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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Deacon Bob Little, St. Helena Catholic Church, St. Helena, California, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the beginning of this new day. Be fully with us today. Open our eyes that we might see goodness in what we do here in this room. Open our ears that we may hear the will of all Your people. Open our hearts that we might be compassionate in all that we do. Share with us Your wisdom, O Lord, that we may know the right decisions to make. Share with us Your strength, O Lord, that we might resist that which draws us away from good and fair judgment.

We humbly ask You to strengthen our courage and resolve to stand up for those issues we know to be just. We ask You, Father, to protect and watch over those who are today in harm's way that we might continue to do our work. Console the families of those heroes, domestic and abroad, who sacrifice their very lives that we might be free. For that freedom and Your love we are truly grateful.

Thank You, Father, for the gift of responsibility that You give to each of us as leaders of this great Nation.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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

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

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTIERREZ 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 up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GOVERNOR PERDUE OF GEORGIA PRAYS FOR RAIN

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This morning, the Washington Times has a story about the Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, praying for rain. The Governor said, and I quote, "It's time to appeal to Him who can and will make a difference."

I find that ironic, coming from the Governor of the State of Georgia, a State that has no realistic plan about how it's going to use its water resources, has no understanding of what

the demands are for the work that they have in place right now.

The good Lord might say, Sonny, why did you have a huge artificial snow mountain so people can ski in Georgia in the middle of the summer in the middle of a drought?

"I believe in miracles," one minister said. Perhaps that would be one solution.

But maybe it's time for people to respect and carefully use what God has given them. The good Lord does help those who help themselves.

SECURITY AT O'HARE AIRPORT

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to address a new development surrounding our Nation's airports. I represent Illinois' Sixth Congressional District, which is the home of Chicago O'Hare International Airport. O'Hare is the world's second busiest airport, and a week ago agents from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Unit, a division of Homeland Security known as ICE, as well as Cook County sheriffs deputies, raided warehouses and secured areas at O'Hare, arresting over 27 alleged illegal aliens who had received fraudulent identification badges from a local employment agency. These illegal individuals had access to the tarmac, to cargo, as well as other secure areas putting them in direct contact with aircraft.

That is why I am an original cosponsor of legislation introduced by my friend and colleague, Mr. KIRK from Illinois.

It gives authority for any airport Federal security director to designate airport areas that he or she certifies as a critical area for transportation security as a special security zone. Once an

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area at an airport is declared a security zone, it is off-limits to illegal aliens.

Once an area at an airport is declared a "special security zone" only the airport's Federal Security Director can issue security badges to these zones.

This legislation also states that only U.S. Nationals who have been cleared by Basic Pilot Program verification system can be given security access badges to these zones.

We must be tough when it comes to airport security because it is our first line in defense here at home against terrorists who want to kill more Americans.

I ask my fellow colleague in the House to join me in securing our airports and cosponsor this vital piece of legislation.

OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, more than 21,000 foreign-born men and women currently serve on active duty, willing to die in defense of our Nation. U.S. Navy Second Class Petty Officer Eduardo Gonzalez is one of these brave men, a naturalized U.S. citizen who has served two tours in the gulf region. Despite his valiant service, Eduardo Gonzalez faces the deportation of his wife Mildred. At age 5, she was brought here from Guatemala. Now, in addition to confronting enemies from abroad, Gonzalez must confront a threat at home, losing the wife and mother of their 2-year-old child.

In his testimony before the Immigration Subcommittee, Gonzalez stated: As a citizen of the United States of America, it makes me wonder, if I can die for my country, then why am I not allowed to just be with my family?

Like Petty Officer Gonzalez, immigrant soldiers fight with vigor and valor to protect the American Dream. All of those who serve, regardless of country of origin, are recognized as American heroes. As heroes, they deserve an immigration policy worthy of their sacrifices and nothing less.

KNOW WHO WORKS AT O'HARE

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, you do not need a valid Social Security number to get a job at America's busiest airport. Recently, Federal inspectors reported that screeners at O'Hare Airport also missed 60 percent of all bomb test kits designed to test the screeners. The Justice Department then found three dozen illegal aliens using expired airport security badges. Authorities had no idea who the real identity was of workers with direct access to civil aircraft. This is not the way to run America's busiest airport.

Later today, Representatives ROSKAM, BIGGERT, and I will introduce legislation creating Federal security

zones where only badged and approved United States citizens can work next to an aircraft. Everyone at the airport Federal security zone will have a background check and have a valid, real Social Security number.

You would think the Transportation Security Agency would know who is working at American airports. Our bill would help implement that common-sense solution.

IN HONOR OF PFC MATTHEW T. SPAULDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a brave American who is serving our country with distinction. Private First Class Matthew T. Spaulding of Bluffton, South Carolina, was a recent recipient of the Army's Bronze Star with Valor for his heroic actions in Afghanistan. The former Bluffton High School quarterback has been deployed since January as an Army medic.

On June 9th, PFC Spaulding was on patrol with his unit when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. Suffering several wounds himself, Spaulding was able to come to the aid of one of his comrades who was severely injured. Through his quick and selfless action in the face of danger, Spaulding was able to save his fellow soldier's life.

The Bronze Star with Valor is awarded to a soldier who has performed an act of heroism in combat. It is the fourth highest combat medal awarded to members of the armed services.

I am grateful for PFC Spaulding's service, and for all the brave men and women who are fighting to protect our freedoms around the world.

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

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SCHIP AND CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTATION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support a strong reauthorization of the SCHIP program that prevents additional loss of health care access to U.S. citizen children.

Medicaid citizenship documentation created by the Deficit Reduction Act has caused citizen children to lose access to health care. Low-income white and black U.S. citizen children, not Latino citizens, are disproportionately affected. Documentation requirements are extremely burdensome to low-income families who often lack the resources to pay for that documentation.

In Alabama, Kansas and Virginia, Medicaid enrollment declined by a larger percentage among white and black children than among Latino children who were U.S. citizens.

The Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services and the past administrator of CMS concurred that there is no substantial evidence that undocumented immigrants are committing fraud in order to receive Medicaid.

Citizenship documentation, as implemented, is a flawed policy based on inaccurate assumptions that adversely affect our children's health.

I urge my colleagues to allow that we enforce a good SCHIP program. Take care of those 10 million children.

FREE TO MOVE ABOUT THE COUNTRY-ILLEGALLY

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it is illegal to drive a vehicle without a legal driver's license. Illegals, who aren't even supposed to be here, broke the law to get here, and they break it every day by staying here.

Some States pander to illegals and encourage them to stay. Seven States: Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, New Mexico, Utah and Washington, issue legal driver's licenses to illegals. These illegals then can use the driver's license to travel to other States, set up credit, obtain free social services, and in some States that don't verify citizenship, use these licenses to vote. Thus, these States encourage illegals to stay here. This is an absurd policy that gives the same recognition status to illegals that should be reserved only to citizens and legal immigrants.

We need stricter requirements for driver's licenses, not more lax enforcement. The 9/11 terrorists used fake driver's licenses to "move about the country freely." So States that promote violation of Federal immigration policy by issuing these driver's licenses to illegals should lose Federal transportation highway funds.

Millions for border security, not one cent to highways for illegals.

And that's just the way it is.

DEACON BOB LITTLE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I'm honored that Deacon Bob Little, from my home parish and hometown of St. Helena, is serving as today's guest chaplain.

Deacon Little has had a lifetime of exemplary service to our country. He's a 26-year veteran of the Air Force, achieved the rank of major, and served in Vietnam, Panama and eastern Saudi Arabia.

He's also served the community in Napa County. He was a deputy sheriff