

so starting by focusing on the food stamp program.

The food stamp program is our government's first line of defense against hunger and malnutrition and it should be better equipped to accomplish that task. Merely 60 percent of those who are eligible to receive food stamps currently do, and in Massachusetts that participation rate is only 49 percent. The participation rate is particularly low for immigrants and the elderly.

Last week, Congresswoman EMERSON and I introduced H.R. 2129, the Feeding America's Families Act, which would greatly improve the food stamp program as well as other Federal hunger and nutrition programs scheduled for reauthorization in the farm bill. We encourage each of our colleagues to consider cosponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, although some judge the health of our Nation by how the wealthiest are faring, others, including myself, believe we must measure the morality and prosperity of our society by the status and mobility of those at the bottom of the economic ladder. Through this challenge, I hope my constituents, the American people and my colleagues in Washington, DC, will learn more about the vital role the food stamp program plays in the lives of low-income people.

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 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Don Green, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign of the nations, who has created the human family with rich diversity and who wills that all peoples be reconciled and live in peace and wholeness with dignity and justice, we call upon You to bestow Your wisdom and compassion upon these representatives of the American people.

Grant them humility and openness to listen to their opponents and adversaries before condemning their positions or denigrating their person. Give them courage to seek reconciliation with our enemies, encouraging negotiation and diplomacy instead of violence as the means to lasting peace in our conflicted world.

Open their eyes to a vision of a more just society where all may enjoy the

benefits of wellness and health, adequate shelter, food in abundance, lifelong learning, and security in their communities.

Hear us now, O God, as we pray for the preservation of this legislative institution and the prospering of our Nation, for we trust in You and entrust our whole being to Your providential care. 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS 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 has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DON GREEN

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to introduce Pastor Donald Green as today's Guest Chaplain. I have known Pastor Green for many years through our involvement in the McCandless Rotary Club, which is just one of the many service organizations to which Pastor Green lends his time in western Pennsylvania. He is truly an extraordinary man, and it is an honor to present him to you today.

Pastor Green has led a number of trips abroad to assist in various relief efforts. His travels have taken him to Kenya and Zambia to visit projects funded by the Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Federation. In 1997 he visited missions in India, and in 1999 he took a group of volunteers to Puerto Rico to assist in hurricane relief. He also led a group of volunteers to Madagascar to lay the foundation for a youth center, which now bears his

name, the Pastor Don Green Youth Center. These are but a few examples of Pastor Green's commitment to his community and commitment to service above self.

Pastor Green now serves as the Executive Director of Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania. He and Kathy, his wife of 36 years, are the proud parents of three children and one grandson.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House, Pastor Green, welcome and thank you for your many years of service.

TIME FOR A NEW COURSE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it seems that President Bush and many of his allies still don't understand how things have changed on the ground in Iraq.

A few days ago the Republican leader, when asked about the President's new escalation plan, said that if it doesn't work, the President pretty soon is going to have to present to Congress and the American people what plan B is.

Well, there are very few people that don't realize by now that we are not on plan B anymore; we are on plan Z. And we have got to start asking ourselves why plan A and plan B all the way through plan Z still haven't worked. It is because a military plan, without diplomatic and political reinforcements behind it, cannot work on the ground in Iraq. That is what the Democrats in Congress have realized. That is what the Iraq Study Group realized. That is what legions of retired generals have realized.

Madam Speaker, it is time the President and his allies join that hegemony of opinion and join us in setting a new course in Iraq.

NATIONAL SECURITY, DEMOCRAT STYLE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, later this week the liberal left in the House will take up the Defense Authorization Act, legislation that is supposed to make our Nation more secure and help our troops in winning the war on terror.

But you will have to excuse the American people if they don't understand the leadership's real agenda here, because you actually have to read through 452 pages of the National Defense Authorization Act to find it. Subtitle F, section 951 reveals all you really need to know: a significant diversion of national security resources to indulge the liberal fascination with global climate change.

The language paints an unwelcomed portrait of the liberal left's agenda on

national security: Wax philosophical about the so-called impact of global warming first and, only after that, talk about the real issue of the war on terror. This is the second time in as many weeks that the left plans to force this body to vote on a bill that would fund special interest priorities at the expense of our national security. It is unconscionable. It is unfair. It is not right. It is an abusive use of Federal funds.

Welcome to national security, Democrat style.

URGING SUPPORT FOR RESPONSIBILITY TO IRAQI REFUGEE ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, Iraq is the scene of the world's fastest growing humanitarian crisis: 4 million people displaced, half of whom have fled the country altogether, with another 50,000 or more added to the rolls every month.

