

delved into its antecedents like the Magna Carta and the Articles of Confederation. They deal with the Civil War and the challenges to our constitutional ideals and the practicality of governance in a time of war. They pondered the struggle to give all Americans the promises embedded in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. They explored the conflict between the rule of law and its too often flawed implementation.

It was really heartwarming to be able to witness the discussion between the judges, who were all skilled professionals—professors, lawyers, judges volunteering their time—and these terrific young citizens. Indeed, some of the exchanges were riveting. I found myself reflecting on how much easier would be our job in Congress if there were more Americans who were part of this extraordinary experience.

These young people have been part of a program making a difference for a quarter century now. We've got data that show its effectiveness. These young people score a third higher than adult citizens on their knowledge of the Constitution and civic affairs. And good news for America: looking at this experience over a quarter century, they are five times more likely to run for public office.

The bad news is that thousands of young people in every State, the District of Columbia, and some of the territories will lose as a result of the inability of Congress to figure out how to finance a small portion of the participation that comes from Federal money. They are a casualty this year of the inability of Congress to figure out how to provide that support. I find that ironic because these young people could give Congress lessons about the congressional power of the purse, the separations of power, to give us a roadmap to make sure that these programs are not sacrificed.

It's particularly important because the flawed "No Child Left Behind" bill that's up for reauthorization doesn't place a premium on civic education. I see my good friend, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, a senior member of that committee, who has fought for years to redirect it.

Well, the least we can do is to restore the money lost this year as we deal with the budget for the next year. Any Member of Congress who takes the time to meet with the outstanding young men and women from their State who are in our Nation's Capital today in the aftermath of that contest would be hard-pressed to explain to them why they wouldn't and, indeed, should be inspired to do all they could to make sure this outstanding program continues.

#### POST-BIN LADEN: A MOMENT TO RE-THINK OUR NATIONAL SECURITY APPROACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Yes, indeed, just to follow up on the gentleman from Oregon, we are, in our efforts to reauthorize elementary and secondary education, expanding to the whole child, we hope, including civics and art and music.

Mr. Speaker, my first thought when watching the news last Sunday night was about the many people, the many people, who have a hole in their hearts and in their homes because of the senseless, brutal violence perpetrated by Osama bin Laden. There was 9/11, of course, but also the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the Embassy bombings in East Africa, the attack on the USS *Cole*. Bin Laden is responsible for so much evil, and I hope that the families of his victims can now find some measure of peace and hopefully some closure.

He is dead, but the terrorism threat he represents remains alive and well. The network he created continues to thrive. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that al Qaeda will remain strong as long as we, the United States of America, continue our policy of aggressive militarism in the Middle East.

□ 1040

The war in Afghanistan remains an epic failure that is bankrupting us morally and fiscally. Our nearly 10-year occupation has emboldened those who hate America instead of defeating them. It has created more terrorists than it has killed. It is undermining our national security interests, not advancing them. It is making us less safe, not more.

None of that changes with the news of Osama bin Laden's death. Just last week, a retired Army lieutenant colonel from my district just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, James McLaughlin, Jr., of Santa Rosa, California, was killed while working as a contractor training military pilots in Afghanistan. He died along with eight others when an Afghan pilot turned on his allies and went on a shooting spree during a meeting at the Kabul airport. Bin Laden's death won't bring Jim McLaughlin back, nor will it bring back the 1,500-plus Americans who have lost their lives in Afghanistan. The horror of this war continues unabated.

So with Osama bin Laden's death, I believe that it is past time for somber reflection—reflection about the policies of the last 10 years and about where we might go from here. It is time to rethink our entire approach to national security.

We can save so much in lives, in money, in global credibility, and in moral authority with a smart security platform that puts diplomacy and development aid before guns and tanks: a platform that uses American power for humanitarian ends, a platform that empowers and invests in the people of Afghanistan instead of invading and occupying their country.

We have a chance now to change course. The trauma of 9/11 was profound, but it also led to some disastrous choices, from the war in Iraq, to roving wiretaps, to waterboarding, to the surge in Afghanistan. Now that the 9/11 mastermind is gone, it is time to turn a new page.

It has to begin with a swift move toward military redeployment out of Afghanistan. We cannot continue down this road of permanent warfare. The costs are too great. I've never ever felt more strongly, Mr. Speaker, that it is time to bring our troops home.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Alan Kieran, Office of the U.S. Senate Chaplain, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Most Holy God, Creator and sustainer of the universe, we come to this Chamber today with humility and expectation.

In humility because we know that You have appointed our elected Members and Capitol Hill staff for such a time as this.

In expectation because faith in You brings untold blessings to hearts, homes, and nations.

You say, O God, that from those to whom You have given much, much is expected.

Endow our leaders with good health. Strengthen them in body, mind, and soul for the busy days ahead. Grant them Your wisdom, peace, and joy in this season of fruitful labor.

