

short time in her post as Chair of the Committee on House Administration. It would have been wonderful for we who work here and for our Nation if we had been privileged to see more.

As it is now, we welcome our sister to her rest in the bosom of her Lord and we pray for comfort and peace for James, her husband, and their five children and grandchildren, and we thank her for her friendship and commitment to the House, to her constituents, and to her country. She served us proudly and well, and she will be well remembered.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS) at noon.

PRAYER

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

In the end it is faith that proves victorious. Days come and go. Wars and famine cry out for justice, charity and peace. It is faith which helps us all respond to every call. It is faith that strengthens Your people for the struggle and, in the end, brings promise beyond the sacrifice.

Lord God, as faith inspired the apostles and martyrs and all who have gone before us, let living faith now find expression in us through acts of love that will excite hope, especially in the hearts of the poor and the fragile.

Help the Members of Congress and all Americans make decisions today that will build a justice that will not fail tomorrow. With faith, enable them to set aside goods of the present moment in the hope of attaining eternal good. With faith, it is possible to hope to change the present for the future.

We pray for the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald and all Your servants who have served You and Your people in public service. With faith, they can leave this place and find in You eternal reward. The free children of God are always on the move, both 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 175

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald, late a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns or recesses today, it stand adjourned or recessed as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Representative.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1681. An act to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84 and Public Law 106-292, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the One Hundred and Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).
The Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN).

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by S. Res. 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105-275, further amended by S. Res. 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), amended by S. Res. 383 (adopted October 27, 2000), and amended by S. Res. 355 (adopted November 13, 2002), and further amended by S. Res. 480 (adopted November 20, 2004), the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, announces the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred and Tenth Congress:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), Administrative Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), Co-Chairman.

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), Co-Chairman.

DEMOCRATS' IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL BILL DENIES PRESIDENT AN OPEN COMMITMENT AND BLANK CHECK

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, this week Congress will vote on an emergency war spending conference report that fully funds the war and our troops, and yet the President is still threatening a veto. The President's problem with the bill is Congress' strong message that we are not going to allow the war to go on indefinitely.

In years past, the President has dealt with Republican-controlled Congresses, which simply rubber-stamped his requests, despite countless mistakes in Iraq. Last November, the American people demanded a change.

Last month the Congress acted and brought a serious change to our policy in Iraq. We demanded that the Iraqi Government meet the political and economic benchmarks that the President himself outlined earlier this year and set timelines for withdrawal if those benchmarks are not met.

Defense Secretary Gates himself, last week, said that the timelines we passed here in Congress and the pressure that our legislation exerts on the Iraqi Government is having a positive impact. Our legislation is already impacting the events in Iraq. The President should allow this to continue by reconsidering his threat to veto the legislation.

THE IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our troops who are still waiting for critical funding needed to fight the war on terror. I want to make sure the American people understand what is happening with legislation that provides money for our soldiers.

Instead of passing a clean bill the President could sign into law, the Democrats chose to pass a political statement that ties troop funding to arbitrary withdrawal deadlines, and it's loaded with earmarks. The Democrats have even dragged their feet on their own legislation, taking a 2-week recess without funding our troops and spending another week in Washington bickering over a bill that they know that the President will veto.

Why are we playing politics with money for our soldiers? Our troops can't win this war with political rhetoric. They need money, they need supplies, and they have been waiting over

70 days since the President made the request, I call on this House to pass a clean bill, get it to the President's desk, so we can give our war fighters the tools that they need to achieve victory.

SCHIP

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

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

My home State of Pennsylvania is a model for this widely successful program. Our distinguished former Governor, the late Robert P. Casey, knew how important it was for Pennsylvania's children to have access to quality, affordable health care.

By meeting the health care needs of our children, we are better preparing them to be healthy adults. Numerous studies have shown that children with health insurance perform better in school and have higher attendance rates. Every child deserves a chance to grow up healthy and strong.

As the proud father of five, I know personally how important it is to have access to doctors, pharmacists and hospitals that your family can trust. Unfortunately, not all families have this security. Children without insurance are sometimes forced to delay treatment or put off preventive care entirely.

