

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 Georgia (Mr. PRICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 5 one-minute speeches from each side.

ECONOMIC JOY TO AMERICA

(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, Republican fiscal policies continue to spread tidings of economic joy to families throughout our country.

Yesterday, the U.S. Labor Department reported that consumer prices plummeted last month by 0.6 percent, the largest decrease since 1949. Energy prices alone have dropped by 8 percent. These strong economic indicators are only a sample of gifts created by low taxes and decreased government regulations.

Additionally, 4.5 million new jobs have been created. More Americans are working than ever before in our Nation's history. The unemployment rate is lower than the average of the past three decades. The economy grew at 4.3 percent over the last 10 quarters. Tax receipts increased by \$247 billion in just 1 year after the Bush tax cuts, the largest increase ever. Home sales reached a record high in October. Productivity soared in the last quarter by 4.7 percent, reducing fears of inflation.

We will continue to enact economic policies to help all Americans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11 and the courageous Iraqi voters.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Today, the U.S. House will debate a so-called Victory in Iraq resolution, and vote on whether

or not the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is desirable by the U.S. Government.

Today, Congressman RON PAUL and I have a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the new permanent Council of Representatives of Iraq should debate and vote on whether the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is desired by the Government of Iraq.

According to the Iraq constitution, the Iraq federal government has exclusive power over foreign policy and negotiation, national defense policy, and the Council of Representatives specifically has the responsibility of creating new law and certifying treaties and international agreements.

The continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is a matter for the elected Government of Iraq, a sovereign nation, to decide. If we define victory as Iraq's self-determination, then we ought to encourage Iraq to make its own decision about further U.S. occupation. But if victory is just a cover for endless U.S. occupation of Iraq, then that is just not going to be acceptable to the American people or to people of the world.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, during the decade I served as a member of the North Carolina Senate and during my first term in the United States Congress, I have found that few things are as important or represent as many problems as illegal immigration.

The terrorist attacks on our homeland highlighted the potential disastrous effects of the porous borders and the need to bolster border security. Illegal immigration also has many other far-reaching and dangerous effects. That is why I am pleased to cosponsor H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. This important piece of legislation will strengthen our borders, crack down on those who hire illegal aliens, increase the punishment for those who smuggle people into our country illegally and allow for the swift deportation of illegal aliens.

I sympathize with those who wish to live in America. We are indeed a nation of immigrants, but also a nation of laws. Immigration laws exist to provide the steps for safe and legal entry into our country. Controlling illegal immigration begins with the enforcement of current laws and the elimination of incentives to immigrate illegally.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 4437.

THURMAN BARNES

(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 to congratulate Mr. Thurman Barnes of LaGrange, Georgia, on receiving his GED at age 96. In fact, Mr. Barnes is believed to be the oldest person ever to receive a GED, attesting to the fact that an education is important and fulfilling no matter what your age.

Eighty years ago, Mr. Barnes failed a Latin class. As so often happens in life, before he could make up his course work, his attention was turned to his job, marriage, and family obligations. But throughout his life, the thought of that elusive high school diploma stayed with him.

Eight decades later, Mr. Barnes began taking classes at West Georgia Technical College. This past Monday, he passed the GED examination with flying colors. When asked what subject was easiest for him, Mr. Barnes replied, "Social studies, because I have lived through most everything in the last 100 years."

Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of character and tenacity to hold on to the dream of graduating high school for 80 years. I want to thank Mr. Barnes, his family, West Georgia Technical College, and the Georgia Adult Literacy Program for reminding us of the importance of rising to the challenges of life, regardless of age.

MATTHEW SCOTT

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism of a man named Matthew Scott, who nearly 9 years ago performed an act of uncommon courage that saved the life of a young woman in my congressional district.

In August of 1997, a 15-year-old woman and her friend were driving on a narrow, windy road near a dangerous area called Deception Pass. Unable to see the road, Leslie, the driver, drove off a 185-foot cliff into the freezing ocean below. Her passenger managed to jump to safety from the truck before it went over the edge. At the same time, Matthew Scott, a young Naval Chief Petty Officer, was driving by the location when he spotted a busted guardrail and a group of people pointing to the waters below.

Matthew scaled down the treacherous, dark cliff with only a small flashlight to guide him. At the bottom of his 185-foot descent, he swam 30 yards out in strong tides and frigid water to rescue Leslie who had suffered a broken back, leg, and arm. Because of his selfless, courageous heroics, Leslie is now a 24-year-old mother and a manager of a local coffee shop.

Matthew has continued to dedicate his life to one of military service and is now a lieutenant studying for his MBA at the Naval Post Graduate School in California. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am honored to have had Lieutenant Scott

serve at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington State's Second Congressional District, so I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to honor him and call on all my colleagues to look to Matthew's example to inspire us and spur us on to our own acts of selfless service and care.

