

Everyone who knows Pastor Graumann knows him as a true messenger of Christ. In his words and in his deeds and, above all, in his heart, his example is a beacon of light which draws us all closer to our Creator. His faith and devotion to the life of Christ is an inspiration to us all.

I'm reminded of the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

May the peace of Christ be with you and may He hold you in the palm of his hand.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests of 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of African Americans in celebration of Black History Month. I find it quite fitting to address the House on this particular date when, in 1869, John Menard, the first African American elected to Congress, presented his case for being unfairly denied his seat as a Representative for the Second Congressional District of Louisiana. His testimony made him the first African American to address Congress on the House floor.

Now, almost 140 years later, we bear witness to the fruits of his labor by having 41 African American Members of the U.S. House and 1 African American Member of the United States Senate. That's why I'm so proud to represent the First District of Iowa where, in this great State, we have created a legacy of diversity and our own mark in history.

Iowa was home to Lulu Johnson, the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. It is also home to 12 of the Tuskegee Airmen. Iowa State University, my alma mater, educated George Washington Carver and also houses Jack Trice Stadium, the only division 1-A football stadium to be named in honor of an African American. Iowa State also educated the current highest ranking African American health policy adviser in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Aranthan Jones.

It's these types of accomplishments that inspire me to continue to work and stand up for people of all backgrounds fighting for justice and working toward equality.

BRITAIN OLYMPIC GAG

(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 press in Great Britain has reported that British Olympic athletes will be required as a requirement for their inclusion on the Olympic team to sign a contract promising not to speak about China's appalling human rights record. I'm surprised and dismayed that a country with a history such as Britain's would be so short-sighted. The country that paved the way for the enumerated rights of individuals in the Magna Carta is now restricting the free speech of its athletes from condemning some of the most brutal human rights violations in the world today.

The country of William Wilberforce, the man who was so outspoken in his campaign to end the slave trade, must have forgotten its history as a society dedicated to human rights. It is deeply disappointing that our closest ally has chosen to kowtow to the Chinese regime.

Wilberforce's friend, another British statesman, Edmund Burke, once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

WE SHOULD DO AS WE SAY, NOT AS WE DO

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Turkish Government took its troops into northern Iraq and went after their nemesis, the terrorist, the PKK. They defeated, destroyed, and killed a great number of the PKK who've killed over 40,000 Turks since the 1980s and what is possibly the greatest terrorist group to attack a sovereign country.

Our Secretary of Defense Gates is going to be in Turkey today and has said he will tell the Turks to make their foray short, a matter of days, weeks, not months, and to respect the sovereignty of the Iraqi Government. I can only imagine what the Turks will tell Secretary Gates. Do as I say, not as I do. For have we respected the sovereignty of the Iraqi Government? Has our foray been short? Can we afford to lose more blood and more dollars in a losing attack in Iraq?

I submit to Secretary Gates, Mr. Speaker, we should do as we say, not as we do.

INNOVATION, NOT NEW TAXES

(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, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

The Democrats have failed three times to push through their energy tax

increase but here it is on the floor again today. When will our neighbors across the aisle realize we cannot tax our way to energy independence? Innovation and competition, the free market forces that have led to extraordinary discovery, do not emerge from tighter bureaucracy and punitive tax policies; yet, the majority still wants to raise taxes on the American people.

The truth is that our antiquated domestic refinery capacity, a dependence on foreign oil, and a growing global demand for oil are responsible for the increase in oil prices. Raising taxes on American companies simply punishes American taxpayers by implementing a policy which will raise the price at the pump and hit us all in the wallet.

Let's expand our energy development and workable conservation programs, but let's promote innovation, not new taxes.

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

ON DEFENDING OUR CITIZENS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, almost before the ink was dry on the February 22 letter to Intelligence Chairman REYES claiming that the telecommunications companies were balking at their surveillance support requests, the DNI and Attorney General were forced to admit that the companies were, in fact, cooperating with the U.S. Government surveillance activities. It is not simple patriotic duty; it's the law. They must cooperate. Under FISA, if they're compelled to cooperate, they are automatically provided immunity.

The truth is that the only time FISA phone taps have been turned off lately is when the President failed to pay the FBI phone bills. If you don't believe me, look at the Inspector General's report of the Department of Justice in 2008 this year.

The real issue before us is this: How do we produce law that provides us better intelligence and safeguards Americans' liberties? The answer is we've done it through the RESTORE Act, and the sooner that House-passed bill becomes the law of the land, the better. Requiring the government to apply to a court and demonstrate to a standard of probable cause that they know what they're doing not only protects the liberty of Americans, it produces better intelligence.

