

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 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. GINGREY) at noon.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, Creator of inalienable rights, guide the work of Congress and the personal decisions of all Americans today.

Having sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, help the Members of the House of Representatives to make sound judgments. Give them wisdom to shape common resolve of the most important issues facing the Nation and in need of proper legislation.

Lord, help all Americans to be true democratic citizens who can give an account of their commitment to human rights and abide by the rule of law.

May government leaders and citizens together seek personal excellence and the common good of all; so to give You glory now and 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.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island 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 Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2419) "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes."

## MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind seniors all across America that they can sign up for Medicare prescription drug coverage starting today, November 15. As of January 1, 2006, Medicare begins offering participants drug coverage for citizens 65 and older. Medicare will work with employers and unions to ensure that people who currently receive prescription drug coverage through their employer or union will continue to do so.

Like other insurance, if you join, you will pay a monthly premium, generally about \$37, plus a share of the cost of the prescriptions. Costs may be different, depending on the drug plan you choose. Plans will vary in the prescription drugs covered, how much you have to pay, and the pharmacies you can use.

All drug plans will have to provide at least a standard level of coverage which Medicare will set. Some plans may offer more coverage and additional drugs for higher monthly premiums. I encourage you to join the drug plan that best meets your needs.

## MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, as of today, a bipartisan majority of the House has cosponsored the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equity Treatment Act. This marks the fifth year in a row that the majority of our colleagues have supported ending this arbitrary insurance limit on the treatment of a whole category of what this poster makes clear are neurological, physical diseases.

In the last 5 years, more than 150,000 Americans have lost their lives to suicide, 90 percent of them with serious mental illness.

In the last 5 years, American employers have lost over \$150 billion of productivity to depression alone. That is more than the GDP of 28 different States during the same period.

In the 5 years, well over 60,000 American families have been broken apart by the absence of insurance because the only way for parents to get treatment for their children is to turn the custody of those children over to the State.

And, in those 5 years, Mr. Speaker, the leadership of this House and the committees of jurisdiction have yet to even give this bill an up and down vote. We need a vote on the Paul Wellstone Equity Act for mental health insurance.

## TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL SCOTT ZUBOWSKI

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Marines arrived at Barbara Weitzel's doorstep this Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in New Castle, Indiana. She said, my first question was, "Which one?" Two of her sons are Marines. Both are in Iraq.

She learned in that moment that her brave son, Lance Corporal Scott Zubowski, died in Iraq on 12 November 2005. While fighting to defend America and secure Iraq, he was a rear passenger traveling with four other soldiers near Fallujah when a roadside bomb exploded beneath his vehicle.

Scott and his family moved to New Castle in 1991 where he attended Greenstreet Elementary School for first and second grade. His teachers quickly recognized his gifts. They placed him in the gifted and talented program, an accelerated academic program at Sunnyside Elementary.

Scott did not grow up dreaming of a life in the military but, as is the case with younger brothers, he respected his older brother David. Sergeant David Zubowski enlisted in the Marines. Scott noticed the growing confidence in his brother, and he wanted to enlist as well, which he did after graduating from North Manchester High School in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Scott Zubowski is a hero. I offer my deepest condolences to his parents, Barbara Weitzel and Richard Zubowski; his lovely new wife, Klancey Zubowski; his two brothers, Brian and Sergeant David Zubowski; and all the family and friends who loved and admired this courageous young man.

Scott's mother recently told the hometown newspaper, "He gave himself for us, and we can't forget."

He did give himself, Mrs. Weitzel. No greater love has a man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends. We will never forget your brave son.

## AMERICANS DESERVE THE TRUTH REGARDING WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush said it was irresponsible for people to rewrite the way the war began, and the White House communications director said the American people expect an honest debate. I could not agree with both statements more.

Then, yesterday, the President donned his flight jacket and suggested that he was going to attack his critics and, in fact, attacked his critics rather than contribute to the honest debate.

The American people need to know, after the dramatic failure of intelligence, just how that intelligence was

used, how it was emphasized, how it was manipulated, and who was the source of much of the intelligence that this administration used to hook people into the war in Iraq.

