

Mr. HINOJOSA 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Monday, October 1, 2001:

H.R. 2510, to extend the expiration date of the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 2883, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2002

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, last night a Dear Colleague was sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules may meet later this week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 2883, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

This letter stated that the committee amendment, including the classified annex, is now available for Members to review on request to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The committee report was filed last Wednesday, September 26.

In order to have an informed debate, I invite and encourage Members to come to H-405 in the Capitol and review the classified annex and allow committee staff to explain the provisions or answer any questions they may have about the bill. This opportunity is offered to any Member of the House. It does not include staff. Members will be asked to sign the customary non-disclosure agreement prior to access to the classified annex. That is routine. Members may call Mr. Bill McFarland, the committee's director of security if they are so inclined.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amend-

ments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the floor. Amendments should be drafted to the version of the bill reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This is the normal process that has been followed in previous years.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure their amendments are properly drafted, and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

Given my expectation that H.R. 2883 will reach the floor later this week, I urge any Members who plan to file amendments to do so at their earliest opportunity.

NORTH KOREAN ATROCITIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak of the suffering people of North Korea. I am sending each of my colleagues in the House a copy of the most recent Life and Human Rights in North Korea publication, published by the Citizens Alliance for North Korean Human Rights. I urge Members to read this publication, which includes eyewitness accounts of the horrifying torture inside North Korean prison camps and reports by the United Nations.

Many North Korean's understandably attempt to flee, but some of them are captured. For women, especially those who have been trafficked into China as sex slaves or domestic servants, a return to North Korea is especially difficult.

For example, North Korean women who have dyed their hair or worn earrings undergo painful punishment. Their heads are pounded against the wall; earrings wrenched with pliers from their ears. They said afterwards, after the beatings, starving, and forced labor, they are hard to recognize.

In addition, the reports state that "North Korea not only conducts terrorist operations, but operates warfare training facilities to train international terrorists and other revolutionaries around the world."

Madam Speaker, the North Korean people must be helped. I urge all Members to take a good look at this book and do whatever they can for the population of North Korea.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, the people in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas are facing what looks to

be one of the worst drought years of all time. After 6 years of record low rainfall levels this summer, for the first time in recorded history, the once mighty Rio Grande River stopped flowing completely before it reached the Gulf of Mexico. The region's two reservoirs are currently at less than one-third of capacity, with no relief in sight.

Today, several of my South Texas colleagues and I have introduced the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2001. Our legislation will help provide badly needed water relief to the farmers, ranchers, and communities of South Texas. This legislation incorporates modern technologies into our water management system to conserve and maximize our limited water resources.

Much remains to be done. However, the legislation that we are introducing today will provide a valuable first step; and I hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting it.

REVITALIZING THE TOURISM ECONOMY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, since the evil terrorist act of September 11, thousands of Nevadans have been laid off; and they now face an uncertain future, just as other Americans employed in the tourism industry do. Like many tourist destinations, visitors to Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and other Nevada destinations depend heavily upon convenient and safe airline travel.

The administration has gone to great lengths to ensure that airline travel today is safer than ever before, and this Congress has provided over \$15 billion in emergency funds to the airline industry. Yet, our tourism economy continues to suffer. I believe that this downturn is temporary; and for the first time since the terrorist attacks, now many hotels are beginning to report more reservations than they are cancellations.

Madam Speaker, supporting our tourism industry is a crucial component of our national well-being, just as is our war against terrorism. We cannot allow terrorists to scare the American public into staying home.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the elected officials who, like myself, have been traveling our Nation's airways. I hope that the American public will follow our example and return to the skies and to the fun and entertaining vacation sites in Nevada and across the United States.

GENERAL SHELTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Nation bid farewell to a true American hero as General Hugh Shelton retired as Commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The General wore our nation's uniform for 38 years, and America owes him a special debt of gratitude for his unsurpassed leadership as our senior military officer.