Our working families deserve better quality health care for their children. This is not a partisan issue. Rather, providing our children with health care should be a top priority for this Congress. Since its enactment in 1997, SCHIP has been enormously successful in reducing the number of uninsured children across the country.

HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS WITH CREATIVE FEDERALISM

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this week is "Cover the Uninsured Week," highlighting the fact that the health and well-being of our Nation's future is at stake.

Over 45 million Americans will be without health insurance at some point during this year. It's past time that Washington helps find real solutions to this very real problem. With colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in the House and Senate, we have introduced legislation that will begin to take a meaningful approach to bringing down the cost of health care and help cover all Americans.

The Health Partnership through Creative Federalism Act, H.R. 506, empowers individual States and regions to develop unique solutions to fit the needs of their citizens. We are fighting to put the needs of patients first.

Unlike many other proposals, our reform rejects a one-size-fits-all model. The inflexibility of such an antiquated approach has continually proven ineffective in addressing individual health care needs. Working together, we can find a way to provide health care coverage for all Americans, so that American families will have a brighter and healthier future.

AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to address my concerns for the 5.4 million Texans who are without health insurance. Nearly 25 percent of Texans are uninsured. That's the highest rate in the entire country. The irony is that Dallas and other cities have great health care networks.

The problem is that of access to care. In Dallas, there are many examples of health care excellence, including Parkland Memorial Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center, Methodist Medical Center, UT Southwestern Medical School, the Dallas Veterans Administration Medical Center, and others.

However, the price of insurance is robbing Texans of access to the appropriate medical care. Emergency rooms are overcrowded. Only half of Texas children are covered by employment-based insurance.

We must fix the problem of the uninsured. Affordable, accessible health care coverage should be available to every American. Health care should not be a cash cow for the insurance companies.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as President Bush said yesterday, this is a tough time in Iraq.

This week our Congress will hear from our commander in Baghdad, General David Petraeus, here on Capitol Hill. I suspect we will hear what I heard from General Petraeus on the streets of Baghdad just 3 weeks ago. That is, despite a wave of recent insurgent bombing, this war is not lost.

In fact, because of the President's surge and the brave conduct of our forces and the Iraqi forces, we are making modest progress in Iraq. In Baghdad, despite recent bombings, sectarian violence is down. Baghdad is not safe, but it is safer because of the presence of more than two dozen U.S. and Iraqi joint operating centers, and now more than 20 Sunni sheiks across the Al Anbar Province have united together to oppose the insurgency and al Qaeda.

I truly believe that we are making progress because of the President's

surge. This war is not lost. The American people know in their hearts that victory is our only option.

Let's give General Petraeus a willing ear, the time and the resources and the authority to secure a victory for freedom in Iraq, for ourselves and our posterity.

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today we observe Equal Pay Day, the day that indicates just how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year.

Women are more highly educated and productive than ever, yet these gains have not yet translated into equal pay across the board. A Government Accountability Office study that JOHN DINGELL and I sponsored showed that when occupation, marital status, job tenure, industry and race are accounted for, women still earn eighty cents for every dollar men earn.

This wage gap extends across all income levels and occupations, and it's even wider for minority women. There is no excuse for this gap between men and women. Both men and women must feed their families and pay their rent. Let's pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and close the gender wage gap for good.

VICTIMS SHOULD BE SEEN AND HEARD

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, to support National Crime Victims Week, the Washington Post printed an opinion piece submitted by a criminal defense lawyer that belittled victims of crime, implying that victims are what is wrong with the criminal justice system and our society.

It seems the op-ed writer does not believe the criminal justice system should pay any attention to victims. To him, crime victims should not be seen and not heard. However, the same Constitution that protects defendants also protects victims of crime.

Justice is viewed as a scale, a balance. As a former judge, I always balanced the rights of defendants with the rights of society to be safe and the rights of crime victims. A court of law is to seek justice, justice for defendants and justice for victims.

Sometimes defendants don't want justice, especially the guilty ones. They think it's Burger King, where they can have it their way. But justice is not having it your way. It's doing the right thing for the right reason. The right thing is for victims to be heard and present in our courts of law, and then let the courts weigh the rights of the defendants and victims to achieve justice so that we can have liberty and justice for all.