

grave site of President George Washington.

Galen's wife Sandy has led worship at Camp David for President and Mrs. George Herbert Walker Bush. Today Galen and Sandy are celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary as well as their oldest daughter Whitney's 30th birthday.

Reverend Hahn has invested his life's energy in service to God and country and the oneness of these two entities.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming Reverend Galen Hahn to the House of Representatives as our guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the House that on July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the farm bill in its current form is a missed opportunity to strengthen family farms while reforming American agriculture. The bill coming out of committee is absolutely the least that can be done.

Long overdue support for specialty crops is welcome, but a relative drop in the bucket in terms of overall agricultural spending. Conservation is honored more in word than deed, and the massive payments to the wealthiest few farmers are virtually unrestricted. The new adjusted gross income limit of \$900,000 is almost meaningless, the proof being that it only saves a few million dollars. There is no meaningful limit on rice and cotton farmers, and it sweetens the outrageous deal for Big Sugar. It is sad that it continues to shortchange the family farm, forcing them to compete with heavily subsidized large operators who will continue to buy them out, making it harder for most farmers to make a living.

Luckily for people who eat and people who farm, there still is a chance for reform. And I urge my colleagues to carefully examine the bipartisan amendment from Congressmen KIND, FLAKE, and RYAN.

CONCRETE PROGRESS IN NORTH KOREA

(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. Madam Speaker, last Tuesday the Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, editorialized: "After more than 5 years of impasse and hostility, the patient multinational diplomacy launched by President Bush has borne its first fruit in North Korea. The intricate deal reached last spring for a path to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula is advancing with the shutdown of a reactor that produces plutonium for the dictatorship's nuclear weapons program.

"It signals that North Korea is committed, so far, to a step-by-step bettering of relations with its neighbors and particularly with the United States. The shutdown was confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency."

In 2003, I participated in a rare delegation visiting Pyongyang, and I am grateful that "the six-nation framework devised by Mr. Bush and ably hosted by China . . . has led to the current progress." I saw firsthand where North Korea can benefit by opening its economy.

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

THE WORKERS OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS AREA AND THE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, the workers of the greater New Orleans area, in large part, are hospitality industry workers. These hardworking men and women greet the world with wide smiles and warm embraces as they welcome millions of tourists and conference attendees to the metropolitan New Orleans area. These workers make sure that the hotel rooms, the restaurants, and other places of rest and recreation are clean, safe, and comfortable.

But behind this public veneer lies another story, a story of the difficult lives of the working poor. These hardworking people never have a chance to take a vacation for themselves, or attend a conference, or benefit from the delights that they make it possible for their city and region to offer. Their wages never crack the poverty level. They are not unionized and have few, if any, job benefits.

So I rise today to applaud the work of this Congress, this new majority, for taking a big step in the right direction by increasing the minimum wage. For the low-wage workers in my area, it means that the nightmare of the single longest stretch in our Nation's history without a minimum wage increase is ending. It means that many of the workers in our area will have a little more food on the table, a little more in the way of resources to house and care for their families, and a lot more dignity.

For this, we thank this Congress.

PLANNED DEFEAT

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the war in Iraq is the most difficult and important issue facing our Nation today. The stakes there are simply too high for us to ignore the consequences of failure. Most military analysts agree that an arbitrary immediate withdrawal from Iraq would spiral that country and the surrounding region into chaos.

Failing to secure Iraq will provide a fertile ground for terrorist actions that affect not only Iraq, but America and the rest of the free world. Extremist organizations will tout an American retreat as a major victory for terrorism. Once again saying that America doesn't ever have the stomach to finish a war. Terrorist leaders will make use of a fractured Iraq to train, equip, and provide sanctuary for their forces in much the same way that Afghanistan provided a haven for the Taliban and al Qaeda. Radicals will exploit the anarchy and abandon Iraq and will seek to spread jihadist movements to moderate Arab States. Arbitrary withdrawal will only encourage our enemy.

War is hard, but a planned defeat by retreat is hardly an answer to success. And that's just the way it is.

SCHIP

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, Republicans and Democrats throughout the Nation agree no child in our Nation should go without health care. In States across the country, Democratic and Republican Governors have supported strengthening the Children's Health Insurance Program. In the Senate, Republicans have come forward and said they support the Democratic plan to give millions of children health care.

Now the only question is whether our Republican colleagues here in the House will join our effort to give 10 million children the care they need and deserve. Remember, this is the same guarantee our own children have. The kids of Congress men and women get the health care they need and the health care they deserve. The question is are we going to provide that for our constituents' children?

The Children's Health Insurance Program has broad bipartisan political support, and we are on the brink of providing 10 million children that quality care. That is millions of children who will be able to see a doctor they deserve when they are sick. And it is millions of children and their families who aren't interested in our political battles or political posturing that won't heal a sick child or give them comfort when they are ill.

Republican Senators have stepped forward. Now the children across America and their parents are waiting on this Congress to act. And the question is, will this Congress give our constituents' children the same health care that their own children have?

