

French President Charles de Gaulle presented her the Legion of Honor, which was France's highest decoration. She was also awarded the Medal of the Resistance with Rosette, and named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government for hard work and dedication. At her death, the French government honored her with a 21-gun salute, making Josephine Baker the first American woman buried in France with military honors.

So I commend, Mr. Speaker, these and all the dedicated valiant women of the OSS, without whom Europe and the world may not exist in its present state. I also call my colleagues' attention to the book "The Secret War" by Francis Russell, if they are interested in learning more about the details of this great agency as well as the women who participated.

SALUTE TO THE DETROIT RED WINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to congratulate the Detroit Red Wings for winning the Stanley Cup 2002 award for the year. We congratulate the Red Wings, Mike Ilitch and the entire Ilitch family; Scotty Bowman, Steve Yzerman, and the entire team for giving our fans across Michigan and across this country a whirlwind tour as we won another Stanley Cup playoff.

I want to say to the Ilitch family, "We thank you for your dedication to the Red Wings, to the city, and to the region from which we come. Continue that Ilitch spirit as we rebuild our region together and our city."

To Scotty Bowman, the winningest coach in American hockey, "We congratulate you and wish you well in your retirement as you move on; and to Mrs. Bowman, who has been a stalwart fan of yours and our Detroit Red Wings."

And to Steve Yzerman and the team for all the hard work, the gut playing, the tenacity, "You really made us all feel proud."

On behalf of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, mayor of the City of Detroit, and all the residents of the city, as well as all the residents of the region and Michigan, we say, "Go Detroit Red Wings. We are so very proud of you."

Let us use that same spirit to bring our city, our region, and our State together. We have awesome responsibilities ahead of us, and we believe with that Red Wing spirit, with Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership, we can pull our city together, build new economic development, a wonderful regional transportation system, offer hope for our children and security for our seniors.

Go Red Wings. We are so very proud of you, and may you continue to be the spirit of our city.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ACT OF 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act of 2002. As I go around my district and talk with seniors, this is one of the top issues that they have for us in Congress, to get a prescription drug coverage within Medicare. This bill is long overdue, and it is very important for our seniors. We need a comprehensive prescription drug benefit under Medicare, and this bill delivers exactly that.

No senior should have to choose between groceries and medical care. This plan gives our seniors immediate relief from the rising costs of prescription drug medications by providing a 30 percent discount off the top of their overall prescription drug bill. We guarantee coverage for all seniors who want it in Medicare.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that 95 percent of seniors will voluntarily sign up for this benefit. So this is a program that will work that we are putting forth for seniors and that we expect to be beneficial to them.

In addition to the immediate discount and basic insurance coverage, which combined should save the average senior about half of their costs for prescription drugs, we are also providing a 100 percent prescription drug coverage for low-income seniors to make sure that those most in need can have the medicines they need to stay healthy.

We also have catastrophic protection, at a \$5,000 level or so, that will ensure that individuals do not have to deplete their lifetime savings and do not have to choose between other basic necessities in life and pharmaceuticals.

□ 1115

We also offer more Medicare choices and savings. Many Americans already have coverage. Most seniors have prescription drug coverage, but this bill is put forth to be a base upon which other plans can build upon to provide stronger coverage for seniors.

We are very hopeful that we can get this passed in the House and enacted into law. Continuing the tradition of making important legislation temporary, the majority in the other body recently introduced a bill that expires after 10 years. That is unfair to our seniors, Mr. Speaker. Our approach helps seniors now and permanently into the future. Our plan is affordable and is intended to cover all seniors. The choice is clear. I strongly support passage of this bill, and I urge Members to do the same.

SUPPORT MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with all of my colleagues and all of the people across America who support a real prescription drug program for seniors. I understand the concerns that some express for the need to reform Medicare, and I agree. But I believe that prescription drug coverage for seniors should be an integral part of the Medicare program.

We are aware that since its creation Medicare has remained stagnant, while advances in medicine have grown rapidly. We are aware that even our fundamental vision of medicine has dramatically changed from diagnosis and treatment to preventive care. Today, due to our realization of the need for modification and reform of Medicare, to our seniors, which has been an overwhelming process of paperwork with worries about reimbursement and regulations, it is not a form of security as it was once thought to be. Medicare reform is necessary, but the time is now to listen to our seniors and to give them what they have been requesting, that we give them financial relief and provide them with a prescription drug plan that will actually cut their monthly prescription drug expenses. It has been stated on the floor of this House a number of times that we have seniors choosing between food and drugs, splitting their prescription in half and denying themselves other medical care due to the cost of their monthly prescription drug costs.

