

Lord, make Your people one in creative work, in hope for peace, and in effective compassion so we bring You glory and honor now and forever.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

F-35S IN BEAUFORT

(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, Beaufort, South Carolina, is home to the Marine Corps Air Station, professionally commanded by Colonel John Snider. The Marine Corps Air Station plays a critical role in our national security operations and is home to six Marine squadrons and one Navy squadron, with an economic impact of \$615 million annually. I hope the future is about to grow even brighter for Beaufort this week as we are optimistic that the final environmental impact study promotes F-35B squadrons in this great and historic community.

It has been a pleasure to work with Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM to highlight Beaufort's pro-military community, mild climate, and existing facilities which provides for year-round training to military leaders including Marine Corps Commandant James Conway.

If Alternative I is chosen to support the F-35s, Beaufort can expect to see over 1,500 new jobs and hundreds of private sector high-tech jobs, as promoted by the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce led by President Carlotta Ungaro and the Military Enhancement Committee chaired by General Garry Parks. I look forward to expanding the Sound of Freedom in the Lowcountry.

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

LIU XIAOBO

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, this week, the Nobel Committee will award its annual Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese human rights advocate Liu Xiaobo, but at the ceremony the chair reserved for Liu will be empty as he is serving 11 years in prison for peacefully petitioning his government for basic human rights.

Earlier this year, I was proud to join my colleagues on the Human Rights Commission in nominating Liu for the Nobel Peace Prize. Even now, the Chinese Government is censoring the news of this award and is calling for a boycott of the award ceremony. Sadly, some nations have bowed to the wishes of the Communist government. I am particularly grieved to hear that Kazakhstan, Morocco, and Iraq will not send representatives to the ceremony. These nations should know exactly what it is like to have basic human rights denied by an autocratic government.

It is not too late to defy the bullying and intimidation from those who have imprisoned a peaceful man. I call on all nations to recognize the peaceful struggle of Liu Xiaobo, a man who has no hatred even for those who have denied him and his people basic freedoms, of this distinguished honor.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT KEVIN MATTHEW PAPE

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, over 2 weeks ago, Staff Sergeant Kevin Matthew Pape, age 30, was killed by enemy forces during a heavy fire fight while conducting combat operations in the Konar province of Afghanistan.

Born February 5, 1980, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Sergeant Pape enlisted in the United States Army in September of 2005 from his home town of Fort Wayne. As a squad leader assigned to 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sergeant Pape was on a remarkable sixth deployment, with three previous deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

Sergeant Pape's awards and decorations for his service are too numerous to list here. However, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Meritorious Service medals.

Sergeant Pape is survived by his wife, Amelia Rose Pape; his daughter, Aneka Sue; his father, Marc Dennis Pape; and his sister, Kristen Michele Pape, both of Fort Wayne. Sergeant Pape selflessly lived his life for others, distinguishing himself as an Army Ranger while continuously deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and fighting valiantly as he served our great Nation and following the Ranger creed.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today, 25,000 girls—some as young as 10 years old—will be robbed of their future when they are forced to marry much older men. This isn't marriage when a 10-year-old girl is given to a 40-year-old man; it's sexual abuse.

The practice of child marriage is wrong, and it must end. The United States must take a strong stand against child marriage.

Democrats and Republicans must come together and pass the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act as soon as possible. Every Senator agreed to this bill when it passed last week. It passed unanimously.

There is a lot of talk in Congress about the need to protect children from abuse. It's time for action. It's time for a vote.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 3, 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 3, 2010 at 4:15 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3237.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 5281.

That the Senate passed S. 1774.

That the Senate passed S. 124.

Appointment:

United States Commission on Civil Rights.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 6, 2010 at 1:24 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6399.

That the Senate passed S. 3860.
That the Senate passed S. 3817.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2010 at 9:50 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. R. 259.

That the Senate passed S. 4010.

Letter of Transmittal

Senate informs the House of Representatives that the Senate will resume consideration of the articles of impeachment against Judge G. Thomas Porteous.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER.

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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 is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

SUPPORTING NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1687) supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1687

Whereas the number of runaway and homeless youth in the United States is staggering, with studies suggesting that between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth live on the streets each year;

Whereas the problem of children who run away from home is widespread, as youth between 12 and 17 years of age are at a higher risk of homelessness than adults;

Whereas runaway youth are often expelled from their homes by their families, discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans, separated from their parents by death and divorce, or physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home;

Whereas runaway youth are often too poor to secure their own basic needs and are ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

Whereas effective programs that provide support to runaway youth and assist them in remaining at home with their families can succeed through partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing youth from running away from home and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national priority;

Whereas the future of the Nation is dependent on providing opportunities for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youth and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth with their families and link youth to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

Whereas during the month of November, the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month, in order to increase public awareness of the circumstances faced by youth in high-risk situations and to address the need to provide resources and support for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives for at-risk youth, their families, and their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 1687 for consideration. This resolution recognizes the importance of youth runaway prevention and at-risk youth programs. House Resolution 1687 was introduced by our colleague, Representative JUDY BIGGERT of Illinois, on September 29, 2010. Notably, this measure enjoys the support of 55 cosponsors.

Madam Speaker, according to the National Runaway Switchboard, between 1.6 million and 2.8 million youth run away from home every year. Notably, the National Runaway Switchboard reports that among those youth at greatest risk of running away and facing

homelessness are those that have been expelled from home, those that have suffered domestic abuse, and those that have been discharged by State custodial systems without the benefit of adequate transitional planning. Additionally, youth that have been separated from their parents by death or divorce, live in poverty, and/or are unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources are similarly at risk of running away and becoming homeless.

Madam Speaker, in light of the prevalence of the problem of runaway youth as well as youth homelessness, let us take this opportunity to pass House Resolution 1687 and recognize the important role that youth runaway prevention and at-risk youth programs play in addressing these issues. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of House Resolution 1687, expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

Studies suggest that nearly 3 million children are living on the street each year. Many of these individuals, who come from every socioeconomic background, have been kicked out of their homes, separated from their parents, or physically abused. Worse, these at-risk youth often find it increasingly difficult or even impossible to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to develop into safe, healthy and productive adults. That's why it is so important that we pass this resolution today, to raise awareness of the plight of runaway youth and increase public understanding of the role individual Americans can play in helping to prevent youth from running away from home.

As cochair of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues to help address many of the issues that face runaways and their families. The caucus has done some great work, and I would like to extend to all of my colleagues in the House an invitation to join us in exploring ways to improve the well-being of distressed youth and reduce the incidence of runaways.

In addition, I would like to commend the work done by organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Switchboard as well as similar organizations across the country that help ensure runaways and homeless kids in our communities aren't deprived of a chance at a future. In my home State of Illinois alone, almost 7,500 calls were placed to the National Runaway Switchboard last year, and nationally the organization fielded over 117,000 calls. For more than two decades, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has worked