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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, true humility will not automatically come to us when we choose to bow our heads in prayer or when we acknowledge our sins or shortcomings. More often, we are most humbled when overwhelming circumstances far exceed our control or natural disasters or human events surprise us.

Lord, the horrific tragedy of biblical proportions in Haiti has deeply touched us all. At the same time, this island community has called forth from the contemporary world a flood of compassionate prayer and created a mighty force of coordinating resources, personal generosity and heroic action.

Grant wisdom, prudence, and fortitude to rescue workers, medical teams and caretakers who deliver aid and supplies.

Your mighty presence is known, Lord, when true poverty casts a fresh light on another's wealth, when the weakness of some brings forth greater strength from the rest. Sickness leans on the healthy. The dead are lifted up and buried to protect the living.

How noble is this great sacrifice of the living and the dead. The human proportions of such love cannot be measured. We watch and say, "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. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR 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 agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 228. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most of the American people oppose the government plan to take over health care. It costs too much; it borrows too much; it taxes too much; it's inefficient; and it gives government bureaucrats the control of our personal medical decisions. We should just fix what's broken.

People should be able to buy health insurance across State lines to get competitive rates. Small businesses should be able to pool together to get better rates through larger risk pools. Businesses that help take care of their employees should get tax breaks rather than tax increases. People should own

their own health insurance policies—and that's real portability.

If anybody loses or leaves their jobs, they don't lose their insurance. People should not be cancelled for having pre-existing conditions, and we should figure out a way to provide for catastrophic illness, catastrophic injury and affordability.

These are things that most Members agree on. These things don't cost billions of dollars. These things help keep government out of the doctor's office. We should fix what the American people want us to fix and keep the government from destroying America's health.

And that's just the way it is.

BOBBY SALCEDO

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution decrying the shocking violence of the Mexican drug cartels, and I am urging the Mexican Government to bring to justice those responsible for the killing of Bobby Salcedo and of countless innocent bystanders.

This past New Year's Eve, Bobby Salcedo, a young elected official and rising star from my district in El Monte, California, was brutally executed in Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico. Despite having no connection to the Mexican drug trade, Mr. Salcedo's death is part of a recent and pervasive surge in violence against innocent bystanders. Bobby's death reminds us that the violence of the Mexican drug cartels is not in some faraway land but that it affects us here in the United States as well.

This violence must be stopped. Bobby's killers must be brought to justice. That is why I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution in urging the United States and Mexico to bring an

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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end to the gruesome violence of the Mexican drug cartels.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF TECHNICAL SERGEANT ANTHONY C. CAMPBELL

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Technical Sergeant Anthony C. Campbell, an Air Force Reservist and Cincinnati police officer from Florence, Kentucky. Sergeant Campbell made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation on December 15, 2009, in Afghanistan while serving with the 932nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

Tony Campbell was a model citizen and patriot. His dream was to serve in the military and in law enforcement. After graduating from Boone County High School in 1992, he joined the U.S. Air Force. After active duty, he spent 10 years working as a pipefitter and Air Force Reservist before fulfilling his dream to become a Cincinnati police officer. Tony was recalled to active duty and deployed to Afghanistan in October of 2009.

Today, as we honor the service of this exceptional Kentuckian, my heartfelt prayers are with Tony's wife, Emily, their children, Jordan, Ryker and Devin, and his loving parents. We are all indebted to Tony for his bravery, dedication, and willingness to answer the Nation's call to defend freedom.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EGYPT

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns and outrage over human rights abuses in Egypt.

The Egyptian Government must uphold the rights of all religious communities by ending discrimination and harassment of these groups and prosecuting those that do harm to these groups.

An attack that happened 2 weeks ago starkly illustrates the need for change in Egypt. On January 6, the night before Coptic Christmas, a drive-by shooting killed six Coptic Christians. While the United States and the human rights community have been vocal in condemning this attack and other human rights abuses, the Egyptian Government has yet to recognize the full significance of the violent act or the overreaching issue of intolerance in the country.

Violence in the name of religion is unacceptable, but when governments do not sufficiently address such behavior, the violence is far more troubling. Religion is a fundamental freedom that must be upheld and respected in every

nation and in every community. I urge my colleagues and the House to join me in calling for religious freedom and basic rights for all people.

MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR TERRORISTS ACT

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, I introduced legislation that requires terrorists to be tried in military courts. The American people are outraged that foreign terrorists that are waging war against the United States are being treated as common criminals. The al Qaeda-trained Nigerian terrorist accused of trying to blow up Flight 253 on Christmas Day—I was in Detroit that day—is only the latest example of this misguided policy.

The mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks is going on trial in New York City, just blocks from Ground Zero. Even the New York Democratic Governor disagrees with this approach.

Putting terrorists on trial before military tribunals has many benefits, including the fact that sensitive U.S. intelligence sources and methods will be protected. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and cosponsor the Military Tribunal for Terrorists Act.

EXPRESSING THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS IN IOWA

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the volunteers who have worked and continue to work in the flood-ravaged community of Cedar Rapids and all throughout Iowa.

On Monday, Martin Luther King Day, we observed a national day of service and volunteerism. I had the honor of working alongside a number of volunteers in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is the efforts, dedication, and a sense of shared community like I experienced on Monday that is the heart and soul of Iowa, and indeed our great Nation.

While I have been able to work with Congress to provide supplemental disaster assistance toward flood recovery, it is the volunteers from not only Iowa, but all over the country who have offered their hearts and time and made a truly monumental impact in our State. Thank you again, volunteers, for all you do.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, my constituent, Deana Hebert, last saw her

then 18-month-old daughter, Bianca Lozano, on April 7, 1995. Bianca's father, Juan Lozano, took her for a scheduled child custody visit and then abducted her to Mexico. That was almost 15 years ago.

I was shocked to learn that there are over 950 open reports of U.S. citizen children being taken into Mexico by a parent. No parent should ever go through Deana's nightmare. That is why I have been working with all levels of government to urge cooperation with Mexico and allow this mother to see her child again.

Congress should pass H.R. 3240, the International Child Abduction Prevention Act of 2009, which would establish an Office on International Child Abductions within the State Department. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, which would strengthen the tools we have available to ensure that children like Bianca Lozano know they have a mother who loves them and come home.

THE LONG VIEW ON JOB CREATION

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as we consider new job initiatives to create more jobs for unemployed Americans, the Joint Economic Committee will be producing a series of charts over the next few weeks to help us better understand the economic missteps that led and contributed to this great recession.

This chart goes back to 1992, the year that President Clinton was elected. It shows that during his time there was very robust job creation in the private sector, and then during the Bush years it fell dramatically. This dark line is the job creation, going up during the Clinton years, falling dramatically under the Bush administration. It also shows that Democrats have been considerably more effective at creating private-sector jobs.

Economic reality was actually even worse than this chart shows. As Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has pointed out, job creation during the Bush administration was fueled by a bubble that inflated housing prices and spurred consumption and hiring, and when that bubble burst, the bottom fell out.

We owe it to the millions of unemployed who fell victim to the failed economic policies of the past to invest in Democratic job creation policies that have actually put people back to work in the private sector.

THE LONG VIEW ON JOB CREATION

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, while efforts to tax energy production have failed because of overwhelming public