

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT 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 without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 328. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

#### NO RESPONSE FROM JUSTICE GINSBURG

(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, last month a dozen of my colleagues and I sent a letter to a Supreme Court Justice. In the letter we questioned her ties to the NOW Legal Defense Fund. She speaks regularly to the group. There is a lecture series named after her, and she has served on its board in the past; but she continues to hear cases argued before her in which the NOW Legal Defense Fund, which is now called Legal Momentum, files briefs.

In January, she gave opening remarks for the fourth installment of her lecture series. Two weeks earlier, she took the legal defense's side in a medical screening case.

Federal law requires recusal when a judge's outside legal activities, "cast reasonable doubt on the capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before them." This Justice has official ties to a group that participates in cases before the Court. That sounds like reasonable doubt to me. But this Justice has yet to respond to an official inquiry from Members of a co-equal branch of government. Professional courtesy warrants at least an acknowledgement that she received the letter, but not even that.

Justice Ginsburg should acknowledge our concerns and recuse herself from cases involving any group with which she has official ties.

#### THE WAR ON TRUTH

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

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the administration, aided and abetted by some Republicans, have launched another undeclared war, this time a sneak attack on the truth.

Republicans launched a sneak attack on Senator JOHN KERRY in this Chamber with a blatant disregard for dignity, heroism, and patriotism, or the facts. In so doing, Republicans have dishonored every American veteran and dishonored the people's House.

Republicans have staked out divisive new ground and every American ought to know it. Republicans have trampled patriotism, heroism, and the service of every American called to defend America.

Senator JOHN KERRY is a decorated war hero. He did not get those Purple Hearts because they just hand them out. He was shot defending his country. He was not missing in action during the Vietnam War. The President was MWA, missing without action.

These are the facts.

#### 9/11 PANEL UNDER CLOUD

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I released a letter signed by 75 Members of Congress to Commissioner Jamie Gorelick. We have serious concerns about her impartiality as a member of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

Commissioner Gorelick never should have accepted the position in the first place. As Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Justice Department, she cannot be objective, especially when their policies may have contributed to America's vulnerability.

If Commissioner Gorelick does not testify before the commission and respond to our letter, then a cloud will hang over the commission that brings into question its independence and supposed non-partisanship.

#### THE ECONOMY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support an extension of unemployment benefits. During the first 6 months of 2004, an estimated 83,000 workers in the L.A. and Long Beach metropolitan area will have exhausted their jobless benefits. We hear that jobs are coming, but the anxiety is there. Our workforce is waiting to see where the jobs are.

And in my district alone, I represent the San Gabriel Valley, unemployment rates remain high. In East Los Angeles and the city of South El Monte it has

remained at over 10 percent for over 3 years. In fact, the national Latino unemployment rate is 7.4 percent, way above the national, 28 percent higher than it was just 3 years ago.

And who do we have to thank? This administration. The unemployment rate is especially high among Latino youth. It is about double.

I am urging the President and my colleagues to support these young people and help restore vital funding for job training and to extend unemployment benefits to the 2.9 million unemployed workers in America.

#### MEDICARE CHANGES ENCOURAGE LIFE-SAVING PREVENTATIVE CARE

(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, last year President Bush signed into law historic bipartisan legislation that adds critically needed benefits to Medicare and solidifies the program for future generations.

I have been traveling throughout the Second District of South Carolina to discuss these changes, and the seniors I talk to are enthusiastic to learn that for the first time Medicare will encourage preventative care.

First and foremost, the new prescription drug benefit will allow seniors to afford the medicine they need to prevent disease.

Yet, while the prescription drug benefit has been widely publicized, many seniors are unaware of other important preventative measures now available to them. All newly enrolled beneficiaries will be covered for physicals, cardiovascular-screening blood tests including cholesterol, and diabetes screening for at-risk beneficiaries. These benefits do not have deductibles or co-pays, to make sure there are no hurdles for seniors with limited resources.

These screenings will catch treatable, manageable conditions that otherwise would result in senior health consequences, preventing a healthy and happy retirement.