And may we all reap a harvest of righteousness as we serve You and our Nation's citizens.

I pray in Your everlasting Name. 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.

PAYNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### DRILLING BILLS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, where does our oil come from?

Much of it comes from offshore drilling rigs scattered around the globe. From the North Sea to the South China Sea, there are thousands of rigs pumping oil that eventually finds its way to the American market. Exploration for oil and natural gas is growing in Egypt, Brazil, and dozens of other countries.

But here in the United States, we are moving backwards. Leases and permits have been slow-walked and delayed—2011 was almost the first year since 1958 that the Federal Government did not hold an offshore lease sale.

This week we are going to pass legislation to kick-start leases and increase production of American energy. The only reliable way to decrease gasoline prices is to increase domestic supply. If we don't act to expand access to American natural resources, we will see production fall this year.

The American people want to get back to work, but high energy prices are holding back job growth. American jobs are on the line. That's why now is the time to boost American energy.

#### GAS PRICES

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, my Rhode Island constituents and Americans all across this country have been nervously eyeing their neighborhood gas stations, waiting and watching as the gas prices steadily rise, now forcing many to fill their tanks for no less than \$4 per gallon.

This news underscores the concerns voiced by hundreds of men, women, and families throughout Rhode Island and all across this Nation in recent weeks. They can no longer afford the price of gasoline, and urgent help is needed.

Yet as gas prices climb, profits continue to soar for Big Oil. We've got to find solutions now to lower the cost of gasoline and to end the \$4 billion in tax breaks that are paid to Big Oil.

Mr. Speaker, I am delivering a letter today to the Speaker asking him to bring legislation already drafted to the floor for a vote that would release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and legislation aimed at preventing Big Oil from engaging in price-gouging schemes which drive up the price of gas at the pumps.

These are just two measures, Mr. Speaker, that have been introduced in the House which would provide immediate relief to consumers from the rising price of gasoline that threatens our economy and the well-being of hard-working middle class Americans all throughout this country.

I certainly hope the Speaker will put these on the calendar so we can vote on them and provide relief immediately to the American people.

#### CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT OBAMA ON OSAMA EXECUTION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this upcoming September 11 will mark the 10th anniversary of the most horrific act of terrorism, executed under the leadership of the now deceased Osama bin Laden.

We will never forget the images of burning buildings, crashing planes, and Americans running for their lives. Three thousand people never came back home that Tuesday, and families will again remember the last time they hugged their loved ones good-bye. What will be different this September 11 is that Osama bin Laden will no longer be able to celebrate the destruction he caused and the lives he destroyed.

President Obama, we thank you for a superb operation. Thank you for having the courage to make the decision so many would have backed away from.

Because of President Obama's team of experts, this risky mission was backed by sound information, solid facts, and accurate calculations. His goal was clear: Get Osama bin Laden. And that is exactly what happened. This is truly a mission accomplished.

I commend our Commander in Chief, Barack Obama, for his intelligent execution. This is not a celebration of death; this is a celebration of justice, courage, sacrifice, and democracy. And this is a celebration of leadership.

Mr. President, your 40-minute operation has helped bring closure to so many Americans for a lifetime.

#### THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM DINNER

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday I participated in one of the largest sit-down dinners ever held. It was hosted by the Detroit branch of the NAACP, and

there we heard from and we honored the conscience of this House, Representative JOHN LEWIS.

The event was titled "The Fight for Freedom Dinner." And some of those freedoms worth fighting for are economic in nature: The freedom to own a home that won't be unfairly placed in foreclosure. The freedom to work a job and not be laid off because you're outsourced. The freedom to receive health care, especially health care guaranteed by Medicare, and not have to go broke or bankrupt paying for it.

These opportunities should be available under our legal system to all Americans equally.

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know, Where are the jobs?

After 17 weeks of controlling the House, Republicans have no plan to create jobs and no plan to spur economic growth. Instead, they proposed a budget that puts our country on a road to ruin. They want to end Medicare, gut Medicaid, strip funding for Pell Grants and elementary and secondary education for our students, while hobbling our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Yet again this week, Republicans are offering slogans instead of solutions: "Drill Baby Drill," "Kill the Bill." These slogans don't amount to a plan to create jobs or guarantee access to health care in America.

Instead of another very cynical attempt to repeal health reform and perpetrate their war on women, and instead of offering oil companies free reign off our coasts, we should be working together to help the unemployed and to create jobs. We must not forget the 99ers and we must help them, people who have moved out of their unemployment benefits. They've actually maxed out. And we must invest in our country to stimulate job creation.

Democrats have a plan while Republicans can only offer rhetoric.

□ 1210

#### ALL THE CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, all the cards are on the table, and the Republicans want to reduce Medicaid to a mere block grant program and drastically alter the Federal-State partnership that has been struck for over 45 years.

The GOP budget argues that under a block grant program, "States will no longer be shackled by federally determined program requirements." Sounds