

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WELCOMING HOME PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANDREW PARKER, AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to offer a warm welcome home to a soldier who sacrificed for his country and to thank all of those who are working to make his return home a successful one. Private First Class Andrew Parker enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from Lamaille Union High School in 2007. On November 20, 2008, his MRAP vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Andrew suffered injuries that left him paralyzed from the chest down.

During the months that Andrew spent recovering in DOD and VA hospitals, his neighbors and friends in Vermont worked together to complete an incredible project to modify his home to make it accessible to him upon his return. His kindergarten teacher, the Hyde Park VFW and countless other businesses, organizations and individuals donated time, money and labor to make it possible for Andrew to return home to a new addition to his home, a living room, a bedroom, a bath and a bay for his new van.

Now Andrew will have the resources he needs to focus on rebuilding his strength as he works to fulfill his new dream of becoming a teacher. He should know that all Vermonters and all Americans are with him in spirit as he continues on his courageous journey.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Secretary Sebelius spoke in the Energy and Commerce Committee and said that one of the concerns with health care was in Kansas there were not many choices. Indeed that is the concern across the Nation. But as we look at solutions for the health insurance crisis, establishing Uncle Sam's Health Insurance Company may not be the answer.

Under those circumstances, you get to buy insurance from any State, no

matter where you live. You get to bypass State mandates, and you get to bargain for better prices and better quality as a group. But private plans you still have to buy only within your State. You have to stick within your State mandates, which add to the costs, and you don't get to join bigger groups and bargain for better price and quality.

As we work on health care, let's continue to work together and find solutions. We can do this. We can drive down price and improve quality. But let's make sure that all the choices are fair and that we have competition.

INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN STEEL ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last night I introduced the Investment in American Steel Act of 2009.

My bill will ensure that as our Nation moves toward an energy-efficient, green economy that we continue to invest both in American-made steel and our Nation's steel workers.

The production of wind turbines in the United States offers an exciting opportunity for thousands of American steelworkers and manufacturers nationwide.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included an important provision, providing manufacturers with a tax credit for investing in clean, renewable energy, and one of them being wind energy. While I fully support the initiative, I believe if a company receives a tax credit for building windmills here in the United States, they should use American-made steel to build those windmills.

My bill will encourage the use of American steel in windmills by giving the full tax credit to companies using U.S. steel. The less U.S. steel they use, the lower the tax credit would go. During this difficult economic time, it is more important than ever that we make an investment in both our Nation's workers and in the U.S. steel market. My bill will accomplish just that.

NORTH KOREA

(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. Mr. Speaker, as a fighter pilot who flew 62 combat missions in Korea against aggression in the fifties, Americans need to know that just as North Korea prepares to launch a missile aimed at American citizens in Hawaii, the Democrats slashed 19 missile interceptors from the Defense Department budget that we are voting on today.

The President's failure to sternly address North Korea's provocative threat is extremely troubling. Added to the

fact that the Democrats are cutting missile interceptors, I'm very, very concerned for the future of this country, the safety of our Nation, and the security of our homeland.

The President comes across as lacking resolve. The Democrats in Congress look weak, and that is not a good place for America to be in. Wake up, America.

THE PROUD ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 2681, the PROUD Act, which will allow motivated students who are immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship.

America is the land of opportunity. And it is wrong to unfairly punish innocent young people who came to America by no choice of their own. A high school graduate, upon turning 18, may apply by presenting their transcripts to prove that they have completed grades 6 through 12, show that they understand U.S. history, government, civics, and additionally can prove they are of good moral character.

The PROUD Act will be a positive impact in schools and communities throughout the Nation. This is one piece of the puzzle. There is more that needs to be done for comprehensive immigration reform.

Today the President will hold a long anticipated meeting about immigration. Now is the time to act. We need reform now more than ever.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2681, the PROUD Act, and work towards comprehensive immigration reform.

HOT DOG DIPLOMACY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the bold and brave students defy the imperial regime of President Ahmadinejad of Iran as they struggle for freedom.

The people of Iran are being shot, assaulted and arrested by their repressive government. This is the same government that supplies arms and money to insurgents that are at war with our military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard, a state sponsor of terror, or more appropriately called the "Demons of Democracy", are killing their own people, mostly students, whose only crime is speaking out in public against these tough tyrants.

As the Fourth of July nears, the most sacred of all days of liberty, how about we invite the sons of freedom and the daughters of democracy of Iran for a bit of "Hot Dog Diplomacy?" The youth of Iran have shown more tenacity and love of freedom than the world has seen in years.

