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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O God of all the living, at times You are silent or seem to be absent.

When we are busy or fully occupied, we often do not turn to You. But when we do seek Your presence or pray asking for an answer, You may be silent.

Sometimes You may draw back from our momentary attention just to make us pray all the more ardently and increase our desire for Your presence or refine our request.

Hopefully, when You break Your silence and speak to us or any Member of Congress, we will be ready to respond to Your inspiration and be prepared to do Your will.

Although we are not always faithful, You are faithful both now and forever. 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 gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3433. An act to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are founded under that Act, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING GERALDINE JORDAN

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, Geraldine Hardman-Jordan of Moline, Illinois. And I would like to recognize her family who is sitting in the gallery with us this morning.

Madam Speaker, at the young age of 21, Geraldine was one of the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft. Her call to serve

did not end after her military career. Geraldine also prevailed in her second battle, the one to achieve full veteran status for her WASP sisters.

Today, I also honor Geraldine as the mother of nine wonderful children and a community leader who advocated on behalf of several worthy causes.

Madam Speaker, later today, Geraldine and other WASP pioneers will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their invaluable service more than 60 years ago. Unfortunately, Geraldine passed away in 2001 and cannot be here to receive the award in person, but I am very happy that her family will proudly represent her at the ceremony.

Madam Speaker, Geraldine is a true American hero and a great source of pride for the 17th Congressional District of Illinois, and I can think of no better recognition of her services to this country than the Congressional Gold Medal.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair will remind Members to refrain from referring to occupants of the gallery.

AFGHANISTAN RETREAT RESOLUTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the House is considering today a dangerous resolution: the Afghanistan retreat. As a father of four sons in the military and as a former member of the 218th Brigade of the South Carolina National Guard, which served for a year in Afghanistan led by Major General Bob Livingston, I know we should trust our military leaders led by General David Petraeus and General Stanley McChrystal with

□ 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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Major General Larry Nicholson of the Marines. These leaders will fight for victory to protect American families by defeating terrorists overseas.

Even liberal Newsweek highlights the success of the surge in the March 8 edition with the title, "The Surge is Working" with the subtitle, "All Signs Point America's Way."

Though the Taliban is entrenched in Helmand province, its grip is slipping in the rest of Afghanistan. These developments undercut the common belief that America is doomed to fail. In fact, Afghanistan's demography, sociology, military situation, and politics all favor Obama's counterinsurgency strategy. If the Taliban can't gain popular support or silence, it can't win.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to open the House this morning during this most important Women's History Month.

Our Nation's foremothers stood up to injustice and, by changing the course of history, opened the doors of opportunity to all of America's daughters. It is our duty to recognize and honor their tireless efforts.

This past summer, our great Nation celebrated the 160th anniversary of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. This groundbreaking convention was dedicated to the key principle in the Declaration of Independence that we are all created equal.

From securing a woman's right to vote in 1920 to serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have come a long way.

In this Congress alone, we have much to celebrate: Speaker PELOSI is the first woman to lead this esteemed body, and Senator Clinton made "18 million cracks" in the Nation's highest glass ceiling as the first woman to run a formidable Presidential campaign.

Yet as we celebrate these important milestones and look back at all we have achieved since 1948, we know our journey toward true gender equality is not complete. We must continue to fight for equality this month. We honor the women who blazed the trail for all women.

GIVE NAVY SEALS MEDALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, three of our tenacious Navy SEALs captured one of the worst terrorists in the world: Ahmed Hashim Abed.

In 2004, four Blackwater security guards were transporting supplies in Fallujah, Iraq. They were caught in an

ambush and murdered by those cowards in the desert. These Americans were set on fire, mutilated, dragged through the streets, and hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River.

Abed, the terrorist, was the mastermind behind the massacre of these Americans. But Navy SEALs McCabe, Keefe, and Huertas captured this outlaw. But now for some odd reason, they are being put on trial—the SEALs, not the terrorist.

The whiny terrorist later claimed he was punched in the stomach during his capture on the battlefield. It hurt his little terrorist feelings, it seems. Now the SEALs face a court martial.

Congress should commend the valiant actions of these Navy SEALs, and I have introduced a resolution to do just that. These SEALs should be given medals and sent out to bag another one.

And that's just the way it is.

CREATING JOBS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, during the 111th Congress, we have made great strides in creating jobs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was the largest middle class tax cut in history. One year ago, the economy that was declining by 6 percent is now expanding at about that rate because of this significant program.

The Recovery Act has already worked to save or create as many as 2 million jobs, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. In 1 year, the Recovery Act has provided \$120 billion in tax cuts for 95 percent of the working families as well as businesses across the country; loaned nearly \$20 billion to small businesses to expand and create jobs; and funded more than 12,500 transportation projects nationwide; kept teachers, police officers, and firefighters on the job; and accomplished much more.

IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Many of you may remember in the 1992 campaign for the Presidency, James Carville made famous the phrase "It's the economy, stupid," because they posted that sign on the campaign war room to remind the candidate and the staff that that was the number one issue the American people wanted focused on.

Well, you know, Mr. Carville ought to pull that signage back out and take it over to the White House and maybe take one down the hallway here to the Speaker's suite to remind the majority and the leadership that that is what the American people want us focused on. It is not a government takeover of health care; they want us to focus on the economy and creating jobs.

I don't know why that seems to be something that they don't want to do. The President said at the beginning of the year that he was going to pivot from health care and focus "like a laser" on jobs and the economy. And here we are now demanding that we put our full attention on the government takeover of health care by the end of next week.

You just want to remind them: It's the economy, stupid. Let's focus on it.

BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I introduced a constitutional amendment bill to balance the Federal budget. I am proud that 36 of my colleagues have joined me in cosponsoring H.J. Res. 78, and I urge all Members of Congress who believe that government should live within a budget join me and my colleagues to pass this bill.

Balancing the budget is a simple concept that Alabama families follow every day. Without question, there are many steps that must be taken to improve our financial situation, but balancing the budget on a yearly basis is the only way to ensure that we don't repeat the mistakes of our past.

We know we can achieve this goal because we have done so in the past. From 1998 to 2001, our country achieved balanced budgets through adherence to PAYGO. Forty-nine States currently require an annual balanced budget. Passing a constitutional amendment is a long process but is absolutely necessary to ensure America remains strong for generations to come.

I urge the entire Congress to join me in this effort. I want to thank you for your support.

HONORING DAVID HAMES

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a noble and humble man lost in the devastating earthquake in Haiti. David Hames of Colorado Springs, Colorado, left an enduring legacy of selflessness and faith.

David lived a life completely devoted to his family and to his Savior, Jesus Christ. He and his beloved wife of 13 years, Renee, have been blessed with two beautiful adopted sons, Aidan and Zander, who will remember their father's unending love.

He blessed the world with his talent for filmmaking. This was embodied in his award-winning and innovative children's educational video series, "Cranium's Ark."

On January 11, David arrived in Haiti for Compassion International to tell the story of orphans and widows as he had throughout the world. After a day of shooting footage, he was in the