

roof over all the earth, so it seems from the viewpoint of Capitol Hill. Spring breezes contain a purity this side of tragic tornados. Yet the news, like unseen pollen, carries life and discomfort for some in the same moment.

Why, O Lord, is the world such a mixture of good and evil? 24/7 communication wires the mind with stories of victory and devastation so quickly that human perception must choose its ground.

Help national government, Lord, admit limitations even before it discerns a problem or conducts another hearing. Free choice and determined truth must find a balance if pluralistic democracy is to stand.

So we humbly lay before You, Lord, God of heaven and earth, the freshness of a new day, and seek Your blessing upon those who cultivate a culture and plan a future for us 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BOUSTANY 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.

RISE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Ford Motor Company has announced the closing of a casting plant in Cleveland where they're going to be outsourcing their engine casting business, and idling production at another engine plant for a year.

We are seeing all these blue collar jobs outsourced in this country, and many white collar jobs as well. We're losing millions of manufacturing jobs. And it's not enough to just let this slide by without trying to challenge it.

We have to have a new manufacturing policy in America where the maintenance of steel, automotive and aerospace is considered to be vital to our national economic security.

We have to have a new not-for-profit health care system which covers all workers, so American businesses are not collapsed by the high cost of health insurance.

And we have to have a new trade policy, which means the end of NAFTA

and the WTO, and the beginning of trade based on workers rights, human rights and environmental quality principles.

Our community in Cleveland is going to rally behind our auto workers. We're going to do everything we can to see if it's possible to save those plants and to make it possible to find ways of using those plants. But all across this country, we have to rise to meet this challenge.

AL QAEDA'S PRESENCE IN IRAQ

(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 other side of the aisle is going to great lengths to make the case for retreat in Iraq. It seems they'll even ignore the facts if it helps their case.

For some time now, the other side has been saying that the war in Iraq is not part of the war on terror but a distraction from it.

Mr. Speaker, the latest video released by al Qaeda's number two operative clears that up. In this latest rant calling for our destruction, Ayman al Zawahiri calls the violence in Iraq a jihad. He optimistically states that the situation in Iraq "is moving from the stage of defeat of the crusader invaders to the stage of consolidating a Mujahid Islamic Emirate."

He goes on to proclaim that this victory for the terrorists will "raise the banner of Jihad."

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we are fighting al Qaeda terrorists in Iraq. And if we are unwilling to defeat them there, where exactly will we do so?

Mr. Speaker, when we are honest about who we are fighting in Iraq, the implication becomes clear: We must win in Iraq.

BACK AT SQUARE ONE

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush vetoed the Iraqi supplemental. I am disappointed that the President did not attempt to work with us here in Congress prior to his veto. We are now back at square one.

The American people want a new direction for Iraq. Our current strategy is not working, with more sectarian violence spreading throughout Iraq each and every day. If a solution will be reached in this conflict, the Iraqi government must take more responsibility for their future.

The U.S. commitment to end the war in Iraq cannot be open-ended. We must put pressure on the Iraqi government to make political, economical and diplomatic reforms. So far these reforms have not been made, and little progress has been shown by the Iraqi government.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the Iraqi war and we talk about terrorism, Iraq did not have terrorists there until we went in, did not do our job in the first several months, and that is why we have terrorism in Iraq today. We must defeat it. We must bring our boys home.

Let the Iraqi government now take care of their own problems.

SUPPORT H. CON. RES. 133

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, many Americans lack protection from catastrophic long-term care expenses related to chronic illnesses and disabilities. Worse yet, many of these families assume Medicare will pay for long-term care services, while it generally does not.

Despite funding from Congress for long-term care education activities, the Department of Health and Human Services has done little to inform families and caregivers of this confusion.

HHS has neglected to clarify these Medicare misperceptions with at least 90 percent of households contacted through its long-term care awareness direct mail campaign. HHS has a duty to use other communication methods to inform families.

I recently introduced a bipartisan resolution with Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN to encourage Secretary Leavitt to be more proactive on this issue, so Americans can have greater independence, choice and control over the services they need in the setting they prefer.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 133.

DEMOCRATS' BUDGET PRIORITIZES NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, when the Democrats took control of Congress this year, we pledged that the voices of children would become a top priority for a change. This month Democrats will complete a final budget that meets our commitment to our children and abides by tough pay-as-you-go rules we reinstated in January.

This new Congress has a responsibility to clean up the fiscal mess that we inherited. Deficits matter. Over the last 6 years, the choice to live beyond our means has come at a great expense to our children who will be forced to pay off that debt. The Democratic budget says, enough with deficit spending. Unlike the President's budget, ours will be balanced within the next 5 years.

First, we increase funding for our children's health care by \$50 billion

over the next 5 years, which will allow States to ensure millions of children who are now uninsured. And then we will provide \$7.9 billion over the President's budget for education funding so we can really mean it when we say, No child left behind.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, enshrined in the first amendment of the Constitution are these words: "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."

