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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., St. John Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, we are confident that You are here in the midst of all of us, so as we gather here this morning, we ask for Your wisdom and courage for the Members of this august body as they face the challenges of this day.

Lord, I pray, lead them and guide them in matters facing this Nation and indeed the world. We live, my Father, in a time when "men are trying to war their way to peace, spend their way to wealth and enjoy their way to Heaven."

Lord, it is our prayer that each Member of this House of Representatives be sensitive to Your voice, the needs of the people of America and indeed throughout the world. May the decisions made here be for the good of America and the world.

Hasten the day, Father, when men will "beat their war tools into pruning hooks and study war no more." Finally, my Father, we pray for our President, Barack Obama, his family, and all leaders of this great Nation.

May this Nation once again hear the words of the Lord Himself saying, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

It is in the name of Him Who said, "If I be lifted up from the Earth, I will draw all men unto Me."

It is in His name we pray. Let the people of the Lord say amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN 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.

WELCOMING REV. MATTHEW SOUTHALL BROWN, SR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., who delivered the invocation for the House this morning.

If history is biography, then the history of the civil rights movement in my home of Savannah, Georgia, is the biography of Matthew Southall Brown. He got involved in the movement before there was a movement helping to bring about the end of one era and the birth of another.

During World War II, Rev. Brown was serving as an Army non-com in Europe when the Battle of the Bulge broke out. In those days, blacks were confined to supporting units. But when men were needed to fight, General Eisenhower called for black soldiers to volunteer infantry duty. Rev. Brown was one of the 2,221 who answered that

call, even though he had to give up his rank to do so.

Later, answering a different call, Rev. Brown was chosen to lead Savannah's historic St. John Baptist Church. For over 35 years, Pastor Brown not only led his church family; he was a leader in the movement to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for everyone in our community.

Rev. Brown, thank you for being there with my father in Europe and for your willingness to give your life to help us win that war, even when it was unfair. But more importantly, thank you for spending your life to help us win the peace. Sometimes it's an awful lot easier to fight for your country than it is to live for your country. You've done both, and for that we salute you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

TRIBUTE TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF REV. JESSE JACKSON'S RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the contributions of a truly great American who is with us today, the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson.

Twenty-five years ago, Rev. Jackson embarked on a trailblazing run for the Presidency which really did energize our Nation and was an inspiration to millions. Many Members of this body are here today as a result of the movement Rev. Jackson led.

Rev. Jackson's run for the White House gave us more than hope. He showed us how to build a serious grass-

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roots movement that cut across race and class. We learned how to empower and engage our communities so that our voices would be heard and our issues addressed.

In the 25 years since Rev. Jackson's historic run for the Presidency, America has witnessed monumental changes culminating in our Nation electing the first African American President. Much remains to be done in this great Nation to achieve the American Dream, but Rev. Jackson's example of perseverance and coalition-building continues to inspire hope and change and provide for the participation of all of those in our great democracy.

Rev. Jackson, you have shown us that if the dream can be conceived, it can be achieved. And we honor you today.

RECOVERY.GOV REPORTS FAKE JOBS

(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, last night, I learned that the government's own official Web site that was designed to report waste, fraud and abuse of the misnamed stimulus funds has produced a fake report.

Recovery.gov, the official administration Web site, shows that \$6 million was to create six jobs in South Carolina's fake 16th Congressional District. It shows that \$3 million couldn't even produce a single job in South Carolina's fake 43rd District.

Somehow, \$1.8 million was spent for 1.4 jobs in the fake 00 district. This would be funny, but the money belongs to the taxpayers, not the government. The administration is mocking people looking for jobs.

Americans are faced with fake districts and fake jobs. Democrats and Republicans should work together to jump-start America's economy by promoting real jobs for real, hardworking American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, Jesse Jackson of Greenville, South Carolina.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in honor of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., and to recognize his landmark and barrier-breaking run for the Presidency of the United States of America 25 years ago. I was his campaign Chair in the U.S. Virgin Islands and a committed delegate during both campaigns and conventions.

Although I recall those days on the platform committee, fighting for every

vote on the floor and the tears of admiration from people from every corner and segment of U.S. society when he spoke to us, what I remember most was his coming to the aid of an often cast-aside, forgotten or ignored, misunderstood territory of our great Nation in our time of need.

After the devastation of Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and the ensuing negative media portrayal that our community endured in its wake, I contacted him through my DNC Black Caucus Chair, Dr. C. Delores Tucker, and Rev. Jackson came to St. Croix with an entourage that included Cicely Tyson to bolster our spirits, inspire our recovery efforts, and stave off an ill-informed Presidential declaration of martial law.

Jesse, there is so much for which we are grateful to you, but for me and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, we love you for always coming to the aid of those whom many look upon as the "least of these," God's people. You are doing God's work.

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CONGRATULATING ST. AGNES SCHOOL IN FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty, and staff at St. Agnes School in Fort Wright, Kentucky. St. Agnes was recently named a 2009 Blue Ribbon School. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. These schools serve as models for others throughout the Nation.

I recently had the opportunity to meet the students and faculty at St. Agnes and speak with them about their efforts to improve their school. Students and staff are unable to be here today in Washington with us because they're back in Kentucky working hard in the classroom to uphold their high standards. However, the students in Ms. Patti Conway's first-grade class sent a distinguished visitor to represent them in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Teddy to the House of Representatives and extend our congratulations to all of the students of the St. Agnes community for their outstanding achievement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REV. JESSE JACKSON

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

Mr. KUCINICH. We feel the presence of Rev. Jesse Jackson not only in this Chamber but in this Nation. Through nearly a half century commitment to

social and economic justice, Rev. Jackson heard the call of Dr. King and marched for civil rights and helped to make civil rights for millions of Americans a reality.

He heard the call of the prophet Isaiah early in his life and made justice the measuring line—not just social justice, but economic justice, political justice. He heard the call of Matthew and made his life about a commitment to doing for the least of the brethren; asked the question, When I was hungry, did you feed me? When I was homeless, did you shelter me?

He has been and continues to be a powerful force for economic justice in America. He has and continues to be a person who points the way—a way-shower—for jobs, for health care, for housing, for education. Let us celebrate Rev. Jesse Jackson by continuing to support his work.

THE AMTRAK SECURE TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last month, I introduced H.R. 3789, the Amtrak Secure Transportation of Firearms Act of 2009. The bipartisan legislation will permit law-abiding gun owners to legally transport firearms on Amtrak trains—just as Americans have been able to do for years on our Nation's airlines.

Currently, sportsmen who choose to travel by rail for a hunting trip are left in an impossible situation because of Amtrak's prohibitions against checking unloaded firearms in the secure baggage car. Conversely, these same gun owners are legally allowed to check guns in their luggage on our Nation's airlines, of all places. Why the double standard? Should our federally subsidized passenger rail line have more restrictive regulations than air carriers?

The Amtrak Secure Transportation of Firearms Act would require Amtrak to enact regulations similar to those the U.S. airline industry uses to regulate the secure transport of firearms on airplanes. The requirements would apply for any year that Amtrak receives a federal subsidy.

I ask my colleagues here to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO REV. JESSE JACKSON

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as I look over the House, no one has known Jesse Jackson longer than I. I remember him coming to Detroit, I remember going to Chicago, and I remember the work that he was doing even before Dr. Martin Luther King added him to the top of his staff as a valuable assistant.

The quest that he pursued then is still the quest that he pursues now.