What are we doing to help, especially the tens of thousands who are in danger because they helped the United States, like serving as interpreters? Last month the United States allowed exactly one Iraqi refugee to enter the United States.

No matter what your position is on the war in Iraq or its future, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2265, the Responsibility to Iraqi Refugee Act, comprehensive legislation that would put somebody in charge, set modest levels for refugees entitled to come to our country, and authorize programs to help them. It is the least we can do for people whose lives are at risk because they helped Americans.

PAT PEDRAJA AND DRIVING FOR DONORS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very brave and ambitious young man from my district, Pat Pedraja.

Pat, who is 12 years old, was diagnosed with leukemia in March of 2006. Like many inflicted with this disease, Pat may need a bone marrow transplant to save his life. Unfortunately, there is currently a shortage of donors.

When Pat discovered this shortage, he decided to do something about it. He and his family organized "Driving for Donors" to help add 5,000 new donors to the National Marrow Registry Program this year. They began traveling the country last month in a "Donormobile," working to host successful donor drives in over 30 major cities. Tomorrow they will be in Washington.

I encourage my colleagues to take the time out of your busy schedules to help save a life. It only takes a small donation of saliva, taken by a cheek

swab, and completion of a donor consent form. Please contact my office for additional details.

THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PROPOSAL

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, last year U.S. foreign oil imports climbed to a record level of 66 percent. American families are paying a record \$3.09 a gallon on average for regular gasoline, more than double the cost of gasoline when President Bush took office.

For 6 years now, the President has failed to address these costs or our Nation's energy needs.

Yesterday, under pressure to finally do something, President Bush announced an executive order to develop regulations to lower vehicle emissions before he leaves office in 2009.

This is too little, too late. The administration has had 6 years to act, and they have failed. They failed to address the energy concerns of our Nation while giving big tax breaks to the oil and gas industry.

Fortunately, we have a new Democratic Congress that is going to lead our Nation towards energy independence. We are determined to find ways to be more energy efficient, to bring new, safer, less expensive, homegrown sources of energy to American families and American businesses, and we will start now by bringing a comprehensive energy bill to the House floor in July that will drive down costs and meet our Nation's future energy needs.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM MUST BEGIN WITH AFFIRMATION OF THE RULE OF LAW

(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, on immigration reform the halls of Congress are abuzz with rumors of a "grand compromise" on the issue of illegal immigration. There is talk of a proposal that would allow millions of illegal immigrants to remain in this country by merely paying a fine.

Let me say emphatically, Madam Speaker, amnesty is no bargain for the American people. Any effort at comprehensive immigration reform must begin by rejecting amnesty, will put border security first, and not implement any type of temporary worker program until border security measures have been undertaken and completed. And once a temporary worker program begins, we must require that every person who has come into this country illegally leave the United States and apply outside of our country for the legal right to live and work

here. And if they come under the color of the law, we must require temporary workers to learn the language of the American people.

In addition, serious fines and an electronic verification system must ensure a full partnership between American business and the American government in enforcing our immigration laws.

The real grand bargain for the American people is comprehensive immigration reform that begins with an affirmation of the rule of law.

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SUPPORTING COPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today that the House will vote to reauthorize the successful COPS program, and I commend our leadership for bringing H.R. 1700 to the floor.

The Community Oriented Policing Services program has allowed our law enforcement agencies to hire over 100,000 police officers nationwide. This has led to significantly reduced crime rates between 1995 and 2005. Unfortunately, the hiring component of this grant program has not been funded in recent years and the program overall has taken severe cuts.

Post-9/11, we have asked our State and local law enforcement agencies to protect not only our communities from crime, but to protect our homeland as well. We cannot continue to put unfunded mandates on our local police forces and expect them to also provide protection from terrorism if we are not willing to provide the Federal aid for them to do so. If Congress fails to fund the hiring of additional peace officers, we risk losing the progress we have made in crime reduction. We must keep pressure up on crime.

By helping to hire local police officers, the COPS program helps our State and local law enforcement bust drug-trafficking rings, take down domestic meth labs, and keep our communities safe.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1700, the COPS Reauthorization Act of 2007.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to join with millions across this Nation who applaud the Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold the ban on partial-birth abortion.

Partial-birth abortion is unrivaled in its gruesome brutality. There is no question it has caused the vicious destruction of viable human life, babies, whose only crime is inconvenience.

The Court's decision is a victory in the quest to restore basic human dignity and human life. No longer will the