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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

House of Representatives

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2007

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: May the Lord bless the Members of Congress as they finalize work in this Chamber, return to their districts, and attend to family members and responsibilities.

Grant them, and all vacationing Americans, safe travel, health and summer delights. May peace reign in their hearts and in their homes, and may true friends be there to welcome them.

May these days of recess be a time of renewal and reflection, so that they return to Congress with new energy, creativity, and a spirit of civility that will bring forth their best instincts for intelligent discourse and human exchange that will model behavior for the Republic and show the world the shape democracy takes when you have government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Because of its unique position in human history today, God bless America now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHIFF). 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.

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

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

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. 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 pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SAR-BANES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAR-BANES 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HUMMER FOR HYBRID

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for years I've been fighting to eliminate a perverse provision in the tax code that actually provided an incentive, a tax break for purchasing the largest, most expensive gas guzzlers, luxury cars weighing over 6,000 pounds. This perverse incentive, hence, the nickname, the "Hummer Loophole," has resisted action for change and has retained its position.

This year, we have, in fact, taken action, not just to close the Hummer Loophole, but to extend benefits to lighter, more fuel-efficient cars and vans for business, while we use some of the savings to create a tax benefit for plug-in hybrids.

Trading Hummers for hybrids. Another important reason to vote for the renewable energy and conservation tax package coming forward today to help us meet the most serious environmental, economic and national security challenges, help us fight global warming, and promote energy efficiency.

CONGRATULATING REPUBLICANS FOR ACTING TO PROTECT AMERICANS

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate congressional Republicans for acting to protect Americans.

Last week we passed, and yesterday the President signed, legislation protecting Americans who in good faith

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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report suspicious terrorist activities. Conservatives successfully fought the liberal leadership of this House to pass the John Doe protection legislation.

On August 1, after the House and Senate acted, the lawyer for the six Muslim clerics who were removed from a U.S. Airways flight last November amended their lawsuit to remove John Doe passengers from the lawsuit. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? That means that the responsible Americans who report suspicious behavior and who will report suspicious behavior in the future no longer have the threat of a lawsuit hanging over their head.

This legislation is already making Americans safer. It means that we can tell Americans that if they see something, they should report it. Our Founding Fathers envisioned it thus. The price of liberty is eternal vigilance. Americans should know that Republicans in Congress are standing behind the vigilant citizens and saying, "I am John Doe."

DEMOCRATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Good Saturday morning. Here we are in the House, and I'm proud to be part of that great Democrat majority in the House of Representatives, and already this year we have passed major bipartisan legislation and won real victories on behalf of the American people.

For example, just last week, many American families received their first pay raise in a decade when the minimum wage increase passed earlier this year. Our Democratic majority also passed strong legislation last week to implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendations and make sure that America is protected from the threat of terrorism.

And this week, the House sent a sweeping lobby and ethics reform measure to the President. This landmark legislation provides the toughest ethics reform in a generation. It will go a long way towards returning this House to its rightful owners, the American people, not special interests.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats have worked very hard to make real progress on issues that are important to American families, and we're proud to be the Democratic majority.

RESTORE ORDER AND PROTECT TAXPAYERS

(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. Mr. Speaker, two nights ago, I joined over 160 Republicans in protesting an unfair power play by the majority. Democrats chose to overturn a vote that would have stopped American taxpayer dollars from being given to illegal aliens.

Republicans tried to amend a funding bill so illegal aliens did not receive Federal money under the legislation. Democrats had already extended taxpayer health insurance to illegal aliens. Republicans want to put a stop to this practice which will limit services to American citizens and benefit illegals who break our laws.

I have had the honor of legislative service for 23 years in the State Senate and Congress, and I have never seen such an abuse of parliamentary rules. Republicans support strong border security and not new benefits for people who break the law.

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

LET THE PEOPLE'S VOICE BE HEARD IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, let the people's voice be heard in the people's House. That voice comes to us every day in letters and e-mails and phone calls from Americans all over this country.

In their stories, millions of Americans are telling us, millions of families with children are telling us that they're struggling to make ends meet every day. And that is why it is incomprehensible that in the richest Nation on Earth, in the year 2007, this President would even threaten to veto the Children's Health Insurance Program, which guarantees health care coverage for America's children.

Mr. Speaker, it only takes 1 minute to convey the hopes and dreams of the American people. They don't want the moon. They don't want the stars. They want a decent life, a healthy life, a life with dignity, and a future for their children. We're trying to make that happen here. We ask the President to do the same.

HONORING SERGEANT JACOB SCHMUECKER

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, Sergeant Jacob Schmuecker was killed in Balad, Iraq, when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle. Jacob leaves behind his wife and their children, 4-year-old Dillon, 3-year-old Kierstan, and 19-month-old Bryce, along with his parents, Rodney and Patricia, four brothers and three sisters.

Sergeant Jacob Schmuecker grew up in the Nebraska towns of Atkinson and Norfolk. He attended West Holt High School and Northeast Community College. He felt a calling to serve, and at the age of 21 enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard.

In September of 2006, Jacob's unit deployed to Iraq. Jacob, the recipient of

numerous decorations for outstanding service, was second in command.

In speaking with Jacob's mother, Patty, last week, she told me that in Jacob's last e-mail he prayed, if something had to happen, that it would happen to him and not one of his fellow soldiers. Perhaps God answered Jacob's prayer. In the infinite mystery of life and death, what is clear is a life worthily lived is marked by selflessness and sacrifice.

Sergeant Jacob Schmuecker gave the ultimate sacrifice out of duty and love of country, and America is forever indebted to him.

DEMOCRATIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, the record of the Democratic Congress demonstrates that we are delivering positive change for the American people.

We began this week by enacting the toughest ethics reform in a generation. Lobbyists can no longer lavish Congress with gifts, pay for private jets or treat Members to fancy meals. Through honest leadership, we continue to move forward to address the real challenges facing America.

On Wednesday, we voted on the CHAMP Act, which strengthens the Child Health Insurance Program so that we can reach an additional 5 million children who are already eligible for that program. The CHAMP Act delivers real progress on health care, and its passage is vitally important.

Democrats also understand that a forward-looking progressive energy policy is essential to this country's future. To that end, we will vote today on an energy bill that moves us towards energy independence and fights global warming.

Mr. Speaker, during this week alone, the Democratic House will deliver on ethics reform, health care, and energy. We're moving forward on real solutions that will help the American people in their everyday lives.

DEMOCRATS' PATTERN OF ACTION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, to the Americans who are watching what is taking place on this floor over the past couple of days, it probably seems like a story nightmare, what is up is down, what is down is up; 215 is assumed to be less than 213. There you go. And I do think that Thursday night's vote is still going to continue to be one of those actions of disgrace when we talk about the history of this House.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is a pattern of action that we see. They are for tax increases. They voted for the single largest tax increase in history, they did