



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

No. 29

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 3, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Imam Abdullah Antepli, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Peace be with you all. Please join me in prayers.

O God of all nations, look with favor upon this esteemed Congress. Guide these important decision makers with Your divine light. Be their source of strength and comfort. Enable them to serve You and glorify Your name by serving the citizens of this great Nation and to the entire humanity, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or religion.

O God, make them Your instruments to deliver Your divine mercy and compassion. Bless them with Your openness and humility. Fill their hearts and minds with passion and determination to improve the quality of the lives of their fellow human beings. Grant them success in their efforts to wipe out poverty, ignorance, racism, and hate in this country and beyond.

O God, make these women and men peacemakers, healers and bridge builders, so urgently needed in our wounded and broken times. Give them the strength that they need to keep what needs to be kept. Give them the cour-

age that they need to change what needs to be changed. Give them the wisdom that they need to distinguish one from the other.

O God, if we forget You, do not forget us. In Your most holy and beautiful name 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MALONEY 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.

RESIGNATION AS CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as chair of the Committee on Ways and Means:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC, March 3, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I respectfully request a leave of absence from my duties and responsibilities as Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means until such time as the Committee on Standards completes its findings on the review currently underway.

CHARLES B. RANGEL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

WELCOMING IMAM ABDULLAH ANTEPLI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to introduce to my colleagues my distinguished constituent and today's guest chaplain, Imam Abdullah Antepli. I also want to welcome in the gallery our many guests from the Duke University community, the Muslim community, the Turkish community, both from the triangle area of North Carolina and from the Washington area.

Imam Antepli has a long and distinguished record of faith-based and humanitarian service in countries ranging from his native Turkey to the Southeastern Asian nations of Burma and Malaysia. Since moving to the United States in 2003, he has been a true pioneer in the field of Muslim campus ministry, serving as the first Muslim chaplain at Wesleyan University and as the founding member of the Muslim Chaplains Association. He later served at Hartford Seminary, where he completed his doctorate on the challenges and opportunities facing the Muslim campus ministry in the United States.

In July 2008, he came to Duke University to serve as the school's first full-time Muslim chaplain. Although he has been on campus less than 2 years, he has made an enormous impact on the university community. His role is obviously to facilitate worship and study for the school's Muslim students, but he has taken on much more than that. He counsels students of all faiths, fosters understanding of the Muslim faith, and is much in demand as a speaker and a participant in a variety of community events. This is a

□ 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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remarkable accomplishment at a time when religious differences still threaten to divide us from one another and from other nations.

I first met Imam Antepli last September at a meeting of Islamic study scholars in which he participated, and I was immediately struck by enthusiasm, his intellect and his readiness to engage. Throughout his career, he has truly exemplified the notion of faith in action and has made a habit of practicing the values of tolerance, understanding and respectful dialogue, which he preaches.

So, Madam Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of all of our colleagues to introduce and welcome Imam Abdullah Antepli to the House here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

AFGHANISTAN, TO STAY OR TO GO

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

Mr. KUCINICH. I am a proud Member of this institution. I believe in this Congress, and I believe in the Constitution of the United States. And I think moments arise in the history of this institution when we have to take a stand for the Constitution. That's why this Thursday I will introduce a privileged resolution that will call for Congress to reclaim its power under Article I, Section 8 as to whether or not we stay in Afghanistan.

Now, some people here may believe in that mission. I don't. Some people here may believe in the surge. I don't. Some people here may believe that we should stay there for as long as it takes to do whatever we want. I don't. I believe that Congress, though, needs to speak and to have a debate on Afghanistan and to be able to decide in our wisdom, if we so choose, to get out of Afghanistan, which is what I hope that we do.

But whether you're for it or against it, Congress finally will have a chance to have that debate because the privileged resolution is being introduced on Thursday. It will lay over the week, and next week we will finally have a debate over whether to stay in Afghanistan or leave. And I hope we vote to leave.

HOME DEPOT PROMOTES JOBS

(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, on Monday I will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Home Depot's Rapid Deployment Center. Located in the midlands of South Caro-

lina, this Rapid Deployment Center will not only create new jobs for South Carolinians, but it will also give Home Depot stores more flexibility to control the products on their shelves and keep these products in stock.

Detailed by Home Depot, the new Rapid Deployment Center is a 465,000 square-foot facility located in West Columbia. It will provide 220 full-time jobs at startup; and as more stores are added to the program, this will increase to 400 jobs. I want to thank Home Depot for their continuing economic contributions to our State, and I welcome these in addition to the positions of 2,660 Home Depot associates already in South Carolina. In these tough times, it's important for lawmakers to give businesses like Home Depot the tools they need to help small businesses create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. The prayers of America are with the people of Chile.

CBO'S RECOVERY ACT ASSESSMENT

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, at a recent hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, testified that CBO's latest assessment of the Recovery Act found that it had increased our real GDP by as much as 3.5 percentage points, increased the number of people employed by between 1 million and 2.1 million people, and lowered the unemployment rate by as much as 1.1 percent. In short, the stimulus spending bill worked, but we need to do more to grow jobs now.

He also testified that one of the most powerful generators of job growth would be an employer tax credit for businesses that increased their payrolls similar to one I proposed in H.R. 4585 and to one Congress intends to send to the President. These historically difficult times and this growing, but fragile, economy cry out for us to take action, help create more private sector jobs, and get our economy working again for everyone.

THE THIRD FRONT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the war against international terrorism continues in Iraq and Afghanistan, I bring you news from the third front, the U.S.-Mexico border, the real inconvenient truth. Recently, the U.S. consular office in the border town of Reynosa, Mexico, closed indefinitely. U.S. officials are barred from the area. The reason, because there are kidnappings and murders and Old West-

style shoot-outs in the streets, all on account of violent drug lords fighting over turf on the poorest border.

The United States is not doing enough to stop the international drug cartels and the human smugglers. The greatest Nation on Earth is failing the American people by not adequately protecting the border. Drugs and people are going north, and money and guns are going south. The border has become a war zone that affects good people on both sides of the border. We're sitting on a powder keg that we ignore at our own peril. While we have troops overseas to protect the borders of foreign countries, we should be just as concerned about our own sovereign border.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S LOBO MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand on the House floor today to congratulate our University of New Mexico Lobos men's basketball team for winning the 2010 Mountain West Conference Championship. In this truly remarkable season, the Lobos tied the school record for consecutive conference wins. This is the second consecutive year that the Lobos have won the conference championship. And the team recently cracked the Nation's top 10 in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls, a feat not accomplished in more than a decade.

To all the team members and to the academic all-American and team leader, senior Roman Martinez, and to all the UNM students, faculty and staff, I want to congratulate you on a tremendous season, and I look forward to your continued success in the rest of March Madness.

Finally, I want to wish the team good luck tonight in their game against TCU, and I join the rest of the Lobos nation in declaring, "Everyone's a Lobo. Woof, woof, woof."

HONORING CARLOS ARAGON

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. America lost one of its finest. Carlos Aragon, 19 years old, from Orem, Utah, was killed while serving as a Marine in the Helmand province. It's so sad when you hear these reports. Your hearts and your thoughts and your prayers go out to the family. But at the same time, your heart is filled with pride that these young men and women will step up at such a young age to fight and protect this country and fight and protect for the good of the United States of America.