

process will provide the funds that American public broadcasting needs.

HONORING ARTHUR GLIDDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF THE WOLFEBORO CENTRE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent, Mr. Arthur Glidden, for his hard work and dedication to the continuation and protection of the Wolfeboro Centre Community Church. He has worked on this project for over 43 years. Mr. Glidden is 83 years old and has been a resident of my hometown of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, for his entire life. Arthur's wife, Dotty, is also a lifelong resident of the community and a supporter of the church.

In 1841, a group of Wolfeboro citizens purchased one-third of an acre for \$17 to build a nondenominational worship center for the Christian members of that area. This traditional New England church was started, and it continued in operation with the generous help of the congregation.

In 1964, Arthur Glidden became president of the church board and began what has now become his long-standing devotion to the parishioners and the care and preservation of the building. Arthur has taken the traditions of when the meeting house was first built, and he has raised them to a higher level.

For almost 25 percent of the life of the Wolfeboro Centre Community Church, he has been its greatest protector and benefactor. At times, almost single-handedly, Arthur Glidden lifted the church up to save it from declining attendance and carried it forward on his shoulders until it was safe and secure again. Arthur Glidden is to be commended for his steadfast dedication to the Wolfeboro Centre Community Church and all of his efforts to improve the community in which he lives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUHL of New York) at 11 a.m.

PRAAYER

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

Lord God, set the hearts of Your people on fire with a spirit of equal justice in all circumstances and the spirit of love for neighbor and enemy as well.

Inflame true desires of understanding in the Members of Congress, Lord, and in all people of this Nation; that the barriers which now divide may be broken through; and that the bonds of mutual respect may be strengthened.

May all in the human family learn to appreciate one another, pardon those who have done wrong and initiate the first gesture of reconciliation to others.

Like spokes in a wheel, Lord God, by drawing closer to one another may we be drawn closer to You, Father of all, 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas 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.

SUPREME COURT NEEDS TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, life is a precious gift from God. It is something that should be honored, cherished and never taken for granted. The unborn are the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society, and their right to life must be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted when this Congress passed legislation in 2003 to prohibit partial birth abortions. This barbaric act entails partially removing a fetus in the third trimester from its mother's womb and then brutally killing it by puncturing or crushing its skull. The day that President Bush signed the bill banning this heinous act was a great one for our Nation. Unfortunately, some activist judges in the Eighth U.S. Circuit and Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals have taken it upon themselves to strike down this law, and countless lives are lost as a result.

That is why I am pleased that the U.S. Supreme Court said yesterday it will consider a second appeal to reinstate the Federal ban on partial birth abortions. It is my hope the Supreme Court will rule in favor of the right to life and reinstate a ban on this terrible act.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA—RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an ongoing moral crisis in this Congress and this administration.

Through fiscal irresponsibility and corporate welfare, this Congress has eroded away at American values and standards; and decent, hardworking Americans are the ones paying the price.

As Americans, we believe that anyone who works 40 hours a week, 365 days a year should be able to afford basic necessities for themselves and their families.

The reality is that there are millions of workers out there trying to support their families on \$5.15 per hour, and I think my state has most of them. And as everyone knows, \$5.15 does not buy you a lot nowadays.

Each day, millions of minimum-wage workers are forced to choose between food, shelter, health care, or clothing. No American who works hard for a living should have to make those types of choices.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an appalling 9 years since we have seen an increase in the Federal minimum wage. The Labor-HHS appropriations bill includes a provision to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25, hardly a living wage. This was a chance for Congress to do the right thing, but the bill has not been sent.

PERMANENTLY REPEALING THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give the American people some straight talk on why we need to permanently repeal the death tax.

The death tax causes one-third of all family-owned small businesses to liquidate after the death of the owner. It is also an unfair tax because the assets have already been taxed once at their income level.

If Congress doesn't act to fix this problem, then in the year 2010 the death tax will be zero. But in 2011 the death tax will go back up to 55 percent in tax rates.

The only family-owned business in America that knows for sure whether their leader will die in 2010 is The Sopranos.

The uncertainty of the death tax makes it impossible for people to write their wills or do their estate planning.

On April 13, 2005, the House acted to permanently repeal the death tax. On June 8, 2006, the Senate fell just three votes short. I urge the Senate to try again to develop a permanent solution to the death tax so we can fix this problem once and for all this year.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. SOLIS. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Imagine if you had not received a pay increase since 1997. The price of goods and services you rely on like gasoline and prescription drugs have gone up dramatically over the last few years. But one thing that hasn't been the minimum wage. It has almost been 10 years that we haven't raised the minimum wage, and the reality is that 7 million Americans will not receive a minimum-wage pay increase. And most of those individuals happen to be single head of households, women, with kids, children.