Nevertheless, in the last two decades, we have seen a troubling increase in the number of occasions where reporters have faced threats of subpoena, subpoenas and even jail time for refusing to reveal confidential sources.

Mr. Speaker, compelling reporters to testify and compelling them to reveal the identity of their confidential sources is a detriment to the public interest. And last week, my colleague, Congressman RICK BOUCHER of Virginia, along with a distinguished bipartisan group of original cosponsors, introduced the Free Flow of Information Act, which would protect a reporter's right to keep confidential sources confidential.

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press.

I urge all of my colleagues to give due consideration to this bipartisan legislation. Let us put a stitch in this tear in the first amendment freedom of the press. I urge cosponsorship of the Free Flow of Information Act.

ACCOUNTABILITY HAS RETURNED

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

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, accountability has returned to Washington with a new Congress that takes its oversight responsibilities very seriously.

In the past 4 months, Congress has conducted over 180 oversight hearings on issues very important to the American people. These are not just hearings; they're hearings that have led to action.

Walter Reed: Since we concluded our hearing, we determined on a bipartisan basis after the information came out that more money was needed. We put \$1.7 billion to make certain that we would take care of our wounded warriors.

Congress now continues to oversee the ever-changing U.S. attorney scandal. The American people absolutely must have confidence that the U.S. Attorney's Office is about enforcing the

law, not making it up as they go along or pursuing outcomes for partisan political reasons.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have real accountability without congressional oversight, and this is one of the ways the new Democratic Congress is changing the way that we do business here in Washington.

H.R. 1595, GUAM WORLD WAR II LOYALTY RECOGNITION ACT

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

Mr. FORTUÑO. Mr. Speaker, three former Republican Governors from Guam; in addition to the current Governor, Felix Camacho; two former Democratic Guam Governors; one former Republican Guam Delegate; two former Guam Delegates; and the current Delegate from Guam, MADELEINE BORDALLO, have all fought for fair treatment for the patriotic people of Guam who endured nearly 3 years of brutal enemy occupation during World War II.

In addition, the 109th Republican-controlled Congress, the Resources Committee, chaired by Congressman Richard Pombo; the Judiciary Committee, chaired by Mr. SENSENBRENNER, both acted in a bipartisan effort to favorably pass legislation to give parity to Guam.

Acknowledging the patriotism of the people of Guam, who were American nationals, throughout Guam's occupation has been a bipartisan effort for decades.

This issue is about patriotism; certainly not about partisanship. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1595 when it comes up for a vote today.

NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Today is National Teacher's Day, a day which is very important to me and my family.

This year's theme for National Teacher's Day is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools." And I know that's true.

I had wonderful teachers in the Jefferson County public schools, and those teachers had a tremendous impact on my life.

Our three daughters are products of Jefferson County public schools, and my sister is a public school teacher.

Few other professionals touch as many people as teachers do. Teachers are our role models, our confidants, our taskmasters and our moral compass.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to invest in our schools, reduce class sizes and ensure that our teachers have the tools and resources they need to give our children the high quality education necessary to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BILLINGS, MONTANA

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing legislation to recognize the 125th anniversary of the City of Billings, Montana. First discovered by Lewis and Clark on the famous expedition, Billings is now the most populous city in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region of the United States.

I know for many U.S. cities, 125 years isn't very long. However, for Billings, these years have created a rich history that stretches beyond its age.

Historically, Billings has been the gateway to the Pacific northwest. Even its name, which originated with the former president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Frederic Billings, is a description of the city's historical role as an important railway link to the northwest.

Billings has also been home to many notable people. For instance, in 1907, famous cowboy, author and illustrator, Will James came to Billings, where he lived and worked for years. Finally, the city is home to the oldest higher education institution in the State of Montana, Rocky Mountain College.

Today the city serves as an example of an all-American city through both its flourishing economy and its continued growth. I congratulate the city of Billings, Montana, and its years of rich history.

KEEPING OUR CONTRACT WITH OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Mr. FILNER. When the Democrats became the majority of this Congress earlier this year, we promised to keep our contract with our Nation's veterans, to keep our contract.

So how have we done during the first four months as Democrats? Wherever we stand on the war, wherever we stand on the war, we are committed to make sure that every young man and woman who returns from that war gets all the care, the love, the attention, the honor, respect and dignity that this Nation can bestow.

And in the first three budget bills that went by this House, in the last 3 months, we were able to add over last year's total over \$13 billion for veterans health care; \$13 billion, that's almost a 30 percent increase over last year. The biggest in the history of the Veterans' Administration.

And we're going to use that money to make sure that the terrible brain-injured veterans that come back, those who have physical scars or mental scars (PTSD, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) will get all the care that an advanced Nation can give.

As a nation, we are not doing our job now, but we Democrats are committed to making sure the job is done.