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

#### MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

(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, it was 13 months ago that we in this House passed meaningful medical liability reform. Our President, President Bush, has said that he will sign that legislation if we will just get it to him. And today it languishes on the other side of the Capitol. The Democratic candidate for President has already been on record as either voting "no" or has

missed those votes on medical liability reform as they came up in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of defensive medicine, not just the cost of liability insurance for doctors, but the cost of defensive medicine in this country in a 1996 Stanford University study was estimated to be \$50 billion a year to the Medicare system, not the private health insurance system, but to the Medicare system alone.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer afford this. The whole problem with the uninsured and access to health care for all Americans languishes because we have not taken conclusive action on medical liability reform. Again, let me stress we have a President who will sign that legislation into law. We have a candidate for President who is on record as voting "no."

#### THE LOSS OF MANUFACTURING JOBS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans promised us they would create jobs, but their failed policies have left our economy weaker. We have lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs, the largest decline in over 80 years. We have not seen one month of manufacturing job growth since George Bush took office, and Republicans have no plan to create jobs.

For years the Republicans have used their power to provide tax breaks and special deals for corporate interests, standing back while thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs were shipped overseas. And now the American workers that have built these companies are paying the price.

Democrats want to build a stronger economy and jump-start our manufacturing sector by cutting taxes for domestic manufacturers and helping them create good-paying jobs here in the United States, and we want to end unfair tax breaks that would allow corporations to keep their money and their workers overseas. That is just wrong.

We want to stand up for American workers by enforcing the trade agreements that President Bush has not.

Mr. Speaker, why are Republicans stalling? What are they waiting for? They should simply bring up the Crane-Rangel bipartisan solution to cut taxes for domestic manufacturers and help them create good-paying jobs here in the United States. That is the answer, and it is simple.

#### 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.

#### RHODE ISLAND VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3942) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the "Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3942

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

#### SECTION 1. RHODE ISLAND VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, is hereby redesignated as the "Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 3942. This legislation redesignates the U.S. Postal Service facility at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as the Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's Armed Forces are comprised of dedicated, skilled, and courageous individuals from all 50 States and every territory. Today, I am pleased to take time along with my colleagues to honor those who have served our Nation from the State of Rhode Island.

According to the 2000 census data, over 102,000 veterans live in Rhode Island, comprising 13 percent of the adult population of the State. This post office designation in Middletown is intended as a tribute to those 102,000 Rhode Islanders.

As we all know, U.S. military men and women remain engaged today in

the war on terror in faraway places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Here at home we can never give too much back to our brave active duty personnel or our veterans to whom we owe our Nation's freedom. That is why I am pleased that the House is considering H.R. 3942 today. I ask all Members to support its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) for his work to honor our Nation's military service veterans from the great State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for allowing me this time. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), for also acknowledging me and recognizing this piece of legislation, and also my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) from the other side of the aisle for being here as well.

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As the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) mentioned, there are over 100,000 veterans living in my State of Rhode Island; and we are proud to support a few veterans from World War I and almost 40,000 from World War II. Rhode Island has close to 30,000 from Vietnam and roughly 20,000 from the Korean War. And more recently, Rhode Island is home to 4,000 veterans from the Persian Gulf War. Just a few weeks ago, 300 soldiers from Rhode Island's Military Police returned from Iraq.

These men and women come from different backgrounds and they live in different cities and towns and many of them are still working and also many of them are retired. But the one thing that they have in common is they have fought for this country to preserve the freedom of our Nation. They have all put their lives on the line in the name of democracy, and if they were not standing post in the front lines, they signed up and they could well have been put on the front lines. So all veterans, whether serving stateside or overseas, deserve our recognition.

Our Nation's veterans have answered the call to duty and have served our country in times of greatest need.

During my time in Congress I have had the honor to meet with several of Rhode Island's veterans, and I discovered that every time I sit down with one of them, I hear another fascinating story. Like Ray's story, a World War II veteran living in Lincoln, Rhode Island. He was the only man from an 11-member crew to survive. He remembers falling from the plane and landing in his parachute in a group of trees on a snowy mountainside, but he does not remember anything after that. Next