Did they use the intelligence provided by Mr. Chalabi, who was on our payroll, and by Mr. Chalabi's defectors, who paid and bribed to provide that intelligence to the administration? Did the administration, and this goes to the crux of the question: Did the administration do the due diligence that was necessary before they made the decision to put American men and women in harm's way into Iraq? Did they look at the case and make the case that this was an imminent threat to the security of the United States?

So far, we do not have the answers to those questions. We know that there was a concerted effort within the Department of Defense, within the administration to push us into the war in Iraq. We now need to know how that was done. We need that honest debate. We do not need the President to continue to attack his critics.

The American people are entitled to that debate. They are entitled to the results of the investigations that were promised 17 months ago, and nothing has happened from those investigations.

#### WORLD WAR I VETERAN KENNETH MEYERS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when Kenneth Meyers was born in 1889, Teddy Roosevelt was charging up San Juan Hill, the airplane had not been invented, and electricity was a novelty. Kenneth Meyers, at 107, is the oldest surviving World War I veteran in Texas. There are less than 50 World War I veterans in all of the United States.

Meyers joined the Navy as a teenager in 1917 and served aboard the Battleship *Oklahoma* in World War I until 1919. Meyers, who lives in Houston, says he was proud to serve in the "War to End All Wars."

After the Navy, Meyers earned his masters degree, became an agricultural expert for Uncle Sam, and even helped farmers as far away as Greece. He herded cattle in Wyoming, and he still owns land there.

As we honor American veterans, we appreciate the generations of sailors and doughboys in World War I who adopted the song "Over There" that states, in part, "Send the word to beware, that the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming and we won't come back 'til its over, over there."

Mr. Speaker, like warriors since then, those Yanks got the job done for freedom and only came back when it was over, over there. That's just the way it is.

#### MEDICARE MEETS SENIORS' NEEDS

(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, Americans have benefited significantly from medical advancements throughout the past 40 years, and Medicare must also evolve with the changing technology.

Today marks an historic date for the Medicare program. For the first time, America's seniors will have the opportunity to enroll in a voluntary prescription drug benefit that will meet their needs.

I would like to encourage all seniors to sign up for this valuable benefit. For more information on how to register, and this is a special exclusive surprise for biased ABC News, seniors can call 1-800-Medicare or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Seniors can also contact professional pharmacists in their communities for additional details about the program.

By strengthening Medicare, President Bush and Congress have delivered a program to ensure America's seniors live healthier, happier, and longer.

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

#### PREEMIE ACT

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Prematurity Awareness Day. I stand with parents and physicians, organizations and associations around our country that are working to draw attention to the serious and growing problem of premature birth.

Nearly 500,000 babies will be born prematurely this year. In my own State of Georgia, 342 premature babies will be born this week. It is a serious problem, one that is far too common. Unfortunately, in most cases, we do not know why it happens.

From my experience as an OB-GYN physician for nearly 30 years, I know the anxiety, confusion, frustration and concern that premature birth places on both the families as well as the medical system. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2861, the PREEMIE Act, which was introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. Speaker, I am here today not only to encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation but also to let the women in our country know how important it is to talk to their doctors about the risk factors associated with pre-term birth. Together, we can work to find a solution to this very costly crisis.

#### NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine an insurance policy that paid thousands of dollars for the most expensive treatment for a disease but not a few hundred dollars for medicine to prevent that disease from occurring? Well, that is what Medicare has been, until now. Today is the first day that seniors all across our country can join Medicare part D.

As a physician, I am keenly aware that medications are a mainstay of the treatment and prevention of disease and, with this new prescription drug benefit, Medicare will now assist seniors in obtaining medicines that can prevent serious illness. Seniors should get more choices and better treatment, and America will get a Medicare system that moves into the 21st century.

In my district, I have held senior education seminars, trying to give seniors helpful information about this new and exciting program. This is not about politics, this is about helping those eligible for Medicare to select the plan that is best for them.

I encourage all of my colleagues in medicine and in Congress to help seniors as they have the opportunity to participate in a new health program, one that should result in a more rewarding and healthier life.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) at 2 p.m.

#### 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.

#### YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1564) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain