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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. PASTOR of Arizona).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 21, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we seek Your grace and wisdom in our lives and in our leaders that they may serve Your people with truth and justice.

Remember Your faithful servants, the Armenian people, who for 95 Aprils have lived with the memory of the genocide of 1½ million of their nation. We pray that such barbarity never again be inflicted upon any of Your creatures. We give thanks for the blessings that You have bestowed upon the remnant of the Armenian people who were welcomed and given new life in the United States of America. We thank You for delivering us from the depths of despair into this land of liberty.

Bless America, the country of greatness and goodness. Renew the values of our American heritage so that America will remain the country of truth, freedom, justice, and peace.

We stand before You and ask this in Your name and for Your glory. 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 Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky 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.

WELCOMING ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN CHOLOYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the Representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan in his offering of the opening prayer, and join my colleagues this week in the sad commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

On this 95th anniversary of the genocide, I join with a chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

The archbishop is the head of the Armenian Church in the United States, which is located in my district. As the spiritual shepherd of several hundred thousand Armenian Americans in the Eastern United States, he plays a sig-

nificant role in the life of the Armenian community. It is a great honor to welcome him 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.

INTRODUCING HOME HEALTH CARE PLANNING IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Seniors who see a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant as their primary care provider face unnecessary delays in receiving necessary home health services. Medicare recognizes that nurse practitioners and physician's assistants diagnose and care for patients, prescribe medications, and order nursing home services for seniors, all in accordance with State law.

But even when State laws explicitly include ordering home health care within the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, as Pennsylvania does, Medicare still requires a physician's signature for referral and payment. That Medicare allows nurse practitioners and PA's to sign the forms to place a senior in a nursing home but not for less expensive home health care just doesn't make sense. This requirement leads to unnecessary and costly delays.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to fix this problem and to ensure that seniors get the care that they need in appropriate and cost efficient settings by cosponsoring my bill, H.R. 4993, the Home Health Care Planning and Improvement Act, and make sure that

□ 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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seniors get the care they need in the right setting.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER RULING

(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, last week U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb ruled that the National Day of Prayer violates the first amendment to the Constitution despite decades of statute and tradition. This is another disappointing example of activist judges making decisions that fly in the face of the Constitution, violating congressional intent, and the values of our Founders. John Adams declared, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Every year on the first Thursday of May we gather as a people to pray and acknowledge our Nation's need and place before eternity. George Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."

This ruling is not what our Founders intended and does a disservice to our history as a religious Nation. I call on Attorney General Eric Holder to appeal this ruling.

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. We need financial regulatory reform. In 2008, our country witnessed the failure of some of the biggest and most interconnected companies in our economy. Years of greed and irresponsible behavior allowed financial institutions to make casino bets with the money of hardworking American families.

Last year the Financial Services Committee and this Chamber passed a comprehensive set of reforms that will prevent these abuses from happening again. This reform finally put the American consumer over the bottom lines of banks. They will allow shareholders to have a say on the excessive bonuses that many executives receive regardless of performance, and they will end the problems of too big to fail.

The time has come for Members of both Chambers to stop making false accusations in return for political gains. Let's work together and pass financial regulatory reform. It's time for change.

THE CASE OF JAMIE LEIGH JONES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Jamie Leigh Jones was a 20-year-old and went to Iraq as a civilian contractor. Here is her story: after being in Iraq just a few days, she said she was drugged and gang raped by fellow employees. She was held hostage in a cargo container for 24 hours without food or water. She was assaulted so badly that later she had to have reconstructive surgery.

She convinced one of the people guarding her to let her borrow a cell phone. She called her dad. Her dad called my office in Texas. With the help of the State Department, we helped immediately to rescue her, and she was quickly brought back to America.

But no one has been held accountable for these crimes. The rape kit and the forensic evidence apparently were compromised by somebody in Iraq. During this Victims' Rights Week, we need to realize that when citizens go to a war zone and serve their country and a crime is committed against them, they should have justice.

People like Jamie Leigh Jones deserve the protection of our law. The long arm of the law should reach in lands far away to hold perpetrators accountable for assaulting fellow Americans in time of war because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

WHOSE SIDE ARE WE ON?

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, all across northeast Wisconsin, everywhere I go people are asking me whose side am I on? Whose side are we on?

Isn't it time we finally began to work together to solve these complex problems, to help rebuild our country, to rebuild our jobs, bring these jobs back home where they belong instead of sending them overseas? Whose side are we really on?

Isn't it time we pursued each and every one of the crooks on Wall Street who took our money? People in Wisconsin want their money back. They want their jobs back. And they are going to be asking the question whose side are we on? Well, let's work together, rebuild our families, our communities, and make certain that any bank, any bank or any investment firm that is too big to fail ceases to exist. Let's break up the big banks on Wall Street.

IRAN'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES

(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, yesterday the Department of Defense released the Military Power Report on Iran. The report is designed to provide Congress and the White

House with an assessment of Iran's current military capabilities and the regime's future military strategy.

The report served as a stark reminder of the military and nuclear realities in the region. Sadly, it is incomplete because it lacked information about funding provided by Iran's military branches and also information about military doctrine. The information that the report does include confirms Iran's efforts to hide its nuclear infrastructure, their support of nuclear terrorist surrogates, and the terrifying investment in a missile that could hit America in less than 5 years.

Now is the time for the administration and Congress to put forward an effective strategy to deal with Iran. It is imperative that both parties work vigilantly with our allies around the world to ensure Iran does not continue down this dangerous road.

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

Congratulations Columbia Mayor-Elect Steve Benjamin and Councilwoman Leona Plough, joining Tameika Isaac Devine and Sam Davis.

CONGRATULATING VILLA MARIA ACADEMY ON THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BASKETBALL

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the women of Villa Maria Academy from Erie, Pennsylvania, my hometown, for their extraordinary basketball team on their second straight PIAA Class AA State Basketball Championship.

On March 26, Villa Maria sealed their state championship after defeating York Catholic High School 52-44 at Penn State University. More than 2,000 people filled the stands as the Villa Maria Victors lived up to their name. The team was led by seniors Kayla McBride, Ashley Prischak, Kaylyn Maruca, Cara Wyant, Kelly Ek, and Erica Webber, who all helped secure Villa's back-to-back State championships. Coach Scott Dibble steered this great team to victory and finished the season with a 28-2 record.

As a Villa Maria alum and former basketball player, I am so proud to offer well-deserved congratulations to the Villa Victors on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives. I can't wait to see next year's three-peat.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENERAL MIKOLAJCIK

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend, General Thomas Mikolajcik, known to many of his