Democrats want to take America in a different direction. We want to expand opportunities to millions of Americans that feel they have been left behind by the Bush economy that has favored the wealthiest few above the middle class. One of the ways we want to expand opportunity is by giving minimum-wage workers a pay raise for the first time in a decade.

Last week, Democrats passed an amendment to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill that would raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour. Democrats were joined by several Republicans in passing this commonsense amendment. We need to have support to bring this up and vote on it. Let's give those 7 million people an increase in the minimum wage.

CHAMPIONSHIP HOCKEY IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, champion ship hockey on North Carolina's Tobacco Road, unbelievable, as one of my Boston colleagues said last week. Well, very believable this date because the Carolina Hurricanes prevailed over the spirited and talented Edmonton Oilers and now proudly display the revered Stanley Cup.

The Hurricanes formerly played in Greensboro, located in the congressional district I represent, but now call Raleigh, North Carolina, home. And the Raleigh and Carolina fans have been superb this season.

Mr. Speaker, "redneck hockey," as it came to be known, is here to stay.

Congratulations to the Carolina Hurricanes.

LINE-ITEM VETO IS A VEILED ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS RECORD DEFICITS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will attempt to distance themselves from their 5-year record of fiscal irresponsibility when they try to put through a line-item veto.

You may remember that President Bush said that he needed the line-item veto in his State of the Union speech this year. This is nothing but a hoax. President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress have been partners in creating record deficits since taking control, complete control of our government in 2001. Over that time, more than 1,000 bills have been sent to the President to sign; and he has signed all of them, each and every one.

And now the President wants a line-item veto. If he was really concerned about the way the House Republican Congress is spending American taxpayer money, one would think that the President would have voted some of these bills down which were sent to his desk. But, no. The President and the Republican Congress have turned a \$5 trillion surplus into a \$4 trillion deficit. And they have nobody to blame but themselves.

So if the President really wanted to do something about spending, he should take some action now and veto some of these bills.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FIGHT AGAINST PORK BARREL SPENDING

(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, when Members of Congress propose ways to spend American tax dollars, we should be held publicly accountable for our requests. This week, House Republicans will take another important step to eliminate excessive spending from the Federal budget process.

Congress has a strong leader for fiscal responsibility with Congressman PAUL RYAN of Wisconsin, who has proposed a positive way to bring increased transparency and accountability to our budget process. By granting President Bush the authority to single out individual spending items in the legislation, the Legislative Line Item Veto Act will help target wasteful and unnecessary spending. This legislation would enable the President to strike spending from a piece of legislation and would require Congress to hold an up-or-down vote on the spending within 14 legislative days.

Passing this bill will send a strong statement that the power of the purse does not provide permission for pork barrel spending.

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

SENIORS NEED A SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, American seniors know that the Republican prescription drug plan that took effect earlier this year is deeply flawed. The plan is complex and confusing, unfair and unreliable.

This is not the plan seniors wanted. They didn't ask for a plan that forced them to go outside of Medicare to choose from dozens of private insurance plans, or a plan that creates a giant gap in coverage that leaves them with no benefits but still requires them to pay monthly premiums.

They didn't ask for a plan that slaps those who haven't yet selected a plan with a penalty that stays with them the rest of their lives.

Democrats believe it is time that seniors receive a simple and affordable drug plan. We can make prescription drugs more affordable by giving Medicare the ability to negotiate lower prices with the drug companies just like the Veterans Administration does. We can make the plan simpler and more cost effective, creating a plan within the current Medicare system.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are not satisfied with the status quo. We will fight to do more to help our seniors afford their prescription drugs.

PREACHER FOX

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a hypocrite always practices what he preaches against. And while Vicente Fox took a whirlwind tour of the United States acting like an old-fashioned revival preacher preaching open borders, trying to intimidate Americans into allowing the illegal invasion of his people down Mexico City way, the gospel of truth comes out.

Mexico, it seems, wants its southern border locked down. The Mexican Government says too many illegals are sneaking into Mexico, especially those Guatemalans. The Mexican Government says that illegals are taking jobs from Mexican citizens. Sound familiar?

While Mexico is demanding open doors into the rest of North America, they have got their own dead bolt on the door to the rest of the world.

Preacher Fox, practice what you preach. Your immigration laws are even tougher than America's. Why don't you open up your southern border to illegals? And meanwhile, preach to your own people that illegally entering the United States is just wrong. Quit trying to be self-righteous and telling America what to do.