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No. 22

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SPEIER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 22, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKIE SPEIER 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: Lord of history, yet ever present to people of faith, we place our trust in You.

As we mark the birthday of George Washington, we are mindful of his words: "When you deliver a message, do it without passion and with discretion, however mean the person you do it to."

Lord, help children and adults, especially leaders and professional communicators in this country, to be discreet and discerning in the way they speak to others. Then perhaps some of the 110 rules of civility and decent behavior George jotted down for himself at the age of 14 may find fresh expression in 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 New York (Mr. TONKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TONKO 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.

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:

FEBRUARY 11, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 11, 2010 at 7:01 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2917.

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 413.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 235.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Tuesday, February 9, 2010:

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

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resigna-

tion from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: This letter is to let you know that I have sent a letter to Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle informing her that I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the First Congressional district of Hawaii effective February 28, 2010.

It has been my privilege to serve in the United States House of Representatives on behalf of the people of Hawaii for the past 19 years. And to have served with you, Madam Speaker, the first female Speaker of the House, is an honor. I owe you and all my Congressional colleagues a debt of gratitude for your leadership, dedication, and friendship. I look forward to working with you in the future.

During my tenure in Washington, DC I have seen partisan division grind our important work to a halt but I have also developed lasting relationships in pursuit of bi-partisan solutions on national defense, natural resources, and energy issues. In the coming months and years, I plan to bring the best of what I have learned in the U.S. Congress and from the Obama Administration's promise of hope and change back to the islands of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2010.

Hon. LINDA LINGLE,
Governor, Executive Chambers, Hawaii State Capitol, Honolulu, HI.

DEAR GOVERNOR LINGLE: This letter is intended to serve notice that I will be resigning my position as the United States Representative for the First Congressional District of Hawaii effective February 28, 2010. It has been a great privilege to serve the people of Hawaii in the U.S. House of Representatives for the past 19 years and I am grateful for their faith and trust.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the House, and more specifically, in the Hawaii Congressional Delegation for the honor of serving the people of our state and country

□ 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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together as a team. I am looking forward to continuing our important work to build a better Hawaii in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE,
Member of Congress.

HONORING MARTY MAHAR

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today asking my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4425, which would rename the Lansingburgh Post Office located at 2-116th Street in North Troy to the Martin G. "Marty" Mahar Post Office.

A longtime resident of Troy, Marty Mahar's legacy was one defined by his unwavering commitment to public service. Returning home as both a celebrated and decorated World War II veteran, earning four Battle Stars, Marty's desire to stay active within veterans organizations led him to become a National Service Officer.

He was extremely effective at combining his military professionalism and consideration for his fellow soldiers with countless hours of information and counseling sessions to ensure that veterans experienced a smooth transition back into civilian life. Marty's commitment to serving his country led him to becoming both a life member of the VFW and Military Order of the Purple Heart as well as a Veterans Hall of Fame honoree in 2005.

Apart from the time spent with the military, Marty is also honored for his civic duties on the local and State levels. The desire to give back to his community was a hallmark of Marty's character. Such an attitude helped in his push to found the Troy Patriot's Pop Warner football league, the Uncle Sam Parade committee, the Troy Flag Day parade and more. He was president of the New York State Association of City Councils and a city councilman in Troy for a decade as well as serving as its mayor.

Marty was truly a public servant whose leadership and selflessness should be a model for us all. From his dedication in serving our country as a marine during World War II to his service in the Postal Service and our community, I am honored to take a lead role in renaming this post office in Marty's honor. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this extraordinary public servant by voting "yes" on H.R. 4425.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE DO WITH LESS

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, American taxpayers are wondering how another year of trillion-dollar government deficits is going to help get our economy humming again. We've seen a

costly stimulus package that didn't create the jobs that were promised. Then it was a trillion-dollar health care bill that was more about Washington control than giving patients the control they want. And recently Congress increased the national debt limit by \$1.9 trillion to pay for its record-breaking spending spree over the past 12 months.

So it comes as no surprise that today the White House unveiled a new trillion-dollar health care bill that is even more expensive than the Senate bill it was supposed to improve upon.

When will Washington get it? Americans are making do with less. Shouldn't the Federal Government they pay for at least do the same?

RECLAIMING AMERICA'S GREATNESS

(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, a New York Times columnist who is revered by liberal Democrats recently wrote, "We've always known that America's reign as the world's greatest nation would eventually end."

This may be the logical conclusion if we follow President Obama's policies, but it doesn't have to be true. We can reclaim America's greatness—not lose it—if we focus on creating jobs in the private sector, not the government; reducing the deficit, not doubling it; providing health care to the long-term, low-income uninsured, not mandating a government takeover; and treating terrorists like terrorists, not local bank robbers.

Let's listen to the American people and get our financial house in order and our priorities straight. Then we will stay the greatest nation.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I, as many of my colleagues, have just returned from my district. During that time, I had two town hall meetings and numerous individual meetings with members of my constituency; and one thing was abundantly clear.

On the subject of health care, overwhelmingly they told me to bring this message back to Washington, D.C.:

Stop what you're doing, scrap the House bill, scrap the Senate bill and start over.

Interestingly enough, national polls show that's the national sentiment. By about 61 or 62 to 28, at least, the American people are telling us, Back off, scrap what you've done, start over again.

They're not asking for the status quo but they're asking for incremental ap-

proaches, and many of the things that Republicans have talked about are what the people are asking for.

Yet today, I was very disappointed to see the President has decided to ignore the American people. His message to the American people at least coming out from the White House today is:

Forget what you say. You're not smart enough to figure this out. We know better. We're going to forge ahead.

Madam Speaker, let's listen to the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

MARTIN G. "MARTY" MAHAR POST OFFICE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4425) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2-116th Street in North Troy, New York, as the "Martin G. 'Marty' Mahar Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4425

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MARTIN G. "MARTY" MAHAR POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2-116th Street in North Troy, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Martin G. 'Marty' Mahar Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Martin G. 'Marty' Mahar Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.