In fact, seniors are declaring bankruptcy at a record pace due in large part to the rising cost of health care. We need a prescription drug coverage that covers all seniors. It is not just our poorest seniors who are having problems paying for their prescription drugs. It is also middle-class seniors who are struggling with the burden of outrageous drug costs.

As Members of Congress, we need to ensure that we provide a Medicare prescription drug benefit that is voluntary, universal and accessible. No senior should be denied a benefit based on where he or she lives or what his or her income is. We see our European neighbors offering their seniors drugs at half the cost of what American companies are charging. American seniors are being encouraged to travel overseas or across our borders to Canada and Mexico just to save money on the same prescription drug they can get in the United States. This is outrageous and absurd and should shed more light on the importance of why this great Nation needs a serious drug plan for seniors.

Once again we need to let our seniors know that we hear them loud and clearly. We need to let our seniors

know that we stand firmly behind them in the fight to cut their monthly drug costs. We cannot let our seniors down again this year. Let us do the right thing. Let us enact a real prescription drug program for all of our seniors so that they never have to cut back on the basic necessity to keep living.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Reverend Scott Custead, Zion Lutheran Church, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, creator of the universe. All life is a gift from Your hands. All just pursuits serve Your purposes.

You have instituted government to be an instrument of Your will. You have given those who govern the responsibility to ensure the peace and good order needed for the proper functioning of society.

We, therefore, pray for those who have been called and set aside to serve our Nation in this body. May their actions serve Your purposes. May their deliberations be based in wisdom. May their goals be just. May they be supported in their work by the prayers of a grateful Nation.

In all that this body accomplishes and in all that we do as a Nation, may we be true to our calling to serve all people and to build a better tomorrow. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR SCOTT CUSTEAD

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome our guest chaplain, Pastor Scott Custead, from Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Pastor Custead is a graduate of California State University and received his Master's in Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, California. He has been an ordained minister since 1981. He has also served at various churches throughout the State of Pennsylvania and has served this country from 1986 to 1992 as an Army Reserve chaplain. From 1984 through 1985, Pastor Custead served as campus minister at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania.

In 1986, Pastor Custead came to my home parish in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, where I have had the privilege to come to know him and his family. As a parishioner of Pastor Custead's, I have seen firsthand his deep involvement within the community. Not only is Pastor Custead committed to the religious development of his church, he is also active in many civic organizations including the Hollidaysburg Children and Youth Service Board and is a member of various school and borough committees.

Pastor Custead resides in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Carol, also a minister at our church; and they are the proud parents of two children, Linnea, who is heading off to college this fall at the University of Pittsburgh, and Ryan, who will begin his first year of high school at Hollidaysburg Area Junior High School.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Custead, or as he is known to Zion members, Pastor Scott, and his family have been a valuable part of our community for many years. It is an honor for me today to welcome him to the House of Rep-

resentatives, and I thank him for his continued dedication to his church, his community and his country.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with today.

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

There was no objection.

HAITIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Haitian-American Cultural Heritage Month. I want to join all who took part in the commemoration of the rich Haitian culture. I want to send special thanks to Dr. Rosy Toussaint from the Haitian-American Cultural Society, North Miami Mayor Joe Celestin, artist Edward Duval Carrie, as well as Miami Dade Mayor Alex Penelas, for their hard work in making this month-long celebration a great success.

Daily activities of this month-long event were shared within south Florida and showed incredible examples of Haiti's colorful culture. These fabulous events included a Taste of Haiti extravaganza, entertaining film festivals, book and poetry readings, spectacular art exhibits and dance performances, all of which shone a bright ray of Haitian culture on our south Florida community.

I am very happy that the people of south Florida had a chance to celebrate the wonder and delight of the Haitian people and their beautiful traditions.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM JAMES MADISON

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the American people are being prepared for war with Iraq with little or no discussion in this House. Longstanding prohibitions against political assassinations of foreign leaders have been lifted with little or no debate in this House. A policy of strike-first preemptive attacks has been initiated, effectively nullifying the constitutional role of Congress under article 1, section 8 of the Constitution, assuring war at the whim of the President.

Our Nation is being plunged into a state of continual warfare. President Madison once said:

"Of all the enemies to public liberty, war is perhaps the most to be dreaded because it comprises and develops the