DUTY CALLS US TO BE MORE THAN "SUNSHINE PATRIOTS"

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

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, during the War of Independence, Paine said: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from service of their country . . ."

America is again at war, and duty calls us to be more than sunshine patriots.

I have been to Iraq. My son is a Marine captain who has been in Fallujah.

We have heard on the Armed Services Committee from scores of witnesses, liberals and conservatives and everything in between, and no one has offered a plan that is better than what we are currently executing in Iraq, and everyone agrees that a rapid withdrawal of troops will result in civil war and a regional conflict.

If the Democrats have a better plan, let them offer it. Otherwise, let our troops get the job done.

It is politically popular to sound retreat and to play the sunshine patriot, but duty, honor, and country demand that America stand for freedom once again. We must accept nothing less.

URGING REAUTHORIZATION OF SCHIP

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, today House Democrats unveiled the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. It was endorsed by the National Governors Association, a bipartisan group of our Nation's Governors, who just last week asked us for urgent action to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The SCHIP program that we are reauthorizing will ensure that millions of children have access to high-quality, cost-effective health insurance, and it will protect and strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund.

Now, while the President's budget underfunded this program, knocking 1 million children off of the rolls of the SCHIP program, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in a bipartisan effort to show support for the SCHIP program and reauthorize and support the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act.

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PROTECT LAKE MICHIGAN FROM BP DUMPING

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

Mr. KIRK. Today, bipartisan Representatives from Illinois will meet with Bob Malone, the chairman of BP North America. Why? Because Mr. Malone and his team want to increase their dumping of ammonia and suspended solids in our drinking water, Lake Michigan.

BP hired a consultant who told them what they wanted to hear, that despite being one of the most profitable companies on Earth and spending \$3 billion to upgrade their Indiana refinery, they can't find the space to prevent dumping in Lake Michigan.

This morning, the House will take up a bipartisan resolution condemning BP's plan to dump in Lake Michigan. I hope that BP will tell us today that they are reconsidering their plans. I hope they hear the voices of 2,700 Americans in my district that signed a petition against the BP dumping plan. I hope they hear the voice of 19 Republicans and Democrats that asked the EPA to pull the permit.

BP should hear the voice of the House this morning. If not, BP has to understand that our action this morning is only the opening step by action in the Congress to protect Lake Michigan.

DEMOCRATS' EFFORT TO INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE IS PART OF BROADER ECONOMIC AGENDA

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

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, today marks the first time in a decade that those hardworking workers who earn minimum wage will receive a pay raise. Today, around the Nation, workers who have been paid \$5.15 for 10 years will finally get a boost in their pay. This wage increase will directly benefit low-income workers who need it most.

We should never forget that most minimum wage workers are adults who work to support themselves and their families, and many are single mothers who must work several jobs to make ends meet. And while some at the very top are primarily benefiting from the supposed economic recovery, most workers have seen very little economic progress. Average real wages are lower today than they were in 2001, even though productivity is up by 13 percent.

Madam Speaker, this wage increase is a great concrete step by the new Democratic-led Congress toward a broader agenda that will help us not only grow our economy, but ensure that every American benefits from that growth.

HONORING CHASKA, MINNESOTA FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF TOP TEN BEST PLACES TO LIVE

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the community of Chaska, located southwest of the Twin Cities, and a town I'm proud to say is part of Minnesota's Second Congressional District.

Money magazine confirmed what many of us in the great State of Minnesota already knew by naming Chaska as one of the top 10 best places to live in America. Money magazine accurately describes Chaska as having both beauty and brains. A stroll downtown Chaska by City Square Park brings to life images from Norman Rockwell paintings, depicting all that is good about small town America. Chaska's small 19th-century downtown quickly yields to open fields, farmland and the Minnesota River. It is also home to innovation, with more than a dozen technology and biotech companies. It is no wonder why this town is a magnet for families who can find reasonably priced homes, low taxes and quality schools.

Congratulations again to the entire community of Chaska for earning this prestigious distinction. We in Minnesota's Second District are proud.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, in this body, where we often discuss proposals to allocate millions or billions of dollars, it can become easy to lose sight of what just a few thousand dollars a year can do. But the increase in the minimum wage, the first part of which takes effect today, will make a major difference in the lives of America's working families. The extra \$4.40 per year that these families will bring home to their families will have a very tangible impact on their lives.

For families who have struggled too long without a raise, \$4.40 a year translates into 15 months of groceries, 19 months of paid utility bills, 20 months of child care, or well over 2 years of employer-provided health care. The extra money could even pay for 30 months of tuition at a public 2-year college, allowing these parents to get additional education or to help their children achieve their dream of attending college.

Madam Speaker, thanks to the Federal minimum wage increase passed by this Democratic Congress, nearly 13 million working Americans and more than 6 million children will have a chance at a better life. This fair and long overdue pay raise is an important first step in moving our Nation in a new economically healthy direction.