

In the same way, Mr. Speaker, we are hopeful that the election of President Sarkozy will renew the ties of friendship that bind our two countries and our long heritage together.

On the eve of the election, President Sarkozy said that "American friends can rely on France's friendship. France will always be next to them when they need us." We are hopeful, Mr. Speaker, that in the midst of many international crises, most notably, the threat of nuclear Iran and the global war on terrorism, that France will remain an ally committed to world peace and democracy for all and continue to pursue freedom for all peoples throughout the world.

I am pleased to be the sponsor of legislation H. Res. 379, which honors President Sarkozy and his appearance before Congress. I look forward to his continued friendship and an alliance between not only him and the United States, but the people of France and the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

#### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on the week of November 18 we begin to celebrate in this Nation National Bible Week.

National Bible Week is the National Bible Association's signature event which is celebrated the week before Thanksgiving every year since it began in 1941.

In this week, we encourage the citizens of this Nation to read the Bible. Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I was not always an ardent Bible reader. I was always in and around the church, but as so many of us who belong to church, I was in the church, but church wasn't in me.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this Congress in 1993 and almost immediately upon my presence here I received a Bible similar to this given by Rev. Dr. D. James Kennedy. And, Mr. Speaker, I found my evenings alone, my wife and my family back in Chicago, and somehow I had a prompting to pick up the Bible and to read the Bible. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that although I wasn't an ardent reader, now I'm a ferocious reader of the Bible, avaricious in my interests in terms of the words recorded in God's living book.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that I have been renewed as a man by the renewing of my mind according to the dictates and the Spirit that's incorporated in the reading of the Bible. I am a changed man; I am a new man. I don't have the same friends I used to have. I don't walk the same way; I don't talk the same way, and it's all because of this Bible.

Mr. Speaker, I am an activist, and for years I had shunned this Bible because it didn't speak to my activism. And then the Holy Spirit spoke to me

through my conversations and through my interests in reading the Bible. And, Mr. Speaker, I came across a Scripture that really moved me, two, as a matter of fact. One is taken from the Old Testament, Micah 6:6-8: "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of ram, 10,000 rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

The Lord answers, "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Mr. Speaker, in those words, it encapsulated all that I had attempted to be, my activism, my love for humanity and my love for the Lord. Mr. Speaker, Luke 4 and 4:18: "The spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Because He has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Mr. Speaker, my life had been, and continues today, to be a reflection of the spirit that is within me, the Holy Spirit that is within me. I call on all good citizens, Christians and non-Christians alike, during this week and every week of the year, pick up your Bible. Read the Bible. You have no better friend. You have no better solution than what is recorded in these words.

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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 of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ROSS AND MARIANNA BEACH

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. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the testimony and words as spoken by the gentleman from Illinois. I rise tonight to speak to congratulate Ross and Marianna Beach and the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the occasion of the museum's grand reopening. Located in Manhattan, on the campus of Kansas State University, the Beach Museum of Art has become a cherished cultural center in the Flint Hills of my home State. Over the years, the museum has nearly tripled the number of their works of art and has enhanced the lives of thousands of patrons.

Originally opening on October 16, 1996, the museum offers a wide array of

services to the area. While continually adding to the collection of regionally inspired art, the museum contributors have also made educational programs, lectures, tours, and workshops available. The new 15,000 square-foot addition of the Mary and Morgan Jarvis Wing is evidence of the museum's continuing success and benefit.

Believing in art appreciation and education, the Beach Museum is poised to contribute to the culture in Kansas for generations to come. The impact the museum has on Kansas is immeasurable. Located on the campus of a nationally ranked university and in close proximity to Fort Riley, the Beach Museum serves a highly diverse population. Students, along with military personnel and their families, come from all over the globe to live, work, and learn. This oftentimes short-term community is always pleased to discover an art museum of such fine quality.

Through the efforts of Kansas State University president Dr. Jon Wefald and his wife, Ruth Ann, the museum has gained national notoriety. Mrs. Wefald's leadership on the museum advisory board has proven to be a major factor in the museum's rapid growth and expansion.

The university, the City of Manhattan and the State of Kansas have benefited tremendously from the Wefalds' dedication. Gratitude is owed for their committed devotion to the museum. Museum director Lorne Render should be commended for guiding the museum into the 21st century. Through Lorne's service to the arts, the Beach Museum continues to offer exhibits and programs that enhance the quality of life of all Kansans and, in fact, many Americans. As the museum continues to contribute to the appreciation of the arts, appreciation should be extended to Lorne for the museum and the museum's knowledgeable staff.

The museum would not have been possible but for the generous philanthropic ideals exhibited by the lead donors, Ross and Marianna Beach. The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art was named by Mr. Beach for his wife in commemoration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Beach are longtime donors of talent and treasure to the State of Kansas. Their commitments to the arts extend beyond the Beach Museum in Manhattan. They were instrumental in establishing the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center on the campus of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. This center has been providing a venue for plays, speeches, debates, and concerts for more than 20 years. The Beachs' commitment to the arts extends across the State and is appreciated by Kansans from all walks of life.

My wife and I are proud to serve on the museum's board of visitors. We have witnessed, firsthand, the results Ross and Marianna Beach have attained. It is certain that the Beach legacy will be experienced by thousands of people for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in acknowledging the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art along with Ross and Marianna Kistler Beach for their contributions to our society. Kansas is proud to have the museum for our enlightenment and enjoyment. And I am also proud to call Ross and Marianna Beach my friends and fellow Kansans.

#### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. BOYDA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Last weekend, I spoke on a panel about civics and civility at Kansas State University. And during the question-and-answer time, a teacher stood up and asked me a question. She said, Do you know of any books that might be like a checklist that I could share, be a checklist on teaching my kids civics and civility? I thought for a minute, and I said, As a matter of fact, I do.

I am holding it right here in my hand, Mr. Speaker. It is the Bible. This particular copy was my mother's Bible. And it is the one that I was sworn in last January. So it has a great deal of meaning to me. The lessons in the Bible are truly a checklist for decent living. In Matthew 22, when the disciples asked what is the greatest commandment, it is to love our God with all of our heart and soul and mind, and the second is likened to it, to love thy neighbor as thyself. And then He says, on these hang all the laws and the prophets. Love thy neighbor as thyself. Very clear. Judge not lest you be judged.

The Bible has all the wisdom that we need to bring our country together. And that's why I'm glad the House is pausing tonight to recognize the start of National Bible Week. Faith has an important role to play in the lives of all Americans. It is a role that may be more important today in these dangerous and complicated times than ever before. And it is a role that we, yes, we as public servants have to defend.

Just last month, the Architect of the Capitol refused to fulfill a citizen's request for a flag certificate that referred to devotion to God. Just last week, the National Cemetery Administration banned a flag folding ceremony used at veterans' funerals because of references to God. Let's be clear: neither mentioning God in a flag certificate nor speaking of God in a funeral ceremony poses any threat to the separation of church and State. Not only is speaking about religion permitted by the Constitution; it is a right that is protected by the first amendment.

Thankfully, both of these bans have been reversed, and not a moment too soon. As we begin National Bible Week, I hope that all of my colleagues and citizens across America will pause to recognize the role that faith plays in

all of our lives to reflect on the lessons of the Bible. It is our guidebook. It is our guidebook to civics and civility, as well. It is our how-to guide for public service. Everything we need is right here, folks. It is right here between these two covers.

#### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I look at the time, it is about 13 years ago exactly at this moment that I was standing at the altar saying, "I do" to the love of my life. So I must begin by wishing a happy 13th anniversary to the most beautiful woman in the world, with all respect to those ladies that are here present. I guess every marriage has obviously some high points and some disappointments.

And the other reason for me coming to floor is to actually speak about the disappointment that I have with the White House, particularly with its veto of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act, often referred to as WRDA. This veto, if I must say so, was ill advised and I expect will be overridden by this House tomorrow and the Senate in the coming days.

I acknowledge that the President, during the veto message, mentioned that when the WRDA bill left the House, it was about \$15 billion. The Senate's version was at 14 billion. And the final version of the water resources bill was somewhere around 23 billion. Yet certainly the White House understands that the bill that left the House had different priorities emphasized, different projects were being considered by the Senate and as such when the conference was convened, those bills had to be combined. The President, in his veto message, said, in essence, I fully support funding for water resources projects.

Respectfully, I must point out that the President's budget each year woefully underfunds the Army Corps of Engineers budget in my view, the operations and maintenance budget. And the White House went on with its veto message to say, My administration has repeatedly urged Congress to authorize only those projects that provide a high return on investment.

Well, I share the White House's belief that taxpayers deserve a dollar's worth of services for every dollar they remit in taxes. But just looking at water resources projects in terms of dollars and cents is what caused us to only have category 3 levees in New Orleans. We have seen how short-sighted that decision was. In fact, I would suggest that over the last 25 years, every dollar that the Corps has invested in flood control has been returned six-fold in potential damages that had been averted.

A WRDA bill has not been passed by Congress in 7 years. Communities

around this Nation are now in desperate need for projects such as levees and protective coastal wetlands. Moreover, in the past 7 years, our waterborne transportation infrastructure has continued to crumble. There are 192 active locks on navigable waterways in this Nation. The average age is 60. The President, by his veto, is choosing to ignore these needs, possibly harming the lives and certainly the livelihoods of millions of people in this country.

One of the most important projects for the Missouri-Illinois delegations is the much-needed modernization of the five locks on the upper Mississippi River and two on the Illinois waterway. This is something that we helped author back in the 108th Congress. And certainly I acknowledge my good friends and supporters of this, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL), the dynamic duo from Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. SHIMKUS on our side of the aisle, and also Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member BAKER have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

Look, these locks are vital to farmers, manufacturers and many other industries in Missouri, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. These locks on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers facilitate the movement of 100 million tons of cargo every year. While almost 50 percent, half of this is cargo, is agricultural, the river also transports asphalt for road construction, coal for electricity. In fact, did you know that every gallon of jet fuel that is used at O'Hare and Midway Airports in Chicago is transported on our navigable waterways?

The shipments of these products via the river saves the American public between \$800 million and \$2 billion over other modes of transportation. Certainly I would suggest that while not every farmer in the region uses the river to ship crops, all growers are impacted by it. Every day the price of grain a farmer receives at his home market is based on the price of grain that moves on the Mississippi River to export markets. The lower the cost of transportation here within our own borders, the lower the cost of U.S. grain is on the world market, the more grain the United States is able to sell to our foreign trading partners.

As some in this Chamber know, I have a personal experience shipping on the river. I grew up in the shadow of the levees along the Mississippi in southeast Missouri. Lock modernization, I can assure you, will ensure that farmers in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere continue to have the same benefit that my family had growing up on our family's farm, the ability to ship crops to international markets via the most cost-effective method.

Now, many of these locks, unfortunately, are being held together with bailing wire and duct tape. Our senior