□ 1015

SAMUEL MCCULLOCH, JR.—FIRST BLOOD

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, born in South Carolina in 1810, Sam McCulloch, Jr.

arrived in Texas with his father and three sisters just prior to the Texas War for Independence from Mexico.

McCulloch was a free black, and with his freedom he volunteered as a private in the Texas Army to fight for independence. On October 9, 1835, McCulloch took part in the Battle of Goliad. While storming the Mexican line, McCulloch was severely wounded when a musket ball shattered his right shoulder. Thus, Samuel McCulloch, Jr. became the first Texas casualty of the war.

After Texas won its independence and became a free Republic, Samuel McCulloch, Jr. went on to fight against the Comanches along with the Texas Rangers at the famous Battle of Plum Creek, and he served as a spy for the Texas Army when Mexico reinvaded Texas in 1842. Later, McCulloch lived as a farmer and a rancher with his family on the land that the Texas government gave him for his service to the Republic.

He died in November of 1893. He triumphed over all obstacles and voluntarily risked life and limb to establish freedom for Texas, the land he loved. During Black History Month, we honor this freedom fighter and this first to shed blood for Texas independence.

And that's just the way it is.

BALANCING SECURITY WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, when 9/11 happened, we, as a Nation, realized that, while we used to like away games, we liked our wars over there, suddenly we were confronted with a home game, a danger right here in America. And so the discussion over the last few weeks over the wiretapping capability of the United States is absolutely critical. I know. I headed, after 9/11, the Navy's Antiterrorism Unit.

When the bill came over here from the Senate, we asked for what we should have done. Time to address two important issues. One, what's the proper oversight that we should have on those who wiretap? An Inspector General, a report to Congress and to the Surveillance Court. And second, amnesty. Do we give someone who has broken the law, the telecommunication companies, amnesty for facilitating wiretapping? We may. But first let us know, before you give someone amnesty, why they did it and what they did.

In short, right now we're operating under the same rules as President Reagan had, as the first President Bush and the second President Bush had for 6½ years. Now we need to compromise on both sides to ensure that our security is balanced with proper civil rights.

CELL PHONE BILL

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, picture a cell phone in 1989. Back then, cell phones were huge, the size of a suitcase, and air time cost a fortune.

A law was put in place in 1989 to require that detailed log sheets be kept by employees of their cell phone use in order to document their business use. Those rules made sense back then.

Fast forward to today. Clearly, time and technology have marched on and companies give their employees cell phones and BlackBerrys with unlimited minutes. And these communication devices are really just an extension of the business day and place to anywhere at any time.

The IRS wants employees to keep detailed call sheets or be forced to include the value of cell phones and BlackBerrys in their pay. The law needs to be brought up to date with the fact that the office cell and BlackBerry is just an extension of the phone on an employee's desk. Employees and employers have better things to worry about than keeping detailed logs of calls only for tax purposes.

It's time for the Congress to pass the Mobile Cell Phone Act, H.R. 5450, and stop the IRS harassment.

ON FISA, PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

The Bush administration continues a daily drumbeat of fearmongering on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, wiretapping, despite its own admission over the weekend that it has access and authority to continue all surveillance.

The U.S. intelligence community has expansive authorizations for wide-ranging surveillance limited by each American's right to privacy. If any new surveillance needs to begin, the FISA Court can approve a request within minutes. But National Security Director Mike McConnell says President Bush is holding up a compromise on FISA legislation because he wants to give blanket immunity to telecommunications companies who turned over information about their customers. Once again, President Bush is putting the biggest corporations first and shrinking the constitutional rights we all enjoy as Americans.

We can protect this country and the Constitution at the same time, and that's precisely what the Democratic majority will do.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5351, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT OF 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1001 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1001

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5351) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, and any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) an amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the Congressional Record pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII, if offered by Representative McCrery of Louisiana or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order (except those arising under clause 7 of rule XVI, clause 9 of rule XXI, or clause 10 of rule XXI), shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 5351 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

SEC. 3. House Resolution 983 is laid upon the table.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order against the consideration of the resolution because it is in violation of section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The resolution provides that all points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 and 10 of rule XXI. This waiver of all points of order includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act which causes the resolution to be in violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden to identify the specific language in the resolution on which the point of order is predicated. Such a point of order shall be disposed of by the question of consideration.

The gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed, the gentlewoman from California, each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration.

After that debate the Chair will put the question of consideration, to wit: