

and emotional development, all while being tasked with achieving academic success. Ensuring that our children are prepared to be tomorrow's adults requires that each of these components come together seamlessly. Our children are being forced to grow up faster than any generation before them. Today's children live in an interconnected world that is vastly different from the one that our parents, or even we, knew. In this sea of rapid and radical change, it is reassuring to know that our school counselors will be there to support those children that need it most. They offer each child an indispensable link between the classroom and the real world. School counselors are without a doubt a vital link in our children's emotional and academic educations.

Always willing to lend their sympathetic ear and advice, school counselors are never far at hand when a child needs to express his or her fears, hopes and aspirations. School counselors are helping our children to develop into wonderful young adults each and every day. We should all welcome the opportunity to say congratulations to these unsung protectors of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues later on today as we take up this bill to honor school counselors across the United States to vote in favor of this resolution, for it is a fine tribute to people whose life's mission is to turn today's children into tomorrow's leaders.

Thank you very much for the time, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, of The Catholic University of America, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, in these times of difficulty and confusion, our hearts remind us to turn back to You. You are the light; You are the truth. We trust that You will guide our paths during these troubled times; You keep us safe from all evil; and one day, You will lead us safely home. May we open our eyes, now, to see You in our lives; may we open our ears, this day, to hear Your voice. And thus may we follow You with steadfastness and courage. We ask this in the power of Your Spirit

and in Your Word present and among us. 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 Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DINGELL 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 bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2950. An act to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, announces the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Bruce Cole of Indiana, Anne Neal of Wisconsin, and Michael Pokiakoff of Colorado.

INTRODUCING THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY STABILITY ACT OF 2010

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

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, it is not long since a bunch of avaricious, grasping New York bankers caused a replay of 1929 and a major collapse of the American economy. They were too big to fail, and as a result, this Nation has spent hundreds of billions of dollars bailing them out for their wrongdoing. This is intolerable. If we cannot regulate these people, the least we can do is see that they are properly sized.

I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring the Financial Services Industry Stability Act of 2010, which I

am introducing today. As Paul Volcker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve, said, the institutions too big to fail would be that they would "be sheltered by access to a Federal safety net in time of crisis." Another former Fed Chair, my dear friend Alan Greenspan, said, "If they're too big to fail, they're too big." Similarly, Mervyn King, governor of the Bank of England, opines, "If some banks are thought to be too big to fail, then, in the words of a distinguished economist, they are too big." I urge my colleagues to help me cut down these avaricious scoundrels to proper size.

THREE OUT OF FOUR AMERICANS THINK STIMULUS MONEY HAS BEEN WASTED

(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. Madam Speaker, where are the jobs? This is the question I continue to ask the liberal majority, since they persist pushing legislation killing jobs. Families are hurting, particularly in South Carolina, where the unemployment rate recently jumped to a gruesome 12.6 percent. The stimulus bill isn't living up to its name, and Americans realize it. According to a CNN poll released yesterday, nearly three out of four Americans think that at least half of the money spent in the Federal stimulus plan has been wasted. Moreover, 63 percent believe projects in the plan were included for political reasons and will have no economic benefit.

I have introduced the National Commission on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act so taxpayers receive adequate answers as to the whereabouts of stimulus funds. I urge Speaker PELOSI to consider this legislation to ensure full accountability of every stimulus dollar spent.

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

TRIBUTE TO OUR REMARKABLE TROOPS

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

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our remarkable troops. Our men and women in uniform represent the best of America. Never is that more apparent than when our forces are mobilized to help people in need, most recently in the wake of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. As of last week, approximately 13,000 military personnel are part of the Haiti relief effort, about 10,000 aboard ship, and 3,000 ashore.

The United States' response to the Haiti earthquake is a whole-of-government effort, with the U.S. Agency for International Development in the lead,

but our military personnel are truly indispensable to the humanitarian response. U.S. military professionals have the logistical, medical, and engineering skills that are desperately needed in a disaster zone.

This critical contribution to the Haiti relief effort comes at a time when the men and women of our military are already being stretched by two wars. But crises rarely happen on a planned timetable, and our troops have demonstrated, once again, their capability to respond admirably whenever disaster strikes.

