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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 26, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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, our God, You reward the just and hate injustice. You forgive those who repent their sins and stir compassion for those who suffer.

Once again, Lord, during Black History Month, You have brought to mind pitiful stories of slavery and the deep yearning of people to be free.

With the craft of mass communication and the skill of good teachers, You have brought to life again powerful stories of African American heroes, scholars, artists, and outstanding leaders throughout our Nation's history.

Much of this artistry, delightful spirit, strong determination, and hard work was inspired by religious faith in You and the promise of the Holy Bible. Their witness to undying hope and peaceful resolution changed this Nation forever.

Lord, we praise and thank You for the African American communities across this landscape who have shared our past, bless our present culture, and endow our future with profound hope, genuine laughter, memorable music, and so many other contributions to our common good.

May the African American people continue to be a blessing, Lord, upon this Nation, 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TSONGAS 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### END THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The Washington Post reports that nearly \$1 billion a year in cash, suspected to include U.S. aid, opium trade receipts, or both, is moving from Afghanistan to Dubai, where friends and family of Afghanistan's President Karzai have multimillion dollar villas. Dubai real estate deals and a number of crooked enterprises connected to the Karzai family have

created crony capitalism in a country awash in U.S. cash and U.S. blood.

Nearly 1,000 U.S. soldiers have died, and for what? Hundreds of billions spent, and for what? To make Afghanistan safe for crooks, drug dealers, and crony capitalism?

Next Thursday I will bring a privileged resolution to this House so that Congress can claim our constitutional right to end this war and to bring our troops home. Please support the resolution.

### HEALTH CARE SUMMIT

(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. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the President missed an important opportunity to restart the national debate on health care reform. Americans who tuned into this health care summit were disappointed that they were left with the same Big Government health care takeover.

The American people are facing waves of Groundhog Day, as they have already rejected this type of government health care takeover.

There are substantive alternatives to consider. Republicans have offered 70 different health care bills to the Washington liberal majority. With 14.8 million Americans out looking for work, Congress should not be taking over a health care system that will destroy jobs, which the National Federation of Independent Business says will kill 1.6 million more jobs.

It's time to come to consensus on responsible health care elements that both parties agree on, and then move on to focus on job creation policies.

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

□ 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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Best wishes for the continued success of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of South Carolina.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to celebrate the lives of two African Americans from Erie, Pennsylvania.

Born in 1886, Harry T. Burleigh was a world-famous musician. Burleigh was the first African American composer acclaimed for his concert music, and he wrote more than 200 American art songs.

After his death in 1949, Harry Burleigh was largely forgotten until Rev. Charles Kennedy of Erie revived his memory. Rev. Kennedy, a minister and a musician, was a distinguished community leader and president of the Harry T. Burleigh Society. He championed the legacy of Burleigh's incredible talent. Sadly, Rev. Kennedy passed away this November.

Harry Burleigh and Charles Kennedy made unforgettable contributions to the African American community and all of American society. For Black History Month and every month, we honor their memories.

### LET'S GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the number of new unemployment benefit claims jumped last week to 496,000 Americans. More people out of work, more people looking for those promised jobs.

Meanwhile, a year later, we're bogged down debating the administration's \$1 trillion government-run health care bill, a government-created problem that most Americans flatly reject.

Our priorities should be getting people back to work. Get government off the back of small businesses, the real creator of jobs.

But the talk around town is to raise taxes. John Marshall said, "An unlimited power to tax involves the power to destroy. There is a limit beyond which no institution and no person can bear taxation."

Tax hikes for more Federal boondoggles won't create any jobs. Leave money in the hands of the people who earned it, the American public.

Meanwhile, 15 million Americans are unemployed.

And that's just the way it is.

### CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, Americans have long demanded reliable consumer protections for goods and services.

Much as snake oil cures, flammable children's sleepwear, and lead toys were once commonly found in the marketplace, predatory lending, hidden fees, and skyrocketing interest rates are shamefully common today, with little oversight on behalf of the consumer.

This failure has had devastating consequences for our Nation, and was one of the principal drivers of the financial crisis that resulted in a deep depression.

A strong, independent Consumer Financial Protection Agency would have the ability to rein in the worst practices of the big credit card companies, banks, and other large financial institutions, placing the consumer on a level playing field. It would also help responsible institutions like community banks and credit unions by requiring their competitors in the unregulated shadow banking world to play by the same consumer rules.

I call on the Senate to follow the House's lead in including a strong consumer rights agency in financial reform.

### FUNDING FOR NASA

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss NASA funding. The President's proposed budget would end the Constellation program and shift funds to private companies, effectively killing United States human space flight. This shift to private sector is not a taxpayer savings. The Federal Government has already spent \$9 billion on NASA's Constellation program.

The new budget proposes to spend an additional \$2.5 billion to kill the Constellation, and billions more will be spent on unproven private sector entities. So, we're wasting \$11.5 billion to ensure that America's 50-year reign as the global leader in human space flight is over.

The President's budget does not even cut NASA's funding. It simply shifts funds dedicated for actual human space flight to unproven commercial entities, forcing us to reinvent the wheel on human space flight. This is not sound fiscal policy. It's not good for America's future.

I urge my colleagues to join me to support efforts to restore Constellation funding.

### JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago last week, the President signed the Recovery Act, a comprehensive bill that

reinvested in the American workforce, an event that my colleagues on the other side have rallied against since President Obama took office. The facts simply don't back them up.

In the first quarter of 2009, our economy was losing 726,000 jobs a month. And now, largely due to the Recovery Act, the number has been reduced to 35,000 last quarter. The fact is, the CBO states that the Recovery Act created 2.4 million jobs through the end of 2009.

The Recovery Act also provided \$120 billion in tax cuts for 95 percent of working families. That's 95 percent of working families, and that's a tax cut.

Going forward, we must continue to build off this momentum of the Recovery Act. That includes passing meaningful job-creation legislation that will help small businesses and reduce unemployment. It also includes continuing focus on infrastructure projects and promoting energy efficiency initiatives.

Finally, that means we must pass meaningful health care reform.

### RECOGNIZING THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE OF VICKIE L. BANDY

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the Bible tells us for everything there is a season. Surely, that includes a time to work and a time to rest.

Since 1979 I've had the privilege and indeed the honor of working with a West Virginian who has had an extraordinary time of working with me for the people of southern West Virginia. Vickie L. Bandy was born in our hometown of Beckley, West Virginia, and came to Washington, our Nation's Capital, three decades ago. She began her long career serving the State she loves and its people at my front desk. This week she retires from her Hill career serving as my deputy chief of staff.

Vickie, as we say back home, was raised right by her parents. But the truest power her parents gave her was her active faith. Far from being left at the church steps on Sunday mornings, Vickie's faith never tires. She has carried that throughout her career working on my staff and working for the people of southern West Virginia.

Our mission, of course, is larger, filling the giant void that is left in Vickie's absence. And I'm sure that we will have a hard task to do in our office, but we will do it for the people of West Virginia and for Vickie's continuing legacy of working for those people.

□ 0915

### PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2701, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I