

You bless all in this assembly and in this Nation. We open our minds to the possibility of Your goodness manifested throughout the activities of this day. We open our hearts to receive the love, loyalty, virtue, and collaboration of one another.

In this way You strengthen, with lasting effect, all our labor and You fortify this union, both now and hopefully forever. 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.

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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.

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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 of 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 97. Concurrent Resolution recognizing the 91st annual meeting of The Garden Club of America.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission—

Leo J. Hindery, Jr. of New York; and Gayle E. Smith of Washington, D.C.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 104(c)(1)(A) of Pub-

lic Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program:

Ms. Christine Vick of Washington, D.C.

YOU CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, recently, a Democrat candidate for President was asked about his vote against the \$87 billion that went to support our troops in Iraq and to build schools and hospitals for the Iraqi people. He said this: "I voted for it before I voted against it."

This rhetoric is so typical of many who want to have it both ways. They vote to give President Bush the authority to send American troops into Iraq, to oust one of the most brutal dictators in history and a supporter of terrorism around the world; but now they say we never should have gone to Iraq, that it was unjustified that the President acted unilaterally.

The fact is, on October 10, 2002, a bipartisan majority in this body voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq. And then, in October of last year, we voted to supply our troops on the front lines. Unfortunately, many of the same people who voted to send our men and women off to war then voted against them when the time came to give them the resources they needed to do their job and get home safe. You cannot have it both ways, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOB ZANGAS

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, we honor a man today who recently lost his life while serving our country.

Bob Zangas of Level Green, Pennsylvania, first went to Iraq as a Marine and later returned as a civilian to help rebuild that country. He described a land that "is in desperate need of everything," where he felt he "was pouring a cup of water out into a dry desert," but believing some day it would make flowers grow.

He lived on a hope that he made a difference, and he did. Americans and Iraqis alike mourn his passing, but celebrate his accomplishments. His wife, Brenda, described him as a true patriotic American, humanitarian, and Marine, and, foremost, a father and husband.

He closed one of his last letters with a challenge to "hang on to your dreams," and that is just what he did to the very end. It is a dream of compassion. It is a dream of freedom. And for that, the whole world is grateful.

Thank you, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Zangas. We shall hold on to our dreams.

STOP THE GAS TAX INCREASE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to recent proposals to raise the Federal gas tax. As the former chairman of the South Carolina State Senate Transportation Committee, I know that raising taxes on America's families is not the proper answer to building a better road system.

The gas tax is a regressive tax that affects low-income Americans disproportionately. The revered Heritage Foundation recently noted that analysis shows that increasing the gas tax would depress economic activity and the incomes of millions of Americans. It would also significantly raise less revenue than its proponents project.

Instead of raising the burden on overtaxed American families, we should better manage taxpayers' money. Millions of dollars are diverted every year on low-priority roadside enhancements that are not urgent safety matters. Also, we should repeal Davis-Bacon. As the Nonpartisan Americans For Tax Reform has noted, transportation costs would decrease by an estimated 8 to 30 percent if Congress would remove the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirement.

I ask all of my colleagues to oppose any attempt to raise the gas tax on American families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

LESSON IN CONNECTING THE DOTS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday as the basketball games concluded, I was not quick enough to the TV dial; and I was exposed to a 20-minute commercial that was passed off as a news interview.

We are told a lot these days about connecting the dots, and I just want to help people connect the dots just a little bit.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Dick Clark, Richard Clark was on the CBS news show "60 Minutes." CBS, as we learned during the Super Bowl last year after the half-time show, is owned by Viacom. The publisher of the Clark book is owned by Simon and Shuster. Simon and Shuster, according to their Web site, is the publishing operation of Viacom, Incorporated, one of the world's premier media companies.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Clark closed his interview with a comment which actually should have been first. He said, all

of us perhaps share some blame for 9-11, and I am partly to blame. Yes, Mr. Clark, indeed you are, and those should have been the first words out of your mouth. While you are at it, how about Mogadishu? How about the first World Trade Center bombing? What about our servicemen at the Kobar Towers? What about the two embassy bombings in Iraq? And, Mr. Clark, what about the Cole?

COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS REPORT

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a report recently issued by the Council of Great City Schools that showed solid improvement in test scores among the most disadvantaged students. Fourth graders scored an impressive 4.9 points higher in reading and 6.8 points higher in math than in previous years. Eighth grade reading and math scores increased by 1.1 and 3 points respectively.

No Child Left Behind is working. Before the act, many of these disadvantaged children might have been allowed to slip through the cracks. Now schools are accountable; no one can slip behind.

