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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our heavenly Father, as we bow our heads in Your presence, today we are reminded of the prayer of President Lincoln, who said, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for that day." This morning, we also come to You, realizing we are insufficient and incapable. We come asking for divine protection for our men and women serving bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan and all over Your world. We acknowledge that freedom is not free and the trees of every generation are watered with the blood of its sons and daughters. We ask You to preserve and protect us. You said righteousness exalted the Nation but sin is a reproach to any people. May we seek righteousness and lives that please You.

We lift up our Congress, Senate, and President. May our leaders acknowledge their dependence upon You and seek wisdom and direction from You.

We pray this prayer, respecting all faiths, but we pray this prayer in the

name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Until You come, we pray. 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 Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON 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.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. BENNY TATE

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our guest chaplain for the day here in the House, the Reverend Dr. Benny Tate. Dr. Tate has served the members of Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church in Milner, Georgia, for 20 years, and I'm honored to count him as a friend.

Dr. Tate is a leader among God's followers. He's well known in Georgia for delivering powerful, informative, and even life-changing messages from the pulpit of his church and from behind the microphone of his radio show, Apples of Gold, which is broadcast statewide on 15 stations.

Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church has thrived during Dr. Tate's tenure. The church has grown from 35 members when he took the helm 20 years ago to more than 4,600 worshippers today.

The church has put those resources into the service of God's people and the church's community. Every day, Rock Springs teaches the next generation to live by biblical principles at Rock Springs Christian Academy. Dr. Tate's church also conducts a prison ministry and a nursing home ministry, and it sponsors a medical clinic for the uninsured. Georgia's Third District is privileged to have wise and selfless religious leaders such as Dr. Tate. It's a great honor to have him with us here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM WILL HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, for the last couple of years I have been talking to small businesses in my district, and one of the things that I consistently hear from them that they ask for help with is the issue of the cost of health care for small business. Small business is telling me they can't afford to buy health care or they are precluded from buying it because one of the members in their small group has a pre-existing condition, and insurance companies don't even sell to them. I'm here to tell them that we are listening to them and that, if health care reform passes this House and is signed into law, it can reform dramatically the small business health care costs.

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It can help small businesses by providing an exchange that they can access which will provide a bigger pool and shared risk and lower health care costs for them. And many small businesses would qualify for substantial tax credits to help small businesses make worker health care costs more affordable.

This bill will not cost small business jobs. In fact, it will help save jobs, giving them more opportunities to spend their money to help add to their jobs rather than paying extremely high health care costs.

HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS

(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, you know, rather than complaining about the thousand-page, \$1 trillion health care bill that rations care and increases costs, in my district I hosted a forum on health care solutions.

A panel of experts shared some Texas-sized solutions they have used to fix what is broken in our health care system.

These folks didn't rely on government bureaucrats to solve their problems. They didn't wait for a Washington bailout. They forged ahead with innovative programs that improved the quality of life for Texans—ideas that both Democrats and Republicans can agree on.

My constituents have told me loud and clear: one, they don't want government-controlled health care; two, the President and Democrats in Congress need to start over and listen to America. Go for real bipartisan solutions.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins on September 15 and runs through October 15. During this time we will celebrate the culture of people who trace our roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, and their contributions to American life.

The achievements of the Hispanic community in America have positively affected so many aspects of our society. For example, there are now over 1.6 million Hispanic-owned businesses in America. Of these businesses, over 29,000 generate over \$1 million worth of revenues every year.

Hispanics in America are also succeeding in a wide variety of challenging fields. There are currently over 79,000 Hispanic executives, almost 51,000 Hispanic physicians and surgeons, almost 49,000 Hispanic post-sec-

ondary teachers, and over 38,000 Hispanic lawyers.

And lastly, let us not forget that there are over 1.1 million Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

THERE ARE MANY SOLUTIONS TO HEALTH CARE REFORM

(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, the President continues to try to sell the false myth that the health care debate is only between the Democrat bill or the status quo. This is completely inaccurate.

Republicans have offered different solutions and legislation to fix what is wrong with our health insurance system. Unfortunately, Democrats are unwilling to acknowledge that there may be other proposals, reforms that do not add billions to the national debt, cost millions of jobs or expand the size and powers of the Federal Government. Republicans believe we can make health insurance more affordable by giving Americans more of their own tax dollars to purchase insurance, shop for plans across State lines, and association health plans for small businesses.

The debate should be built on the honest exchange over what proposals are best to expand health insurance coverage, not on the false effort that we enact a big government takeover or do nothing.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. This was an important August for America and for Members of this House. Back in Missouri, I had a number and variety of health care forums, from traditional townhalls to telephone townhalls, to roundtables of health care experts to kitchen table conversations with constituents. What we know is that the current system is broken, unsustainable, and unaffordable.

So the number one contributor to our deficit, to personal bankruptcies and costs of those who have insurance has doubled in 10 years. We also know we consider the source of the opponents peddling this information in this debate, the political gamers who just want to bring the President down, the profiteers who are making massive profits over the broken system.

We need to have important insurance reforms to reduce costs through competition, and this needs to be deficit neutral.

As Congress reconvenes and we prepare to hear the President tonight, we

need to continue this great debate, even a spirited debate that we have to find commonsense solutions for the American people. That's what they expect, and that's what they deserve.

UTOPIAN ILLUSION: GOVERNMENT RUN HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandmother used to say "If you have your health, you have everything." Health is a personal and private matter with people. Individuals want to control who their doctor is. Now we are embarked upon a new philosophy regarding health care.

The government thinks it knows better how to take care of Americans than individuals do. Kind of like the sarcastic statement, "We're from the government, we're here to help you."

More government intrusion into personal lives alarms and scares people, especially seniors. They are afraid that additional government control of health care will take their personal choices away and give decisions and power to unelected, unaccountable 23-year-old bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. Frankly, many of my neighbors in Texas don't have the confidence that big government can provide better quality of health for this Nation.

People are also worried about the billions of dollars to pay for this utopian illusion: money that will have to be borrowed, then paid back in more taxes. The people I represent think this new plan will make matters worse. Sort of like what my grandmother also said, "If you think the problems government creates are bad, just wait until you see government solutions."

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. I have a quote from Republican Chief Justice Earl Warren, no longer with us. He said, Many people consider the things which government does for them to be social progress, but they consider the things government does for others as socialism. He said it. It is a message to everybody in this House. The fearmongering that's gone on in the last 2 months does not bring us any closer to resolution.

Look, private insurance companies are for-profit businesses. I can't blame them, you can't blame them for being in the business of denying access to needed care, avoiding and dumping the sick, and confusing consumers. They are, after all, driven by profits, not patients.

I aim in my business, what I have to do here in the House is look out for my constituents, for the hard-working families in New Jersey that are being