As America prepares to wage war against terrorism, we should thank General Shelton for his dedication to duty and professionalism. He is a soldier's soldier, an inspiration to U.S. military personnel, and someone who has earned the respect and admiration of all of his fellow Americans.

General Shelton was born in the small town of Speed, North Carolina. He graduated from North Carolina State University in my congressional district and previously commanded the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg and the Army's Special Operations Command. He is truly North Carolina's favorite son.

Madam Speaker, to honor General Shelton, I have introduced H.R. 2751, the General Hugh Shelton Congressional Gold Medal Award. This bipartisan bill will bestow a fitting tribute to this superior warrior and great American. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 42, a resolution to honor our fallen firefighters.

The events of September 11 highlighted the hard work and dedication of many emergency personnel. Many of us watched the pictures on the evening news of men and women walking into burning buildings carrying injured people to safety and retrieving bodies beneath the buried rubble.

Today, after those recent terrorist attacks and the rescue efforts that ensued, it seems especially poignant and timely that Congress pass a resolution as a memorial to such acts of heroism.

Firefighters are the first persons to respond to any emergency. They are ambassadors of courage, wisdom, and heroism.

In my home State of West Virginia, there are many dedicated firefighters who put their lives on the line each year. Between 1981 and 1999, West Virginia has lost 25 firefighters in the line of duty. Honored in last year's ceremony was Arch Russell Sligar. This year we will honor Robert Cowey Brannon. Those are just two names of the many men and women who have lost their lives.

Madam Speaker, in light of the recent demonstrations of bravery by the

New York and Washington area firefighters, as well as the endless acts of service and sacrifice of all firefighters, I urge passage of the resolution, and that we will be lowering our flags to half-mast every October 7 in their honor.

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SUPPORT THE CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Centers for Excellence program and other health professions. The President's budget for the year 2002, Madam Speaker, has called for a drastic 60 percent reduction in these Health Resources and Service Administration health programs.

The HERSA agency, in addition, has announced this week that they would be also limited to only \$12 million for this program for the year 2002, a significant decrease. According to the Health Education Program Act, the first \$12 million is set aside for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Thus, in order to continue the Hispanic and native Americans and other programs, we urge an increase in the existing budget for the Center for Health Care Services, which is at \$30 million.

The Centers for Excellence programs are essential and still needed to help increase the number of minorities in the health professions throughout the country. The program has a proven track record of producing and graduating more minority students than any other schools. So we encourage and we ask our fellow colleagues to support the \$30 million that we have had in the past. Hispanics now represent 12 percent of the population; and we need additional nurses, so we ask for my colleagues' support.

HONOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS BY FLYING FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the unanimous support of my colleagues for H.J. Res. 42. This resolution simply requires Federal Government entities to fly the American flag at half staff on Sunday, October 7.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to extend this extraordinary honor in conjunction with the annual memorial service in honor of fallen firefighters by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in the district I have the great privilege to represent in the House of Representatives.

The October 7 service is the highlight of the foundation's annual weekend of events to honor the sacrifice of firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Particularly this year, we honor the hundreds of firefighters in New York City who on September 11, 2001, gave our country what President Abraham Lincoln called the last full measure of devotion to our country. This is the very least that we as individuals and as a government can do to honor and commemorate the selfless call to duty by these brave men and to offer some small measure of comfort to their grieving families, friends, relatives, and coworkers.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to them, ourselves and posterity to ensure that their deaths shall not be in vain.

URGING SUPPORT FOR MILLER/MILLER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2646

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, tomorrow we will be debating the farm bill; and in that bill is the sugar program, which hurts workers in my district.

Since the sugar program has been in effect, employment in the confectionery industry has fallen 11 percent since 1991. The sugar program has contributed to that fall because candy-makers in Chicago, in my district, pay more than twice the world market price for sugar. As long as these supports continue and we pay this inordinate amount, we are going to lose employment and employment opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Miller-Miller amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

NOTIFICATION AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTIDISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 169) to require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws, and for other purposes, as amended.