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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

We confess, Lord God Almighty, that we often accept countless blessings in life and forget to give You thanks. Faithfully surrounded with the support of family and friends, we do not always remember to be grateful. We enjoy food on our tables and cherish freedom, yet we can easily neglect those around this land and other parts of the world who have neither.

Fulfilling our daily duties and responsibilities on Capitol Hill can make such a difference in this world and provide a sense of personal satisfaction because each day grants us great opportunities. Remind us, ever-present God, to be grateful and gracious. Help us to find ways to show our appreciation by sharing our many blessings with others and never forgetting to offer thanksgiving to You each day for every day.

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 pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). Will the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TSONGAS 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING JOHN HENNING

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader for working men and women, a distinguished diplomat and a great American John Henning, known to us as Jack, who passed away on June 4, 2009. Jack Henning will be long remembered for his distinguished career on the front lines of the labor movement, fighting passionately for justice, equality, human rights and jobs in California, across America and throughout the world.

A native San Franciscan, Jack began his career working for the Association of Catholic Unionists. He joined his first union, the United Federal Workers of the CIO, after graduation from college. Jack served for decades as a dedicated leader of working people, rising to be the president of the California Labor Federation. In that role, Jack represented millions of California's workers with great distinction. Not only union members, but millions of Americans who never belonged to a union enjoy better wages, safer workplaces, greater rights and more secure retirements because of the battles waged by union leaders such as Jack Henning.

Jack was a close ally of legendary farm worker organizers Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. He cited among his proudest accomplishments the passage in 1975 of the landmark Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which our colleague Mr. HOWARD BERMAN was so much a part of, and provided tough

labor protections for those who have been abused and mistreated for decades in California's pastures of plenty.

Jack Henning ended his farewell speech from the California Labor Federation in 1996 with, And if by a suspension of the laws of nature I were young again, I would follow no other course, no other flag, but the flag of America and the flag of labor. The labor movement was blessed to have him as a leader.

As distinguished as he was on behalf of workers, Jack made many other contributions to his State and this Nation for which we are all grateful. Before taking the presidency of the California Federation of Labor, Jack served Presidents Kennedy and Johnson as Under Secretary of Labor and was appointed by President Johnson as Ambassador to New Zealand in 1967. Jack was also a distinguished regent at the University of California for a dozen years during which he helped lead the fight for expanded opportunities for minority students and demanded that the university divest its investments in apartheid South Africa. That divestment initiative helped bring about the peaceful end of apartheid and the new day of majority rule in South Africa.

We will all miss Jack greatly, but none more than his sons Brian, Daniel, John Jr., Patrick and Thomas; his daughters Mary and Nancy; his 12 grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. We also remember his beloved wife Betty, who preceded him in death. I hope it is a comfort to his family that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Jack Henning was a proud American, a devout Catholic, passionate about his Irish roots and a great friend and mentor to many of us. Mr. Speaker, I join Jack Henning's family, friends and workers worldwide to honor his legacy, celebrate his life and remember his illustrious contributions to the State of California and to our great Nation.

☐ 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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Later today, thousands of people will gather in California to do just that, celebrate his life and pay tribute to him.

PROTECTING PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

(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. Many Americans don't have access to affordable health care, and we can and need to do better for all Americans. I support a system that gives Americans more affordable health care choices so they can pick the coverage that best fits their needs. The core part of the Democrat proposal is a new government-run program that will not only put bureaucrats between you and your doctor but would force more than 100 million people, Americans, out of the health coverage they currently receive through their jobs.

We need a plan that really does let Americans who like their health care coverage keep it, a plan that doesn't add new taxes or new mandates or drive up costs or drive people out of health care. We must give all Americans the freedom to choose their health plan, not force them into a government-run, one-size-fits-all plan. Private plans are great. Let's protect them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFETY IN DEFENSE CONTRACTING ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Safety in Defense Contracting Act of 2009. When our servicemembers or civilian personnel put their lives at risk while deployed overseas, they should not have to worry about the safety of their living and working quarters. Unfortunately, due to shoddy contractor work, they do. American personnel have been injured or killed by electric shocks. That same deficient work has resulted in hundreds of fires, one which destroyed the largest dining hall in Iraq. Gross negligence by contractors is unacceptable.

