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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, why is global security so difficult to achieve or sustain? Why is global security so needed and so desired? What do we mean when we say these words? How do we pray or even imagine what global security would look like?

So far, beyond our day-to-day world, the round of an agriculture cycle, the ordinary manufacturing routine, the busy swirl of business, economic free-fall, or the data of any computer, is the unimaginable picture of global security so impossible to communicate?

No wonder we are not sure what steps to take if we do not have a picture in mind. How do we pray, except to lay the words themselves before You, O Lord, as if it were Your problem or of Your making and, so now, in need of Your healing power. To which part of the world's prayer for global security is any of us willing to say amen, Lord?

Yet deep down we know You know. We need global security. Help us, Lord, in word, in deed, in heart—at least in prayer, be united as we pray for global security and together 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 Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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

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

OUR PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN NOT WANTED

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Why are we still in Afghanistan? Al Qaeda's been routed. Our occupation fuels a Taliban insurgency. The more troops we send, the more resistance we meet. If we want to be truly secure, we need to redefine national security to include financial security, because America has record debt, skyrocketing unemployment, huge trade deficits, record business failures, and foreclosures.

The people of Afghanistan don't want to be saved by us. They want to be saved from us. Our presence and our Predator drones kill countless innocents, create more U.S. enemies, and destabilize Pakistan. The U.S.-created Karzai government is hopelessly corrupt, despised by Afghans. Our solution: provide them with a high-level U.S. minder, making him less legitimate. Another strategy: buy or rent friends among would-be insurgents. Give them cash and guns. When the money runs out, they shoot at U.S. soldiers.

We played all sides in Afghanistan—and all sides want us out. They don't want our presence, our control, our troops, our drones, our way of life. We're fighting the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time. What

part of "get out" do we not understand?

CONDITIONAL COMMITMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, a war cannot be won from a podium, but it can be lost. Laying out our entire military strategy in Afghanistan for our enemies is not only unwise, but poses a significant threat to national security. Our enemies have proven to be patient and steadfast in their determination to wage war on democracy and freedom. The President will send more troops, but has shown his entire hand to the world.

Last night's premature announcement by the President of an arbitrary end date for withdrawal contradicts our commitment to winning the war on terror—no matter how long it takes. It reaffirms our enemy's belief that America will lose its will to win. It seems our policy in fighting the war in Afghanistan is the surge-and-retreat plan. Success should be the mission, not "get out of Dodge" on a certain date.

Nowhere in history has a nation told its enemy that commitment would be for a set period of time and then the struggle would be abandoned. The President has said he wants to avoid another Vietnam, yet he has reintroduced the Vietnam syndrome of conditional commitment to America's cause.

And that's just the way it is.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of key importance for my constituents:

□ 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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jobs and the economy. I'm proud of the work that Congress has done to bolster the economy and create new jobs across our country. In Ohio, we continue to see new funds awarded and released every week. Communities across the State and my district have been positively impacted by these funds. To date, over \$225 million of recovery funds have been announced to counties I represent along the Ohio River, ranging from improvements in technology investments to education funding, substantial things for our future.

Just last week, \$75 million in recovery money was announced in Ohio. These funds include \$8.6 million for water projects in 10 of my 12 counties. That investment represents jobs for our workers and clean water for our residents. I'm proud to work for the results that these investments have accomplished. With more than half the money to be spent, I look forward to more of these improvements throughout the State of Ohio as we put America back to work.

HONORING MIAMI-DADE POLICE DIRECTOR ROBERT PARKER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I rise today to extend my sincere thanks to a distinguished south Floridian and a faithful public servant, Miami-Dade Police Director Robert "Bobby" Parker. After 33 years of serving our community, it is truly with great sadness that we see such a fine and dedicated police officer retiring.

In 2004, Bobby's long and successful career with the Miami-Dade Police Department culminated in the directorship of the department. Under his leadership, the department saw the implementation of unique and cutting-edge programs such as the Mortgage Fraud Task Force and the Gun Bounty Program. Bobby's foresight and hard work have consistently had a profound and positive impact on all of south Florida. He has always made his greatest efforts for the benefit of others and will be greatly missed by both the department and our community.

It is with pleasure that I join Bobby's family, friends, and peers as they honor the many accomplishments of his outstanding career. Bobby's lasting legacy will certainly be inspiring to countless officers to match his selflessness and performance.

I thank my good friend, Miami-Dade Police Director Bobby Parker, for all that he has done for our community in south Florida, and I truly wish him all the best in his years to come.

BRINGING A STRONG JOBS BILL

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, since our economy bottomed out in

late winter and Democrats took bold and decisive action, the stock market has risen 4,000 points and America experienced its first positive GDP growth in 15 months. But more can be done and more must be done.

So as we recover from one of the most severe recessions in our Nation's history, Democrats will focus on helping Americans on Main Street, not Wall Street. We will build upon the momentum we have created for positive growth in our economy and bring to the House floor strong legislation to create jobs. American families are depending on their leaders to focus their attention on job creation and make the difficult decisions necessary to curb employment and begin growing our job force once again. Americans expect nothing less, and House Democrats are committed to bringing to the floor a strong jobs bill and work to turn around our Nation's economy.

HONORING KEVIN LEE MITCHEM OF MATHEWS COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. WITTMAN. I rise today to pay tribute to Kevin Lee Mitchem. Kevin Mitchem was a proud Mathews County resident and a fervent supporter of public education, and he was committed to lending his time and knowledge to youth in the community. Kevin was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Sara, and a dedicated father to their two children, Rachel and Daniel. As the owner of Mitchem Seafood, Kevin was a staunch supporter of watermen and the seafood industry.

At the time of his passing, Kevin Mitchem was the chairman of the Mathews County Board of Supervisors, and prior to the chairmanship he served for 12 years as a board member. Additionally, he served on the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

Kevin was deeply involved in his community and dedicated much of his time and effort to serve the residents of Mathews County. Kevin Lee Mitchem was a true friend to all who knew him and will be greatly missed. He touched many people's lives and the work that he did for his community will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

JOBS SUMMIT

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

Mr. BACA. Recently, a single parent in my district called my office for help. He lost his good-paying job and the health benefits that went with it. Sadly, he is not alone in this problem. More Americans than ever before are losing their jobs, their livelihood, and their homes. In California, the unemployment rate is 12 percent. In my area, the Inland Empire, unemploy-

ment is a staggering 14 percent. We continue to have one of the highest rates of foreclosure in the Nation. The hardworking men and women in my district and throughout the Nation deserve a good-paying job; quality, affordable health care; enough food to put on the table; and a good quality of life.

I commend President Obama for hosting a jobs forum. We need to create jobs so that people can put food on the table and keep their homes and live the American Dream. Instead of pointing fingers and calling names, this is a time when we all need to be working together to find real solutions in creating jobs for the American people right here in the United States and not outsourcing those jobs outside of here.

For my part, I will host a jobs summit to hear from the private industry, nonprofit organizations, and labor organization and educators.

DISPELLING HEALTH CARE MISINFORMATION

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

Mr. GOHMERT. I need to dispel some of the misinformation that's been put out about the health care bill that we passed in this House. For one thing, some have said, Well, States require you to have insurance on your car, so of course we can mandate that people buy health insurance. The bill we passed is not going to provide health insurance. It's going to mandate—it does mandate—that you buy it, and if you don't, if you're above the poverty line, it won't be provided. In fact, you have an extra income tax if you don't buy the Cadillac insurance the government mandates.

If you want to know about the comparison, first of all, to States requiring car insurance, not one single State in the country requires that a car—your own car—be insured. They require that you buy insurance to ensure against hurting another car or damaging another car. This is a whole different thing. We're mandating that you buy insurance on your own car, your own vehicle, your own body. And that's not constitutional.

WIDER WAR NOT A PATH TO PEACE AND SECURITY

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I agree with so much of what President Obama said last night, but not so much what he would do. The path to peace and security will not be found through a wider war. Troop escalation by 40 percent, then de-escalation, all within 18 months, is totally unrealistic. We have been fighting in Afghanistan on the installment plan: a few more troops, a few more months, and many more billions. 2011 will not mark the