These successes and others like it are due to massive increases in education funding and an additional \$1 billion in title 1 money in fiscal year 2004, and we hope another \$1 billion increase this year.

Congratulations to these students and their teachers who demonstrate that with the increased accountability and funding under No Child Left Behind, every child can succeed.

NEW MEDICARE BILL PROVIDES MORE OPTIONS FOR SENIORS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I opened up Roll Call and among the first things to catch my attention was an article about the Democrats' message and their effort to get out the message on Medicare reform. I thought, well, better late than never. Perhaps they would now start talking about the plan this Congress and the President passed to help our seniors with their prescription drug costs for the first time ever. I thought that maybe the Democrats were finally ready to talk to our seniors about the inclusion of preventive care that starts with a free physical when the seniors enter Medicare. I thought that maybe Democrats would join us in talking about how we will, through the Medicare reform bill, begin working toward a 21st-century health care system for our seniors so that their prescription drug usage is better coordinated to pre-

vent overusage and harmful interactions.

I should have known better.

Democrats continue to resist informing seniors about the new options available. This Medicare reform is law, and it will provide seniors with more options and more choices than ever. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will reconsider their tactics.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AMENDMENTS OF 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 958) to authorize certain hydrographic services programs, to name a cove in Alaska in honor of the late Able Bodied Seaman Eric Steiner Koss, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 958

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hydrographic Services Amendments of 2004".

TITLE I—NOAA HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 101. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892 et seq.).

SEC. 102. FUNCTIONS OF ADMINISTRATOR.

(a) REGIONAL NAVIGATION RESPONSE TEAMS.—Section 303(a) (33 U.S.C. 892a(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs (7) and (8) and inserting the following:

"(7) establish, equip, and maintain up to 4 Regional Navigation Response teams in priority coastal areas identified by the Secretary, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, to conduct activities related to navigational safety and the validation of hydrographic data;

"(8) to the greatest extent practicable and cost-effective, fulfill the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (7) through contracts or other agreements with private sector entities; and

"(9) participate in the development of, and implement for the United States in cooperation with other appropriate Federal agencies, international standards for hydrographic data and hydrographic services."

(b) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—Section 303 (33 U.S.C. 892a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To help fulfill the duties of the Administrator, including authorities under the Act of 1947 (33 U.S.C. 883a et seq.), this Act, or in response to a maritime emergency, the Administrator may—

"(A) establish a volunteer program; and

"(B) enter into special agreements with qualified organizations to assist in the implementation of a volunteer program.

"(2) LEGAL STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS.—

"(A) Paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 7(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) shall apply to volunteers who provide services to the Administrator under a volunteer program established under paragraph (1).

"(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), any reference in section 7(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f(c)) to the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Commerce is deemed to refer to the Administrator.

"(3) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—In this subsection, the term 'qualified organization' means a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization, determined by the Administrator to have demonstrated expertise in boating safety and a commitment to improving the quality of hydrographic services and related oceanographic and meteorological information that is made available to mariners.

"(e) PARTICIPATION IN JOINT INSTITUTE.—The Secretary may participate in a joint institute that develops new hydrographic technology and conducts academic, educational, and outreach activities that assist the Administrator in fulfilling the functions of the Administrator under this section."

SEC. 103. KOSS COVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or existing policy, the cove described in subsection (b) shall be known and designated as "Koss Cove", in honor of the late Able Bodied Seaman Eric Steiner Koss of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel RAINIER who died in the performance of a nautical charting mission off the Alaskan coast.

(b) COVE DESCRIBED.—The cove referred to in subsection (a) is—

(1) adjacent to and southeast of Point Elrington, Alaska, and forms a portion of the southern coast of Elrington Island;

(2) $\frac{3}{4}$ mile across the mouth;

(3) centered at 59 degrees 56.1 minutes North, 148 degrees 14 minutes West; and

(4) 45 miles of Seward, Alaska.

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of the United States to the cove described in subsection (b) is deemed to be a reference to Koss Cove.

SEC. 104. DEPICTION OF SAME SHORELINES ON CHARTS AND MAPPING PRODUCTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Act, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall provide to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan to depict the same shorelines on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nautical charts and United States Geological Survey mapping products.

SEC. 105. AMENDMENTS TO THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES PANEL.

Section 305 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Secretary" and inserting "Secretary of Commerce"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(3), subsection (d), and subsection (e), by striking "Secretary" each place it appears and inserting "Administrator".