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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Good and gracious God, as we enter upon this joyous season, we are aware

of so much hurt and pain, conflict and violence around the world and even in our own land.

We know that as long as we live in this world, such signs of our fallen humanity will always be with us. We do not pray that it will all magically disappear. However, in this season of grace, we pray that You might be with us in an especially poignant way. May

each of us come to know You more deeply, You who are our peace.

May each of us feel and treasure our common human bond with all our sisters and brothers. May we truly know peace on this Earth, and may we offer good will to all.

We make this prayer in Your holy name.

Amen.

NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 2d Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2010, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 2d Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 29, 2010, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 29. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 29, 2010, and will be delivered on Thursday, December 30, 2010.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. 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.

☐ 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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REFLECTING ON THE 111TH
CONGRESS

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this 111th Congress and to say how proud I am to have been a part of it. Some may look at the recent election and say we were off track. But while those showing up to vote may have changed from 2008 to 2010, I and so many of my colleagues stayed true to the people who elected us to change the direction of this country, and we did just that.

From health care to financial reform, the Fair Pay Act to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, I do not apologize for our accomplishments. I embrace them.

On a personal note, I have worked on Capitol Hill nearly 12 years, starting as a junior staffer for a Senator and eventually becoming an elected Member of this House. Despite the cynicism about Congress, I have been privileged to work alongside staff and Members dedicated to the public good and furthering this great Republic, often at great personal expense. I thank them, and I will forever be grateful that a shy public school student of modest means from Syracuse, New York, could come here as a Member of this great Congress in this great country.

CONGRATULATING PEPPER
PENNINGTON

(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, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to a dedicated staffer in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Pepper Pennington will be leaving the office to become chief of staff for Congressman-elect Daniel Webster of Florida's Eighth Congressional District.

Pepper has done a wonderful job serving the people of South Carolina's Second District since November 2009. As communications director, she has been the main contact between the office and members of the media. Pepper has been dedicated, hardworking, and is a valuable asset to the people of South Carolina. Pepper began her career on Capitol Hill in the Office of Congressman Tom Feeney of Florida and served as communications director for Congressman PAUL Broun of Georgia.

Pepper is the daughter of Cass and Cindy Pennington. She is a graduate of the University of Florida, and she is a diehard Gator fan. Pepper is engaged to marry Dave Natonski. She is a credit to the people of South Carolina and Florida. I wish her Godspeed. While I am sad to see her leave, I am even more proud to see her achieve such suc-

cess. She will be truly missed in the office, and I wish her all the success in her new position.

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

CONGRATULATING THE UCONN
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, on April 6, 2008, something happened that has not happened since—the UConn women's basketball team lost a game. That was almost 1,000 days ago; and since that day, the UConn Women Huskies have been on a streak that may not end for a long time.

UConn's victory this past Sunday was their 88th consecutive win, tying the Division I record set by the UCLA men's team in 1974. Since the streak began, UConn has racked up two national titles for a total of seven. Since the streak began, UConn Coach Geno Auriemma was chosen to lead the 2012 Olympic team. Since the streak began, UConn has had five first team all-Americans and back-to-back Player of the Year winners, Maya Moore and Tina Charles. Maya carries now a 4.0 average and is also the Big East Scholar Athlete of the Year. Since the streak began, UConn has maintained its 100 percent graduation rate for players, demonstrating that athletic achievement and academic excellence are not mutually exclusive.

Tonight the Huskies will play Florida State for a chance to surpass UCLA's record. Good luck to them and congratulations for their amazing success and sterling example for student athletes, both men and women.

THE PARTY'S OVER

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, on November 2, the American people spoke loudly and clearly: stop the spending. Instead of graciously bowing to the public will, the left has embarked upon a frantic lame duck spending spree with a majority that has already been turned out of office by the voters.

First, they exacted another \$136 billion in spending as the price to prevent a devastating tax increase on New Year's Day. They tried—unsuccessfully—to cram through a \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill packed with more than 6,000 earmarks. They are now pressing to continue spending at a rate that exceeds even that of 2010.

Now you could say they're partying like irresponsible teenagers; but even irresponsible teenagers have enough sense to stop trashing the house after the parents have phoned to say they're on their way home. Madam Speaker, the parents are going to be here in 15

days, and I have news for you: The party's over. Go home.

POST-9/11 GI BILL BENEFITS FOR
NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate National Guardsmen all across America on the passage of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act, which the President will sign into law later this week. Legislation that I introduced in the House last year to allow National Guardsmen to use their title 32 service—which includes homeland security troop support and disaster relief—to qualify for post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is included in the bill we sent to the President last week. Under this bill, 130,000 National Guardsmen who have helped to protect our citizens here at home will now be able to qualify for the GI Bill's many education benefits.

The heroes in America's National Guard, including the 20,000 soldiers and airmen in the Pennsylvania National Guard, provide invaluable service to our country during times of crisis; and thanks to this bill, they too will benefit from the landmark legislation signed into law in 2008.

I stand today to thank America's National Guard for their service and let them know our work is not done in honoring their commitment to our safety and security.

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IT'S TIME TO CUT FEDERAL
SPENDING

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the American people sent a crystal clear message to Washington in November that they are tired of this town's job-killing spending spree. But it appears that our colleagues in the current majority didn't get the message.

As a result, the government funding bill we're going to debate this week continues the record-setting rate of spending passed by the Democrat majority last year. This includes the higher spending for programs that have been bolstered by unnecessary and ineffective stimulus dollars.

Republicans have pledged real spending cuts to get our Nation back to a responsible budget and help create jobs. In fact, we've proposed to cut spending to pre-bailout and pre-stimulus 2008 levels, which would save taxpayers \$100 billion a year.

Madam Speaker, let's listen to the American people and get Federal spending under control.