As any American who has been helped by the National Guard or other U.S. forces during a flood, hurricane, fire, tornado, or other emergency, there is no limit to the compassion, commitment, and dedication of those wearing the American service uniform.

U.S. military servicemembers and their families make tremendous sacrifices, both for our Nation and in working to help people in times of need all over the world. I am so proud of the contribution our heroes in uniform are making to help the people of Haiti, in cooperation with all of the other people in government and non-governmental organizations, and international organizations who are working as partners in the Haiti relief effort.

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the United States Constitution is a document to limit the Federal Government. Thomas Jefferson said, "Free government is founded in jealousy, and not in confidence, which (requires) limited constitutions to bind down those whom we are obliged to trust with power."

As the all-seeing eye of the government tries to take care of us, and since it believes we are subjects incapable of taking care of our own health, nowhere in the Constitution is the Federal Government given the enumerated privilege to make a power grab and control the Nation's health. The Constitution sets limits on what dictates of pain the Federal Government is allowed to inflict on the rest of us. George Washington didn't fight the Redcoats so people would be the subjects of a new oppressive, untrustworthy Federal bureaucracy, and the Colonists didn't die in the War of Independence so a health care czar could have the rule over us. It is an unconstitutional abuse of power to nationalize American health care and trust the government with our health.

And that's just the way it is.

PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, the American people are hurting, and Washington is not listening. Over the

past year, the policies of more taxes, runaway spending and record debt have had a chilling effect on job creation across this country. The stock market is languishing, home sales have declined, and unemployment is in double-digits, reaching its highest level in decades.

Last year, President Obama and congressional Democrats promised that the trillion-dollar stimulus plan would create jobs immediately, and unemployment would not rise above 8 percent. Sadly, the only thing the wasteful stimulus bill created was bigger government, with nearly 2.7 million American jobs lost since that promise was made.

The Republican plan provides targeted tax relief for working families and small businesses and will create real jobs, not an illusion of jobs saved, as the administration suggests. It's past time that the President and the Democratic majority get serious about putting Americans back to work.

KEEP TERRORISTS LOCKED UP IN CUBA

(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. Madam Speaker, President Obama says that closing the terrorist detention center in Cuba will help America's image abroad and make America safer. This idea is contrary to common sense, nonsensical, irrational, counterintuitive, and dangerous. Since the President has announced his intention to close the military prison, there have been more attempted terrorist attacks, not fewer. The terrorists sense weakness, not strength.

Keeping terrorists locked up in Cuba, rather than transferring them to the U.S. or other countries, is the only way to protect Americans. If they go to other countries, they can be released. If they go to the U.S., they can get constitutional rights, like citizens, which they certainly don't deserve. The administration should treat terrorists like terrorists and leave them in Cuba.

THREE PENDING TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT WILL CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, as we all know, there will be a great deal of excitement around the Capitol tomorrow evening. The President of the United States will be delivering his first State of the Union message. Early indications are that he will be talking about the issue that Democrats and Republicans alike and people around this country are talking about, and that is job creation.

We have got an unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent, much higher in

my State of California, and we think—Democrat and Republican alike—that it's a very good idea for the President to be focusing on job creation and economic growth.

Well, Madam Speaker, he has a wonderful opportunity to take what I believe would be the strongest, boldest, most dynamic step towards economic growth, and that is to send to Capitol Hill three pending trade agreements: Panama, Colombia and South Korea. We could create jobs in the manufacturing sector, in the service sector, in the farming sector of our economy if we were to break down the barriers that right now prevent U.S. workers and service providers from being able to have access to that consumer market.

So as we work together in a bipartisan way to create jobs, I encourage the President, Madam Speaker, to send those three trade agreements so that we can create jobs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 22, 2010.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, January 22, 2010 at 2:53 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits consistent with Public law 107-108 a report on matters related to support for the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE FOR THE INTERDICTION OF AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-89)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the authorities related to official immunity in the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking (Public Law 107-108, 22 U.S.C. 2291-4), as amended, and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report by my Administration. This report includes matters related to support for the interdiction