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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. SERRANO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 12, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSÉ E. SERRANO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Timothy Goble, Grace Evangelical Free Church, Colville, Washington, offered the following prayer:

Most gracious Lord God, we are continually encouraged as we sense Your guardianship as You powerfully determine the destiny of this Republic. We acknowledge that the future of all of our political institutions are staked upon the capacity of each of us here to govern, control, and to sustain ourselves in accordance with the Word of God.

Today, we acknowledge our departure from Your Word and ask for Your forgiveness. May Your Word once again become the guiding light for our homes, our schools, our courtrooms, and workplaces. Lay upon the hearts of all those who serve in this great historical room the need to establish a personal relationship with You that will grow them into servant leaders, who make their constituents the beneficiary of every decision from Your divine perspective. May they walk humbly with each other, acknowledging their mutual duty of loving forbearance. All this we ask in the name of Jesus. 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. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. TIMOTHY GOBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome Pastor Tim Goble, who gave the opening prayer to Congress this morning. He's the Pastor of Grace Evangelical Free Church in Colville, Washington, where he and his family have been faithfully serving our Lord in ministry to the people of that area for the past 23 years. He's been my pastor. Over the years, I've become friends with his wife, Jane, and their three sons, Nathan, Stephen, and Daniel.

His first job after seminary was serving as a youth pastor in northern Indiana from 1976 to 1986. He then moved across the country to Washington State in 1987, to become pastor of a new church plant of 35 people. Since then, the church has grown steadily, making a tremendous difference in the

lives of all who have walked through its doors, including me and my family.

I admire Pastor Tim and his family and appreciate their leadership, service, commitment to our community, and their example to all of us. Thank you for coming to the United States Congress to lead us in prayer 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.

MOVE TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say: It will not be the U.S. taxpayer who is stuck with the bill for the tragic oil spill that is still spewing hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. British Petroleum had \$6 billion in profit last quarter alone. That's profit, not earnings. And that's the first place we should be looking to pay for this oil spill. We all know how much money Halliburton socked away, thanks to the last administration. Their deep pockets also need to be tapped to pay for their negligence.

For years, we've heard from the oil industry that offshore drilling is safer than ever, cleaner than ever. Not true. Meanwhile, oil companies like BP spent years making billions while gouging consumers. We in the House are going to make sure that they pay for cleaning up this unprecedented catastrophe. It's time to truly move beyond petroleum into renewable energy and energy efficiency.

□ 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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WARNING TO TEXAS STATE LEGISLATORS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Texas Department of Public Safety has issued a stern safety warning to members of the Texas legislature living near the southern border: Remove your car license plates that say "State official" on them. Texas legislators were warned to remove their identifying car license plates because of threats from Mexican drug cartels. Based on intelligence estimates from information they have received, law enforcement cautioned that the drug cartels may target members of the Texas legislature for assaults and kidnappings, especially those living on the border region. Some of the members and their staffs have removed those "State official" license plates and some are seeking concealed carry permits. There have been earlier reports of Mexican officials being assaulted and kidnapped by the cartels in Mexico. Now the threats have crossed to our side of the porous border region.

Now it seems to me the National Guard is probably better suited to deal with the violent narco-terrorists than a bunch of legislative staffers with concealed weapons—even in Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

ESOP PROMOTION AND EXPANSION ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. This week, representatives from employee-owned S corporations from around America will be on Capitol Hill, giving a chance for Members and staff to hear directly from these employee owners how their investment and hard work facilitated by this unique ownership helps create jobs and helps their employee owners prepare for retirement; how they expanded jobs here in America, even in this difficult environment.

In 2008, for instance, ESOP increased employment 2 percent, while our economy overall shed almost 3 percent of the jobs. Employee-owned business wages increased at twice the national average. Each company is a unique American success story. That's why I hope you will join me in cosponsoring H.R. 3586, the ESOP Promotion and Expansion Act, to protect and enhance employee-owned corporations.

CONGRATULATING ALLEN AMERICANS HOCKEY TEAM

(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. Today, I'd like to congratulate the players and coaches of the Allen Americans Hockey

Team for capturing the Southern Conference championship title. This is the first time a first-season team has accomplished this. After a stellar inaugural, winning season, the minor league hockey team earned a slot in the playoffs. They won two playoff series against Laredo and Odessa. Their final postseason game against the Rapid City Rush ended in a double overtime battle. It's no surprise they sent four players up to the American Hockey League.

The Allen Americans play at the Allen Event Center, and folks should be proud to have such an accomplished, dedicated team representing their community. I've seen them—and they're good. I had the privilege of cheering on the Americans last season and I look forward to attending more games in the future.

I wish the team and its players all the best. Congratulations. God bless you. I salute you. As the fans like to cheer: Dread the Red!

ECONOMY TRENDING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a chart prepared by the Joint Economic Committee, which I call the V chart—not for victory, or total victory, but it certainly shows success and that we're trending in the right direction in our economy. The red bars on the chart represent the job losses under the prior administration. The last month of the Bush administration, this country lost over 770,000 jobs. The blue bars represent the record of the Obama administration as we recover from the depths of an inherited economic disaster.

There is still much left to do as we recover from the great recession. Millions of Americans still suffer. But if we wish to avoid repeating history, we should first remember and understand it. The policies of the past drove our economy down. The policies of this Congress have begun to lift it up. You can see it here very clearly in a V and in red, white, and blue.

OPTING OUT OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT MANDATE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week, Governor Bobby Jindal announced that Louisiana, along with 16 other States, would not participate in the government takeover of health care's temporary high risk pools. I commend Governor Jindal on this decision and for having the foresight not to put Louisiana on the hook for yet another tax-increasing, job-killing, unfunded mandate, and subjecting our citizens to more Federal inefficiency and bureaucracy.

While I have always supported the concept of high risk pools, this effort

will thrust the burden onto the backs of Louisiana taxpayers, eventually saddling them with another federally mandated program they can ill afford. Louisianans have made it clear that they are sick and tired of carrying the water for an ever-expanding Federal Government. I commend our Governor for doing the right thing for our State and our country.

END KARZAI'S WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Afghan President Karzai is in Washington this week seeking another \$33 billion to keep the war going, meeting with the White House to present his so-called "peace proposal" to allocate \$160 million from international donors to fund new government bodies, pay off insurgents who agree to stop fighting, and to undermine efforts to establish local governance.

Ranked the second most corrupt government in the world, only behind Somalia, Mr. Karzai's blatant government corruption, his ties to Big Oil, and his ties to Afghanistan's most notorious drug pushers, including his own brother, is no secret. While he's being treated as royalty in Washington, millions of dollars shuffle through Kabul Airport, unaccounted for, as Mr. Karzai builds villas in Dubai. Meanwhile, I have constituents in Cleveland who are struggling to stay in their homes.

The longer this charade of nation building and counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan continues, the more U.S. soldiers and innocent Afghan civilians die. He wants \$33 billion for war to continue in Afghanistan. Here at home, Americans need jobs and access to education and health care. Billions would be better spent rebuilding America than sending it to Afghanistan to continue a war.

Bring our troops home. End the war.

NETWORKS SHOW BIAS ON ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, television network news stories about Arizona immigration enforcement law have been overwhelmingly negative, according to a new analysis by the Media Research Center. From April 23 to May 3, negative news reports on ABC, CBS, and NBC outnumbered positive reports by a margin of 12 to 1. This kind of extreme bias is a danger to democracy. And nowhere is it more evident than in reporting about immigration.

Only 10 percent of network reports acknowledged that a majority of Americans support the Arizona law and that