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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2011, at 2 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011

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

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 13, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Monsignor Stephen Rossetti, Associate Professor, the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

O God, we long for peace. Help us to become instruments of that peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, may we bring pardon. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. Where there is darkness, may we be light.

Let us not simply yearn for peace; let us be peace. May we be so docile to Your will that Your love, Your peace, and Your pardon flow through us.

And when this day is done, may we be one step closer to peace. May we be one step closer to our brothers and sisters. May we be one step closer to You.

As always, we thank You, we praise You, and we love You.

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 Illinois (Mr. WALSH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALSH of Illinois 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.

### TIFFANY HARTLEY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on the violent Texas/Mexico border, Zeta pirates gunned down David Hartley on the international border of Falcon Lake last year. His wife, Tiffany, was able to escape the shots fired at her. This happened 8 months ago. David is

one of 111 Americans murdered in Mexico last year, and none of these cases have been solved.

Tiffany was in D.C. this week trying to find out some answers about her husband's murder. She wants to know why the Federal Government is not investigating this case and also putting pressure on Mexico to do the same. Only Sheriff Sigi Gonzales of Zapata County, TX, seems to be pursuing the criminal case.

However, when ICE Agent Jaime Zapata was murdered in Mexico, the United States quickly, and rightly so, pressured Mexico to investigate the homicide. Our government should be just as concerned about David Hartley and the other Americans murdered in lawless Mexico.

Why is our government apparently missing in action?

Also, President Calderon was in D.C. this week to receive an award. Too bad he didn't stay around long enough to meet with Tiffany and explain to her why his government isn't doing anything to bring the killers of her husband to justice.

And that's just the way it is.

### CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my continued support for our strongest ally in the Middle East, the State of Israel.

I recently traveled to Israel with a bipartisan group of colleagues to see

□ 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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firsthand the very real threats Israel faces every day. The relationship between the United States and Israel is based on a shared commitment to democratic values.

Like the United States, but to a much greater extent and for a lot longer, Israel has stood against those who use terror against civilians as a means of bringing about political change.

Recent reports suggest that the Palestinian Authority may form a union with Hamas, a terrorist organization that intentionally targets Israeli civilians for political gain. Unless and until Hamas renounces violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist, any such union with Hamas would mean that the Palestinian Authority chooses violence and extremism over peaceful coexistence among the family of nations.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for Israel and to oppose any such alliance between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. WALSH of Illinois. President Obama, why aren't you serious about securing the border? Why do you consult with Latino celebrities like Eva Longoria to get their take on immigration reform? Why do you bring up immigration reform again and again when you know there will be no reform until you secure the border?

You said the other day in Texas that Republicans wouldn't be satisfied unless you built a moat with alligators. You know what, Mr. President? A moat might not be a bad idea. And I wonder how many of these alligators it would take to secure the border?

But what will satisfy most Americans is if you'd get serious about securing the border. What will satisfy most Americans is if you'd quit campaigning on this issue and finally govern on it.

But, heck, if it will take introducing legislation calling for moats and these gators to get you to be serious about securing the borders, Mr. President, I'm game.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members they need to address their remarks to the Chair and through the Chair.

#### ASSAD MUST GO

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the outrages perpetrated by Syrian President Bashar Assad against his own people have laid bare his regime's total lack

of legitimacy. The shelling of Homs evokes memories of the 1982 massacre at Hama, in which his father ordered the Syrian army into the rebellious city, killing up to 40,000 people.

After the elder Assad died in 2000, the new president, in interviews with western journalists, made several cautious statements that led many Syrians to believe that the new President would be willing to take at least the first steps towards democracy in their ancient land. Indeed, the first months of the new regime saw a period of intense political and social debate in Syria, which continued to some degree until the fall of 2001, when the government sharply reversed course and ended what had become known as the Damascus Spring.

Similarly, tentative Syrian cooperation in the months after 9/11 did not last, and in 2005, Syrian intelligence officers joined with Hezbollah in murdering Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and provoking a war with Israel in the summer of 2006.

Now the Assad regime has turned on its own people who have been inspired by their fellow Arabs in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere.

We in Congress must use every diplomatic and economic tool to end this dictatorship. And I urge President Obama to support the Syrian people in their quest for an end to the corruption and brutality of the Assad regime.

#### JONESVILLE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION A GREAT SUCCESS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one of the joys of representing an area like northwest North Carolina is participating in the many unique and volunteer-powered community celebrations that happen throughout the year.

Last weekend I had the honor of attending the Jonesville Jubilee and Bicentennial Celebration that marked the town's 200th anniversary. This event celebrated the distinct history and culture of the town of Jonesville and brought out the local community to participate and recall the past.

I was very impressed by the huge array of activities, the fantastic turnout, and the volunteers who pulled this off.

The weekend-long event featured trolley car tours through Jonesville, as well as a Civil War and wagon train campsite along with Civil and Revolutionary War reenactors, the opening of the history center, a Civil War-era mill, and historic displays from communities throughout the area.

This could hardly have been a better event, and the many volunteers who made it possible are to be praised for their dedication and hard work. It's what is so great about our country.

#### RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN EGYPT

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage over this weekend's religious violence in Egypt. Despite January's inspiring calls for freedom and democracy, religious minorities in Egypt, such as the Coptic Christians, are facing increasing attacks during Egypt's transition.

On Saturday, a religious clash broke out in Cairo involving an estimated 2,000 people. In the aftermath of this weekend's sectarian violence, six Muslims and six Christians were dead.

The Coptic Christians, like all Egyptians, are demanding freedom and respect. I am concerned that even with Egypt's transition, minority rights remain extremely limited, and I believe that the interim government is not doing enough to protect the rights and lives of its citizens.

Coptic Christians deserve to live and worship without being threatened, injured or killed. Violence in the name of religion is unacceptable, but when governments do not sufficiently address such behavior, the violence is far more troubling.

The United States must stand firmly with the people of Egypt, and the U.S. assistance to Egypt must be tied to a strong respect for human rights and freedom of religion.

□ 0910

#### SETTING NEW PRIORITIES IN EDUCATION SPENDING ACT

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act, the first in a series of proposals to reform education in America.

There is an urgent need to fix what is broken in our Nation's education system. Roughly two-thirds of eighth graders lack basic reading and math skills. Only 70 percent of students graduate high school. Meanwhile, Federal education spending is at an all-time high.

The Department of Education currently administers more than 80 programs tied to K-12 classrooms. Many of these programs are duplicative, several have been deemed inefficient, and others are simply a poor use of taxpayer funds. It is time to trim the fat.

Today, I will introduce legislation that will eliminate, not consolidate and not defund, but eliminate 43 wasteful K-12 education programs. At a time when approximately one-third of American fourth graders can't read, we must concentrate on education initiatives that have a track record of putting the needs of the students first.

I encourage my colleagues to support the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act.