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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 14, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Before You, O Lord, all is to come to fulfillment. All is called into judgment.

The approaching holy days of spring's mysteries invite us to first understand, then embrace, the proposed cycle of womb and tomb: life, death, and new life.

What once appeared drab and even barren now takes shape with additional color and the unpredictable production of new life without advertisement or previews.

The tree of life, the fresh flow of rushing water, the new Moon, as well as the depth of passion, lead to surrender, only to be surprised by the unexpected gift so peacefully given.

As the long sleep of winter ends, all humanity is awakened for the feast by resurrected light that seeks to set the

world afire with promise and the evolution of re-creation.

Lord, help Your people to celebrate and to live this new life of the eighth day as the free sons and daughters of the living God. 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.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam 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. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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 California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 485

In the Senate of the United States, March 14 (legislative day, March 13), 2008.

Whereas Howard Metzenbaum served the people of Ohio with distinction for 8 years in the Ohio State Legislature;

Whereas Howard Metzenbaum served the people of Ohio with distinction for 18 years in the United States Senate;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Howard Metzenbaum, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it stand in recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Howard Metzenbaum.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 316. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

□ 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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H1705

S. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

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.

HONORING DR. MARGRETTA MADDEN STYLES

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Margretta Madden Styles.

Born on March 19, 1930, in Mount Union, Pennsylvania, Dr. Styles found her life's calling in promoting quality nursing. She served as the president of the American Nurses Association, the International Council of Nurses, and the California Board of Registered Nursing.

Dr. Styles helped create the American Nurses Credentialing Center, which today is the Nation's leader in accreditation of continuing nursing education. Her work on training nurses and advancing our Nation's nursing accreditation process is unparalleled. Her legacy lives on every day through the thousands of certified nurses in the United States, the patients they treat, and the lives they save.

For these reasons I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Margretta Madden Styles and in sending our thoughts and prayers to her beloved family and friends.

ARMY MEDIC MONICA BROWN, TEENAGE IDOL

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Army specialist and medic Monica Brown was on patrol in the rugged terrain of Afghanistan when a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees. As Humvees burned and shrapnel filled the air, Monica ran through insurgent gunfire and mortars to protect wounded comrades. With total disregard for her safety, she used her body to shield five injured soldiers as she administered aid and then dragged each of them 100 meters away to safety.

Monica Brown is from Lake Jackson, Texas, and she's 19 years of age. A teenager, and yet she has already shown more courage, selflessness, and honor than many show in their entire lifetime. Amelia Earhart said, "Courage is the price that life requires for granting peace."

This month Monica Brown will be awarded the Silver Star, the Nation's

third highest medal for valor for that courage she showed. She is only the second woman since World War II to receive this medal.

She said that she didn't think of anything except taking care of her fellow soldiers and protecting them from the attack. It was instinctive for her.

We thank her for her service. She is a great Texan and a true American teenage idol.

And that's just the way it is.

A NEW NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week we commended on the floor of the House the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Plan that guided the infrastructure for this country for the first century of our existence. It's timely because we are today losing that battle. We have an infrastructure crisis. The Society of Civil Engineers gives us a D minus for condition of transportation and water facilities and we are fast running out of money to fix it.

Now is the time for an infrastructure plan for this century. Yes, we do need adequate resources; but more than money, we need a new vision for all our infrastructure needs: roads, rail, air, energy transmission. Most important, we need to squeeze out more value. We need to find a way to do this critical work better. Congress and Federal agencies can help by changing how they do business.

I urge my colleagues to join me in a new plan for infrastructure for this century for livable communities where our families are safe, healthy, and economically secure.

THE MAJORITY'S BUDGET IS FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the majority's proposed budget. Our country cannot afford this irresponsible budget. It fails to rein in spending and raises the taxes of millions of hardworking middle-class Americans by \$683 billion over the next 5 years.

Under this budget, North Carolina taxpayers will be hit with an average tax increase of \$2,672. As working Americans face a slowing economy, the last thing they need is a job-killing tax hike.

The majority budget also increases discretionary spending by \$276 billion over the next 5 years.

The Federal Government should never spend one penny more of taxpayer money than it needs to. American taxpayers deserve the kind of fiscal accountability that prioritizes balancing the budget without raising

taxes on the American people. But this budget is straight from the same old tax-and-spend school of budgeting that Americans simply can't afford.

WHERE SECRECY STARTS, ACCOUNTABILITY OFTEN ENDS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, recent proceedings in this House served one and only one valuable public purpose—Hopefully, this totally unproductive exercise will ensure that the Democratic leadership never again yields to demands that the public business of this people's House be conducted in secret.

Linking secrecy and political power is a dangerous recipe. Accountability often ends where secrecy begins.

Yes, there are always those whose self-importance grows when they participate in mysterious hocus-pocus, who insist that their judgment is superior to ordinary mortals because they possess confidential information not available to mere citizens. Rarely is that true. It was not true before the costly and troubling invasion of Iraq, and it is not true now.

FINANCIAL CRISIS FACING OUR NATION WILL REQUIRE BIPARTISAN EFFORT

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in the administration and especially Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson for not embracing solutions to the economic tsunami that is off our coast. Congressman COOPER and I have proposed the SAFE Commission to respond to what the outgoing U.S. Comptroller, David Walker, characterizes as a "tsunami of spending and debt levels that could swamp our ship of state."

We have \$53 trillion in unfunded liabilities and are over \$9 trillion in debt. What more does Secretary Paulson need?

The SAFE Commission Act has 74 bipartisan cosponsors. It has been endorsed by the Business Roundtable, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and think tanks across the political spectrum. If we don't get our financial house in order and begin controlling entitlement spending, it will be our children and grandchildren who pay the price.

How will Secretary Paulson feel if he leaves at the end of this term and has done nothing, has done nothing to deal with the entitlement issue?

Secretary Paulson, we ask you to support the Cooper-Wolf bipartisan commission.