That is why I am introducing the Safety in Defense Contracting Act to protect our military and civilian personnel by debarring grossly negligent or reckless defense contractors found guilty of causing death or injury to our personnel. Such contractors do not deserve further government contracts worth millions of dollars for performing the same work.

To make matters worse, defense contractors who are guilty of dangerously deficient work have been receiving award and incentive fees. My bill denies them these fees. They should no longer be rewarded for poor perform-

ance at the expense of the taxpayers. It will take time to rebuild our contractor oversight capabilities, but I ask my colleagues to join me in this bill.

CLEAN ENERGY—NUCLEAR POWER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, many countries, including China and European nations, are continuing to move to clean energy, such as nuclear power. The United States, the nuclear power pioneer, lags far behind in the development of new generating plants. The United States could and should move to the licensing and development of more nuclear power plants.

Nuclear power is an efficient and a cheaper way of providing clean energy to America's manufacturing sector. We should streamline the long cumbersome process of power plant applications that use safe reactor designs, designs that have already been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Progress, safety and costs have advanced to a state that America can safely store spent nuclear fuel rods and also recycle fuel. One of America's most impressive plants is the North Anna Nuclear Station here in nearby Virginia. Nuclear power is responsible for 20 percent of our energy, but in France 80 percent of their energy comes from nuclear energy. Nuclear power will keep jobs in America and help free us from the shackles of foreign control of our energy.

And that's just the way it is.

OUR CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, global warming is no longer an academic question for scientists to ponder. It's a very real crisis that requires our leadership. This is not a political issue. This is a critical generational responsibility that will take a commitment from Congress and from every person in our society. We have a real opportunity this year to prove our commitment by voting for H.R. 2454, the American Energy and Security Act.

The renewable technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions exist. The societal will and desire to go clean have been demonstrated, and the political climate to finally create sound public policy is now present. The cost of inaction on this critical challenge is unacceptable and the price too high. A recent study concluded that unchecked effects of climate change could result in a cost of \$271 billion per year by 2025. Failure to act is intolerable when considering the economic and job creation opportunities a clean energy economy presents. The American Energy and Security Act provides a path that leads

us to a clean, sustainable energy future.

THE REPUBLICAN ANSWER TO THE ENERGY CHALLENGES WE FACE

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

Mr. PENCE. The American economy is hurting. Gasoline prices are on the rise. Utility rates threaten to go higher, imposing even greater hardship on working families. The American people are looking for answers in these times to the challenges we face in energy. The Democrat answer you have just heard is a national energy tax that will lead to higher energy prices and massive job losses for the American people.

The President said it best a year ago when he said, if the cap-and-trade plan were to pass, utility rates—his words now—would, quote, necessarily skyrocket.

Some estimates suggest job losses between 1.8 and 7 million. Well, Republicans have a better plan, the American Energy Act. It's an all-of-the-above plan that offers energy independence, more jobs and a cleaner environment without imposing a national energy tax. Our energy solution focuses on more domestic exploration for oil and natural gas, a renewed commitment to build 100 nuclear power plants in the next 20 years, investments in renewables, alternative energy technologies and creating incentives for conservation. You can read all about it on the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal today.

The American people want energy independence and a cleaner environment without a national energy tax. The American Energy Act offered by House Republicans is the answer the American people are looking for.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE FOR THE MURDER OF OFFICER STEPHEN T. JOHNS

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as an advisory board member of the Holocaust Museum of Houston, I rise with a deep sense of sympathy and outrage for the terrible tragic incident that happened, as The Washington Post reported, at a monument of sorrow and also a standing edifice for peace.

I offer my deepest sympathy to the family of Security Officer Stephen T. Johns. As a believer and an advocate of our Constitution and our First Amendment rights, I stand here in outrage to express my opposition to the idea that protected speech equals protected violence. This was a dastardly act, and we don't know how many other targets this hateful-minded person might have been engaged in.

We must continue to stand against hate. We must continue to promote the