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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COHEN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 18, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE COHEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 25 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Frederick L. Klein, Director of Community Chaplaincy, Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

O God who knows the hidden chambers of the human heart.

Last week, Jews worldwide prayed during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. Just as Jews prayed for renewed clarity, purpose, and conviction, I ask You, all discerning God, to awaken within all our hearts the spirit of renewal—when our eyes have been dimmed, when our feet have led us down the wrong path, when our necks have been stiffened, when our ears are closed.

Call to us, O Lord. Open our eyes to see the suffering and needs of others, lead our feet down the path of righteousness, cause our necks to be flexible in order to change course when necessary, unblock our ears to hear the perspectives and opinions of others. But, most importantly, open our hearts and remind us of our loftiest visions for ourselves and for our great country.

May we be stirred by the words of the psalmist: "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord and who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart."

May the hill that we stand on today be blessed with these great ideals, and may God bless the holy work that you do. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan 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.

WELCOMING RABBI FREDERICK L. KLEIN

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend my good friend, Rabbi Fred Klein, for his uplifting prayer that he delivered for us this morning, as well as for his tireless efforts to strengthen the Jewish community in my home district of South Florida.

Rabbi Klein serves as the Director of Community Chaplaincy at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and is the Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami. In these roles, Rabbi Klein offers counsel to the physically and mentally ill in their greatest times of need.

I have long been aware of Rabbi Klein's commitment and contributions

□ 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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to academia, to the Jewish community, and the social welfare of all of South Florida. But his greatest achievement, Mr. Speaker, is his family, including his four children, Moshe who is 11, Shuli who is 9, Benny is 6 years old, and Aryeh almost 4.

The opening prayer that Rabbi Klein delivered today reflects his intellectual fiber, as well as his determination to improve our community and our country. I thank Rabbi Klein for his invocation, and I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

IRAQ DEPRESSING NEWS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as we have been greeted with a torrent of depressing news about Iraq, more violence, there is debate here about whether or not it is progress that the President plans to have the same troop level next summer that we had before the surge.

There is no good way out. Keep the troops there and have bloodshed; have them leave and have bloodshed. But there is one thing that every Member of Congress ought to be able to agree upon, no matter what their position on the war in Iraq: That we have a moral and practical responsibility to step up and help those Iraqis who have put their life at risk because they help Americans as guides, as translators. As Ambassador Ryan Crocker pointed out this last week, it is time for us to step up and help these people.

The Department of Homeland Security needs to have more people processing applications for those that are trying to escape the worst humanitarian crisis in the world other than Darfur. Don't make them leave Iraq for Syria or Jordan to apply when we have the largest embassy in the world in Baghdad. Support our comprehensive bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2265, to help meet that responsibility.

ULTRASOUND: THE STETHOSCOPE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

(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, I rise to recognize the talented and dedicated students, faculty, and staff of the School of Medicine of the University of South Carolina for the innovative work they are doing in the development and use of ultrasound technology.

Often called the stethoscope of the 21st century, ultrasound holds great potential for future advancements in medicine. With the growing portability and accessibility of modern ultrasound devices, this technology will help physicians better diagnose and treat patients for conditions such as heart failure, gallstones, aneurysms, and much

more, particularly in rural areas. USC is leading the way by establishing an ultrasound institute to ensure graduates are well trained in the use of ultrasound technology.

I appreciate Dr. Richard Hoppman, Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti, and Dr. Stanley Fowler for taking the time to introduce me to this training program, as well as for the extraordinary work they are doing on behalf of the USC community in the advancement of health care.

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

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT MORGAN D. KENNON

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, Army Staff Sergeant Morgan D. Kennon became the first victim of the Iraqi war from the city of Memphis.

Staff Sergeant Kennon joined the Army immediately after high school, hoping to earn enough money for college and eventually become a lawyer. He was guarding a bank in Mosul when he was killed.

His father said, "He was a beautiful kid. He was a serious-minded youngster who was devoted to fulfilling his mother's wishes. If his mother needed anything, instead of being out in a park playing basketball, it was his joy to go out and do whatever he had to do to help her."

On 9/11, I received an e-mail from his sister, Miss Nicole Crawford. I will read it:

"I am the sister of Staff Sergeant Morgan Kennon. I just wanted to know exactly what you and other Members of Congress and Members of the Senate are doing to bring our troops home. It has been almost 4 years since my brother was killed, and we still don't know why he was killed.

"Mr. COHEN, it is not just hard for the soldiers serving in Iraq, it is hard for their families also who worry about them. It is especially hard for the families that have lost loved ones in Iraq.

"Please don't take this the wrong way, but if the Democrats don't do something soon and force Mr. Bush's hand, there will not be a Democrat in the White House next year. The people of this country voted for the Democratic Party because they want change."

Ms. Crawford, I am for change. I am not going to vote for any additional funds but to redeploy our troops. I feel your pain.

THE FIGHT FOR JOBS CONTINUES

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, at this moment in Detroit the

leaders of the UAW and the domestic auto industry, the Big 3, are busy at the negotiating table trying to come to agreement on a new contract. In these negotiations, both sides will be making tremendous concessions in the effort to restore the industry to profitability and to protect jobs. They are dealing with very difficult issues like retiree health care as well as pension reform.

I wish them luck, sincere good luck, because the future of my home State of Michigan and of manufacturing in America are at stake as are literally millions of American jobs. We should all support them in their efforts to strengthen this vital industry. What we should not do is pull the rug out from under them by enacting draconian and arbitrary fuel efficiency standards that would kill jobs while doing nothing to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

Both management and labor are making hard choices. They are working together to build a better future and a better industry. And in the same spirit, we here at the Federal Government should partner with our auto industry to help move forward technology that would actually solve the problems and create new jobs.

While those involved in negotiations are trying to find common ground to save jobs, Congress should not be working to destroy them.

PROVIDE OUR CHILDREN WITH HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration's recent decision to reject New York's plan to provide health insurance for uninsured children is just another example of how out of touch the President is with the needs of the American people.

Last year, the number of uninsured children in the Nation increased to over 8.6 million, an increase of over 600,000 children. The State of New York has committed to decrease this number, starting with our lowest income families. However, the onerous conditions placed by this administration are threatening to thwart New York's efforts.

That any Americans have no health insurance is a travesty; that so many do is a tragedy of the highest proportion.

Providing our children with health care is protecting America's future. It is difficult to imagine why the President wants to stop New York from protecting the health of its children. But this decision suggests just that. We must not allow this to stand. I am committed to working with my colleagues to do what must be done to overturn this misguided decision.

"NO FLAG HERE"

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