Because of Matthew's humble heroics, Leslie is alive today. Matthew himself is not just a good father and not just a good sailor, he is a great person and a true hero.

FREEDOM WINS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, did you see the newspaper? Iraqis vote by the millions, turn out undeterred by threats. Violence was replaced by Iraqi citizens, 70 percent of them freely and openly voting for their representatives, affirming the wonder of liberty.

The entire world is witness to their desire, demonstrated by their courage and action to live in a country where life and liberty are treasured.

This week we have seen success in Iraq, another vivid victory over terrorism. Anxiety has been replaced by celebration, purple-stained fingers were seen throughout Iraq, testimony to the glory and the spirit of freedom. Everyone may now see that our efforts in Iraq are successful. Millions of Iraqis are participating in leading their country to a bright future, full of promise and potential.

Mr. Speaker, we should all applaud these efforts. Today is a day of victory for Iraq, for America, and for the free world. It is testimony that the will of the Iraqi people will not waiver and that freedom will prevail.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4437, the Border and Immigration Enforcement Act of 2005.

H.R. 4437 is an enforcement-only approach that fails to provide real family security, real national security, and real economic security for our country. It is neither comprehensive nor realistic.

If this Nation really wants to create an effective border security policy, we need to have a debate that includes a discussion about actual solutions to our problems, which means taking all of the political grandstanding and baiting out of the equation.

H.R. 4437 is unrealistic, it is based on fear, and it is financially irresponsible and even unconstitutional at times. It joins rank with the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Depression-era repatriation of U.S. Citizens to Mexico, two of

our country's most embarrassing moments.

As a first-generation son, a native-born son of an immigrant that came to this country, I hope we do not close the door to that legacy.

IRAN AND ISRAEL

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the outburst of hateful and irresponsible rhetoric coming from Iran in recent days and weeks is simply outrageous.

In October, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sparked international outrage when he publicly declared that Israel should be "wiped off the map." Just last week, he suggested that the Holocaust never happened. This week, he called for Israel to be moved to Europe.

Nations, including the U.S., France, Germany, and the European Commission, have all expressed their disgust with these comments. The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mark Regev, said it best when he said, "The combination of fanatical ideology, a warped sense of reality, and nuclear weapons is a combination that no one in the international community can accept."

He is absolutely right. These comments were not made by some cleric of some small mosque. He is a head of state, and to think of him having nuclear weapons is frightening. It threatens not only Israel, but the international community as a whole, and should be denounced in the strongest terms possible by all nations.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 612, VICTORY IN IRAQ RESOLUTION

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 619 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 619

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to achieving victory in Iraq. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations; and (2) one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions.

SEC. 2. On the first legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, the House shall not conduct organizational or legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was an extraordinary day not only in the history of Iraq but the history of the world. We saw the third free and fair election take place in the country of Iraq, and for the first time in the history of that nation we saw the people of Iraq choose their own leaders.

On January 30 of this year, there were many people who thought it could not happen, there were many terrorist attacks, and it actually was slow in coming. As you will recall, the pictures that we saw of voting stations where early on no one voted, but ultimately 8.5 million Iraqis voted to put into place a coalition government that was charged with the task of fashioning a constitution, a constitution that would work to bring together the very disparate factions that exist within Iraq, the three that we know of, the Shia, the Sunni, and the Kurdish populations, and of course the other divisions that exist in the country.

Mid-summer, we saw the work on that constitution proceed. We saw the August date approach. There were problems, difficulties. And then we saw the October 15 election rapidly approach, and people from all over the world, including leaders of the U.S. forces there, were uncertain as to whether or not the Iraqi people would in fact ratify their constitution.

Mr. Speaker, we saw a 64 percent voter turnout, roughly 10 million Iraqis voting, and 78 percent of the people of Iraq from throughout the country among all of those three disparate factions within the country came together and overwhelmingly, with a 78 percent vote, ratified that constitution. The existence of that constitution called for parliamentary elections to take place, and for, as I said, the first time in the nation's history we yesterday saw the Iraqi people choose their own leaders, a 275-member parliamentary assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we do not know yet the exact outcome of that election, but there are a number of very important things we do know about yesterday's election. We thought that there would be wide-ranging terrorist attacks, when in fact there were very few if any difficulties with the election at all when it came to attacks. We saw something that came as a great surprise to so many people, and that was a 70 percent voter turnout.

Mr. Speaker, 11 million Iraqis voted in this election. If one looks at where it is that we are headed, it is an amazing testament to what the United States of America and our Coalition Forces have done.

We, as a body, strongly support our troops; and we, as a body, strongly support the mission of our troops.