There would be no better way to honor the Fourth of July, our Founders and our heritage, than to celebrate this glorious day by opening our embassies not to the Iranian Government, but to these students who desire freedom and liberty.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING COACH ED THOMAS OF PARKERSBURG, IOWA

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, I stood in this well with a heavy heart and asked for a moment of silence for the Town of Parkersburg that was destroyed by an F5 tornado. The high school was destroyed, and the most visible face of the recovery in Parkersburg was legendary football coach Ed Thomas, whose home was destroyed in that tornado. Coach Thomas emerged from the rubble with tears in his eyes, pledged to rebuild the school, rebuild the community and help heal the sorrow.

Ed and his wife, Jan, moved into an apartment above the True Value Hardware store in downtown Parkersburg. Ed went back to what he did best, working with young people and inspiring them to become better people.

Yesterday morning, as Coach Thomas was at the school he loved working with young people, a lone gunman entered the school and shot and killed Ed Thomas in front of 20 to 30 high school students.

Ed Thomas coached for 37 years. He had a career record of 292-84, including two State championships, 19 State playoff appearances, and, get this, in a town of 280 students in high school, four of his students played in the National Football League.

Coach Thomas said, "We don't talk about winning and losing. We talk about the little things. If we take care of the little things, the rest will take care of itself."

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for everyone to give their thoughts and prayers to Ed's wife, Jan, their extended family and the community of Parkersburg as they struggle with this senseless loss.

SMOKING IN THE MOVIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when policy makers are doing everything they can to reduce smoking in our society, one area of smoking prevention remains unchallenged: Smoking in the movies.

Studies have shown that viewing smoking in the movies normalizes smoking among youth. It glamorizes smoking through the attractiveness of the actors and characters who smoke. These attitude changes lead to smok-

ing experimentation, which in turn leads to harmful and addictive habits.

Tobacco is still depicted in three-quarters of youth-rated movies and 90 percent of R-rated movies. Movies targeting impressionable youth should be the last place for gratuitous smoking images.

Dartmouth Medical School found that up to one-half of the youth smoking initiation is explained by exposure to smoking in the movies in their studies.

Parents should know they are exposing their kids to glamorized depictions of smoking when they allow them to see youth-related movies by the rating system.

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HONORING TUN JUAN AGUON SANCHEZ

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands. Tun Juan Aguon Sanchez has made many exceptional contributions to the history, art and culture of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

But Tun Juan's greatest legacy is his poetry, written in vernacular Chamorro. Tun Juan's poems touch on life in the islands, the value of respecting other people, and the essential ingredients to making a life worth living. Tun Juan's poems are lyrical reminders of the love we feel for our island home.

Tun Juan also wrote about the world beyond our islands. At a time when our sole access to the outside world was a government radio station and a weekly newspaper, Tun Juan captured our admiration for leaders like President John F. Kennedy and his Holiness Pope John Paul, II.

Tun Juan's work has recently been collected so that for generations to come, his words will continue to convey the perspective, the faith and the love that he had for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Tan Iku, Godspeed and Si Yu'us Ma'a'se for all that you have done for your people and islands.

ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY STRATEGY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the Old Book contains an admonition to lawmakers with these words: Woe to you because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift a finger to help them.

In the midst of the worst economy in a generation, remarkably, House

Democrats are poised this week to load the American people down with a national energy tax, and the American people deserve to know it.

Now there is lots of debate about what this bill will cost the average American, but there is no dispute the Democrat cap-and-trade bill will raise the cost of energy to every household in America, every small business, every family farm; and it will cost millions of American jobs. And the vote is tomorrow.

If you oppose a national energy tax, I say call your Congressman. If you think the Democrat cap-and-trade bill will cap growth and trade jobs, call your Congressman. And if you believe the American people deserve an all-of-the-above energy strategy that will create jobs, achieve energy independence and a cleaner environment, endorse the Republican alternative and call your Congressman.

A minority in Congress plus the American people equals a majority. We can reject cap-and-trade this week, and so we must.

INALIENABLE RIGHTS

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to say how thankful I am to live in such a great country, a country where we have inalienable rights guaranteed to us by our Nation's founding documents, and the knowledge that our government is set up to protect those rights.

We know that we are guaranteed the right to peaceful, public protest, and we see many great Americans utilizing that right here in Washington, D.C., on a daily basis. It is not until haunting and disturbing images of blatant violence and oppression run across the front pages of our newspapers and TV screens that we realize how important these rights are.

The people of Iran are expressing themselves peacefully in the streets, and are being viciously attacked by armed guards and police. The violence needs to end now, and the people of Iran should be heard.

I want to commend President Obama for his leadership and his judgment in such a difficult and intense foreign policy crisis, and I agree with his resistance to instigate a foreign nation through demagoguery, a distinct difference from the carelessness that sometimes was used by administrations in the past.

Let me be clear, I know the world understands that the United States will always vehemently oppose oppression and violence against a nation's people and we will do everything we can to ensure this type of behavior is not tolerated. I thank President Obama for his thoughtful leadership on this matter and offer my support in the future.