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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

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

Lord God, our Defender in Battle and Cause of Peace, be with this body as it completes its legislative work this week and asks Your blessing upon the Nation.

This Congress is ever assisted by liaison offices and the personnel of our military forces in the United States. This tour of duty by the military here on Capitol Hill must be most pleasing in Your sight, as our Supreme Commander.

With strategic information and military training, this liaison force helps Congressional Members and committees to resolve military issues and accomplish mutual undertakings that solidify necessary operations by this government. The daily work of men and women of the military bolsters the House of Representatives and its resolve to protect and defend this Nation. Their constant presence is a regular invitation of all of us to turn to You, Almighty God, and lift up to You all our men and women in military uniform and their families, especially those who are presently deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

As Memorial Day approaches, we praise You, Lord God, and thank You for the service and dedication of our military, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice of themselves for the good of us all. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T.

SÁNCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches per side.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

(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, I rise today to honor and congratulate the newest baseball, State of Florida, High School Champions, the Key West High School baseball team.

Located in the southernmost point of Florida, the Conchs captured their 11th State title by beating Orlando Bishop Moore by a score of 7-0. This is the first State title for the Conchs since 1998, capping an incredible season.

At the beginning of the year, the Conchs were ranked fifth in the Nation by Baseball America Magazine, and they surely did not disappoint. Their 27-to-5 record demonstrates their commitment and their resilience, Mr. Speaker.

Key West High School is the little school that could; and, boy, they sure did. Congratulations to the Key West High School baseball team on its incredible season. Hats off to the athletes, their proud parents, the coaching staff, the school administrator, the Monroe County Public School Superintendent Randy Acevedo, and all of the proud residents of Monroe County, and most especially Key West. Their

win is a victory for all of Monroe County. Go Conchs!

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, health care in this country is a crisis of major proportions. Seniors are still splitting pills to make their medications last. People will not go to a doctor because they cannot afford it. Only if some are near death will they rush to the hospital. It is clearly time for a universal, single payer, not-for-profit health care system called Medicare For All, and that is exactly what H.R. 676, sponsored by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and by myself would achieve.

Medicare For All will cost the same amount the Nation currently spends for health care overall, but funds will be reallocated to cover everyone, to improve care and eliminate cost for individuals. And here is what would be covered: all medically necessary procedures, primary care and prevention, inpatient care, outpatient care, emergency care, prescription drugs, long-term care, mental health, dental health, and vision care, as well as chiropractic services.

It is time for us to realize a primary purpose of our government is to make sure our people are healthy. Health care is a basic right in a democratic society.

I am urging support for H.R. 676.

COMMENDING LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT ON HEROIC RESPONSE

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

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, at 3:48 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, May 22, an 8-year-old girl from my hometown of Lake Worth, Florida, was reported missing. She was thought to have been abducted by someone she knew and the Lake Worth Police Department quickly went into action.

In coordination with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, an Amber Alert was issued at 7:30 a.m. and an all-points bulletin, including off-duty police, were called in to respond. Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Patrick Hampshire, more than 100 officers from five agencies responded within an hour.

Sergeant Michael Hall was charged with searching for her at the city dump. Opening a large bin, Sergeant Hall found cement blocks, but on a second look he saw the faint shadow of a small hand. With the help of Corporal Robert Cresswell of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Department, Lieutenant Dave Matthews of the Lake Worth Police Department, Special Agent Mike Driscoll of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the searchers were able to get this young girl out from under these blocks and debris and save her life. SWAT Medic Earl Bakki gave her medical attention until she could get to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, these are true heroes, working as a team and using the tools they had been provided to save this young, precious life. I want to commend Chief William Smith and the members of the Lake Worth Police Department for their swift, heroic response on Sunday, as well as the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department, Lantana Police Department, Boca Raton Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for aiding in the search for this young girl.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young girl who is truly in a league of her own, Kate Brownell.

