence to remember the lives of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue the train of marking anniversaries.

Today, I rise to mark the occasion of the 220th anniversary of the First Congress and what is, perhaps, the most important milestone that was achieved in that first session of Congress, that being, of course, the passage of the Bill of Rights.

Two hundred twenty years ago, James Madison, a Congressman from Virginia and the Father of our Constitution, introduced a package of constitutional amendments, sparking a great, historic debate in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. This came about despite the fact that Madison had opposed the inclusion of a Bill of Rights when drafting the Constitution.

It came about because his constituents demanded it. Lives, fortunes and sacred honor had been sacrificed in the war that followed the signing of our Declaration of Independence, and many believed fervently that it would all have been in vain were it not for putting in place a Bill of Rights. The States, Mr. Speaker, went on to ratify 10 of the 12 amendments that Congress passed, the very first 10 amendments to our Constitution, which collectively are known around the world as the most enduring and comprehensive guarantor of rights in the modern world.

I believe there is great value in remembering our history as a nation and as an institution, and in examining the lessons that can be applied to our own era today. As we deal with the many challenges today—the worst recession in recent memory, two ongoing wars and a worldwide struggle that is going on against violent extremism—there is much to be gleaned from the great debates of our past, and the more we know about where we have been, the better we can understand where we are now and where we as a nation are headed.

On May 4 of 1789, James Madison announced his intention to introduce a series of amendments that would constitute the Bill of Rights that many opponents of the Constitution had sought. Though 11 of the 13 States had ratified the Constitution, there re-

mained those who opposed the Constitution and the system of federalism it established. Chief among the complaints by those who had not supported the Constitution was, as I said, the absence of a clear Bill of Rights.

As I've said, Madison, himself, had originally opposed the issue when he crafted and then, under the nom de plume Publius, joined Alexander Hamilton and John Jay and penned the Federalist Papers with the goal of defending the U.S. Constitution. But he came to see the value not only in explicitly delineating the rights of the citizens of the United States, but more importantly, he came to see the value in bringing unity to the Nation and in consolidating support for our Constitution.

On June 8 of 1789, he introduced his proposal in the House of Representatives. Two hundred twenty years ago this very week, on July 21, 1789, the matter was referred to the Rules Committee on which Madison served. After reviewing the proposal, the committee moved the amendment package to the House floor on August 14, marking the start of a very vigorous debate right in the House of Representatives where we are privileged to serve, Mr. Speaker.

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That debate carried on for 10 days, 10 days as Members passionately argued for and against the individual amendments, passing some, amending some, and rejecting others. On August 24, the House took its final vote and passed 17 amendments sending them over to the other body, to the Senate, for consideration.

220 years ago this summer, the Senate began its debate on August 25. The debate carried on throughout the month of September and additional changes were made. Ultimately, a conference committee was convened and both the House and the Senate passed the final version on September 24 of 1789, having whittled the package down to 12 proposed constitutional amendments. As we all know, the States went on to ratify 10 of those, and Mr. Madison's Bill of Rights was incorporated into our Constitution.

Now, throughout that summer and early fall 220 years ago, many passionate arguments were made for and against the proposed constitutional amendments, but I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the most instructive debate came on June 8 when Madison first introduced his proposal in the House of Representatives. He argued vigorously for the need to pass a Bill of Rights, but he also presented a fair representation of the arguments against a Bill of Rights. He welcomed a fair, open, and spirited debate, and he wanted it to take place on the floor of the House of Representatives where it could be conducted in the light of day and within plain view of the American people.

Though Madison had previously opposed the idea, he became increasingly ambivalent, and then ultimately, as we