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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr. 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: Seasonal cold winds and the hesitancy to name deep-seated fears draw us inward, Lord God.

It is time for outdoor furniture and some plants to be brought inside. Oil and gas are no longer for movement away from hard realities, but remain costly for the comforts of home. Barren trees silhouette some loneliness as family values take priority.

Be with us, Lord, as the stripping winter approaches. Clothe us anew with the garment of hope as we prepare for Your future coming of more light, integrity, and peace.

For You are Lord of all and in all. So we repeatedly call upon Your holy name now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HOYER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 23, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 23, 2009, at 9:26 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 214.

Appointments:
Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

HONORING ABE POLLIN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, our Capital City is mourning the death of one of its leading citizens, a man I was proud to call my friend: Abe Pollin. Our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife, Irene, and his sons, Robert and Jim.

Abe Pollin's business skill, his philanthropy, and his civic spirit changed

Washington, D.C., for the better; and, indeed, his legacy extends far beyond this city. It is a legacy that will long outlive Abe Pollin himself, but I rise today to honor the man behind it.

Abe was the son of a Russian immigrant who came to this country speaking no English, and he rose to become one of this city's most successful developers.

He was a boy whose fondest memories were of paying 25 cents to sit in the bleachers at Washington Senators games. And even when he had brought basketball and hockey teams to Washington, he kept his childhood passion for sports.

The same work ethic that sent him to local railroad yards at 4 in the morning to buy supplies for his father's contracting business helped make him a fortune building housing for thousands. For some that would have been enough, but for Abe it was only the beginning.

Like his father, Morris, whose generosity earned him the nickname "Charity" in the Washington Jewish community, Abe Pollin has a proud place in the great American and Jewish traditions of philanthropy. There are thousands and thousands who owe him thanks, whether or not they knew him firsthand. They are sons and daughters of 9/11 victims whose education Abe helped pay for, D.C. families who live in affordable housing that Abe built.

Speaking in 1997 of the arena that was the centerpiece of Washington's downtown rebirth, Abe said this:

"I walk through that building and I get tears in my eyes. I've got everything I've ever done in my life on the line."

It was his money that paid to build that arena.

"My advisers think I'm nuts. But I wanted to do something special for my town."

Indeed, Abe Pollin's life was something special for this town, for sports

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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not only in this town but in America, and for his country.

LETTER FROM GREG HOLLOWAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as part of a nationwide effort to pass the right kind of health care reform, a constituent from Austin, Greg Holloway, has written an open letter to Congress. He represents the organization Common Sense Texans:

"My name is Greg Holloway. I speak not only for myself and my family but also for over a hundred thousand other Texans with whom I collaborate and who I know share my views.

"You tell us that you are concerned about health care for our disadvantaged citizens. We are too. We wrote a plan, published by the Austin American-Statesman, that would immediately allow up to \$100 billion annually to be sent directly to private health care and health insurance for the needy without a raise in taxes. You ignore any of our alternatives and instead raise taxes, increase costs, and draft a bill that excludes millions and provides no meaningful health care benefits until 2013.

"Stop this bill and give us health care reform that will help, not hurt, our country and its citizens."

JOBS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season should be a joyous time for all as we celebrate with our loved ones and count our blessings.

Unfortunately, many families have been hit hard by the downturn and are feeling the pinch during this special time. Far too many people in my district are out of work and even more are making due with less. It will be a challenge for them to make sure their children have a memorable holiday. I am confident they will make do and remind their families what's really important: faith, family, and health.

But this should remind us how important it is for Congress to help create jobs. Partisan bickering cannot stand in the way of creating jobs and helping these families.

There is much we can do to create new opportunities in Arizona and across the country, and we can't just wish for things to get better. We must actively work to make things better, and that must be our top priority.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHELIN'S LEXINGTON COUNTY PLANT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago on November 28, 1979, I was honored to help break ground on the Michelin Tire Corporation plant in Lexington, South Carolina, recruited by Governor Jim Edwards.

Michelin, the French tire manufacturer, has annual sales of \$7.25 billion, and they employ close to 18,000 American workers. Over 7,000 of those jobs are in my home State.

For over 30 years, Michelin plants have been successful due to hard-working South Carolinians, and today they specialize in world-class car and Earth-mover tires. In addition to providing jobs, Michelin is an involved corporate citizen.

Another extraordinary achievement, yesterday we broke ground on the Ameresco biomass cogeneration project at the Savannah River site. CEO George Sakellaris has pioneered the development of alternative energy projects.

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

THE ESCALATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Today our President will announce an escalation in Afghanistan: as many as 35,000 additional troops, costing an additional \$35 billion to prop up a government which most acknowledge is indefensibly corrupt.

We need to redefine our national security. Our national security will not be found in occupations which fuel insurgencies. Our national security will not be found through paying off contestants in Afghanistan who are with us one day and who shoot at our soldiers the next.

We can secure our borders without expanding them across the world. And we can redefine our national security by making sure that every able-bodied person in America has a job, by helping people save their homes and protect their savings and their investments and their retirement security.

We need new thinking and a new course of action, not further into Afghanistan but out. Not further away from the concerns of the American people, but focusing on what's important here at home.

CONGRESS MUST REPEAL THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, the estate tax, also known as the death tax, has been a drag on America's family-owned small businesses for

decades. It threatens our Nation's farms and ranches, the very businesses which produce 86 percent of U.S. agricultural products.

Farmers and ranchers work their entire lives to build their land and equipment for their operations; yet the existence of the death tax could take it all away.

The death tax impedes economic growth because it lowers incentives for small family businesses to invest capital in their own economic endeavors. In other words, it punishes success.

This flies in the face of the very principles upon which our country was founded.

The estate tax is inappropriate, and it needs to be eliminated once and for all. Doing so in the right way would lift a tremendous weight off the shoulders of America's family-owned small businesses, farms, and ranches.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE TOWN OF WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Wake Forest, North Carolina.

The State legislature officially chartered the town on February 20, 1909; but the community really dates from 1832 when Dr. Calvin Jones sold 613 acres of land to the North Carolina Baptist Convention to establish the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute to train future ministers. The institution later became Wake Forest College.

Dr. Jones described Wake Forest as "one of the best communities in the State. The inhabitants, without, I believe, a single exception, are sober, moral, and thriving in their circumstances, and not a few are educated and intelligent."

That is still true of Wake Forest. Although Wake Forest College moved to Winston-Salem in 1956, the Southern Baptist Convention located its new seminary in Wake Forest, maintaining Wake Forest's reputation as a town of higher learning and faith.

Wake Forest is now a progressive community of more than 27,000 residents. Forbes Magazine recently listed Wake Forest as the 20th fastest-growing suburb in America. The residents of Wake Forest now boast a vibrant town with more than 100 businesses and a rich and well-maintained historical district.

I join the residents of Wake Forest in their centennial celebration.

NAVY SEALS CAPTURE FALLUJAH TERRORIST

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Navy's elite commando unit, the