Katie is a shy 11-year-old girl of few words, but when she gets on the baseball field she lets her pitching do the talking, and she rocks. Brownell is the only girl in the Oakfield-Alabama Little League Baseball Program. Last week, she threw a perfect game for the Dodgers in an 11-0 victory for the Yankees.

How dominant was she? She struck out all 18 batters she faced, yielding no more than two balls to any batter in a 6-inning victory. Katie accomplished something that league officials cannot remember anyone, boy or girl, ever doing. Brownell is not just good at pitching, she is also great at the plate, and her batting average is .714.

When I first read her story, I was excited and inspired by this young girl's

talent. I was so impressed that I wanted to be sure to come down to the floor and recognize her achievement. She exemplifies what you can achieve, regardless of gender.

That is why it is bewildering to me that in this day and age we are debating whether or not to allow women in combat. If anything, young women like Katie serve to remind us that we can pretty much do anything that men can, and sometimes even better.

WE NEED THE MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

(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, the States should decide. Is that not what we heard in debate on gay marriage?

Well, that is what Nebraska did, with a constitutional amendment passed by their State legislature and approved by over 70 percent of their voters in a referendum. The State decided that the definition of marriage should be limited to one man and one woman, a definition that nearly everyone in this country agrees with.

But recently an activist Federal judge disagreed and the duly enacted law of the State, the decision of the State and its reelected representatives and voters, was overruled by an activist Federal court.

Does not sound like States deciding to me. On the contrary, it is exactly what many of us have said would happen, activist courts would erode the will of the people in States like Nebraska. The other side, the side screaming for States' rights just 10 months ago, has not said a word while Federal courts decide and impose their will of what marriage is on the States.

This is too far. We need to act. The Federal Marriage Protection Amendment will ensure that States decide this issue of critical importance. If the other side really believes their own rhetoric, they will back this amendment and fight for judges who allow the people and their elected representatives to debate and decide cultural issues.

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE BILL

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are many Caribbean Americans who have helped to shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science and culture: Sidney Poitier, Tito Puente, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Harry Belafonte, Julia Alvarez, Kelsey Grammer, Wyclef Jean, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally, Raul Julia, Jesus Colon, Gloria Estefan, Shirley Chisholm, Alex Rodriguez, and John Point du Sable. These are just a

few Caribbean Americans who have contributed so much to the United States.

This year, I reintroduced a resolution which we introduced last year, H. Con. Res. 71. It is a bipartisan and long-overdue effort to create a national Caribbean American Heritage Month. I ask all of my colleagues to join me, the 72 cosponsors, and numerous Caribbean American voices from across the country who have supported this measure.

When we return from the Memorial Day recess, I hope the House will consider this bipartisan goodwill resolution that honors the legacy and the diversity of the Caribbean American community. It is long overdue.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

(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, earlier this week I came to the floor to share great economic news from my State of Tennessee. We had just learned that Tennessee expects to have a \$272 million boost in sales revenue, State revenues. It appears that our fight to restore the sales tax deductibility to our Federal income tax is paying off big time, and we thank the leadership for that.

But, Mr. Speaker, the good thing we have learned is that this news is not just limited to Tennessee. Just this morning the Bureau of Economic Analysis revised the Nation's first quarter growth upward. America's GDP grew at 3.5 percent, not 3.1 percent, as had previously been estimated.

If you do not know what that means, let me tell you. It means that the Republican support for lower taxes and less regulation is paying off. It works. In April, America's free enterprise system created 274,000 new jobs.

Everyone in this body should recognize the fact that our leadership and our majority are putting America on the right track for growth and job creation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS TO DATE

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we head home for the Memorial Day recess this weekend, let us take a look at all of the accomplishments of our Republican-led Congress so far this year: bankruptcy reform, class action fairness, REAL ID Act with immigration reform, permanent repeal of the death tax, continuity of government, comprehensive energy policy, and many others that I would like to list, but the time is too short.

All of these bills were overwhelmingly bipartisan and overwhelming