

Son, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Protect and guide our soldiers in the field and all of those who uphold law and order across this country and around this world.

Cause the muddy waters of the Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers to recede rapidly and do no additional harm. But allow the rivers of living water to flow freely throughout this land.

Let Providence be evident in our actions today, and may we possess Your talking points, Your heart, and Your mind in the matters of national importance.

Finally, we pray, as we were instructed by Your word, for the peace of Jerusalem and throughout the Middle East. May Thy will be done today. In the name of the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan 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.

WELCOMING REV. GENE MILLS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Pastor Gene Mills, for opening us up in prayer today.

I have had the privilege of working with Gene Mills for years now in his role as the head of the Louisiana Family Forum, which has been a beacon of light defending family values throughout our State and working with ministers all across the country to spread the good word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I also want to commend Pastor Mills for the work that he did after Katrina, organizing faith-based groups all around the State and all around the country to go in and do the Lord's work. When government couldn't even get there to help people, the pastors and the faith-based organizations around this country came together and they got that work done.

So I want to thank Gene Mills for being with us here today and for leading us in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUNNELEE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY CORPORAL BRANDON M. KIRTON

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many heroes from the great State of Colorado have answered our Nation's call to serve in the military. Today I rise in honor of one of these heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down his life for freedom: U.S. Army Corporal Brandon Michael Kirton.

Corporal Kirton of Centennial, Colorado, graduated from Englewood High School, and chose to serve in the U.S. Army. In the Army, he deployed with his unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and fought at the tip of the spear in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. On May 18, 2011, his unit came under fire, and he gave his life fighting the Taliban.

Brandon is remembered not only for his heroics on the battlefield, but for the tremendous impact he had on his family, friends, and community. His absolute devotion to his family, his selfless attitude, and his ever-present sense of humor were all the trademark characteristics of a young man who made a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Corporal Brandon Michael Kirton personifies the honor and selflessness of service in the United States Army. My deepest sympathies go out to his family, his fellow soldiers, and all who knew him.

JOBS ACT CRUEL REPUBLICAN HOAX

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, despite a slow recovery, despite millions suffering on the unemployment rolls, the Republican leadership has failed to bring a jobs bill to this floor during the first 100 days. Now we learn that one in name only is under consideration. It is called the Jobs Opportunity Benefits and Services Act, which of course cleverly has the acronym JOBS, but it is not going to create jobs. It is actually designed to cut off emergency unemployment benefits, eliminating the guarantee of Federal payments for temporary extended unemployment benefits, on July 6.

It is kind of a cruel hoax to call a plan that cuts aid to working people a jobs bill. It enables States to divert more than \$32 billion in Federal unem-

ployment funds that is intended for unemployment benefits into block grants that can be used to cut taxes for businesses, pay off State's debts, or backfill their own State unemployment funds, but not necessarily to pay out benefits to those on the unemployment rolls. In fact, it grants some States permanent waivers to divert future unemployment funds from the people they were intended to help.

Our unemployment rate has gone from 10.6 percent when President Obama took office to 9 percent, but it is still too high. We ought to be in the business of creating new jobs and not forcing breadwinners to foreclose on their mortgages and to default on their loans, but to provide for their families. That's the congressional agenda that we ought to be about.

AMERICANS WANT SERIOUS SPENDING CUTS

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is long past time that we stop rewarding irresponsibility. If we continue to give the Democrat administration everything that they ask for, they will never learn fiscal discipline or how to control their outrageous spending.

Taxpayers do not want to write the administration yet another blank check out of their own checkbooks, only to see it bounce and further worsen our economy, along with job creation. Americans have said loudly and clearly that they want serious spending cuts, and I will not support raising the debt ceiling unless this liberal administration begins to practice some self-control.

NUCLEAR ARMED IRAN THE REAL THREAT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I fear that lost amidst the controversy surrounding recent statements on the Israel-Palestinian peace process, lost amidst the hopeful events of the Arab Spring, and lost amidst Syrian sanctions and military action in Libya, lies the real and greatest threat to the entire region: a nuclear Iran.

As we debate the trajectory of America's policy in the Middle East, we must never forget that as we speak, Iran is hurtling toward a nuclear weapon. A nuclear Iran would destabilize the entire region, upend the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, set off an arms race, and expose our closest friend and ally, Israel, to grave danger. The threat is real. As Prime Minister Netanyahu noted yesterday morning, they could put a bomb anywhere: on a missile, a ship, in a suitcase, or on a subway.

Last year we implemented strong sanctions against Iran, but more must

be done to close loopholes, ensure enforcement, and take additional steps to stop a nuclear Iran. No matter the challenges that arise in the Middle East, we must never lose sight of the most dangerous threat of all, a nuclear armed Iran.

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PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH FOR ISRAEL

(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, it was an honor to have Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu speak to a joint session of Congress yesterday. Israel is one of our country's closest allies, and the partnership shared between our two countries is vital in achieving peace and stability in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister is correct that reinstatement of the 1967 borders makes the country indefensible. I am grateful to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for two tours of Israel, where I saw the strategic importance of the Golan Heights to stop Hezbollah and I learned of the inhumanity of rocket attacks by Hamas on Sderot. Israeli families are vulnerable to cowardly murderers.

Israel should not be forced to negotiate with those who refuse to acknowledge its right to exist. The United States must remain committed to Israel to promote peace and democracy in the Middle East.

I look forward to continuing to work with Israel in promoting peace, freedom, and stability. Ronald Reagan was right: peace through strength.

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

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO CUT BACK ON HOMELAND SECURITY

(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 morning, as a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I heard testimony that was very compelling. Even though bin Laden is dead, the terrorist threat to our country still exists, and it's a threat that's increasingly coming from within the United States.

My message to Congress: This is not the time to cut back on homeland security. Our local police, fire, and emergency medical providers are our first line of defense against any national emergency and against terrorist attacks. They need the funding right now to upgrade their communication systems so that they can better address this issue that faces Americans.

Again, let's protect our citizens by investing more in homeland security.

Redirect the money from Afghanistan to protect our people here at home.

STANDING WITH AMERICA'S MOST STEADFAST ALLY IN THE REGION

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment with President Obama's proposal for Israel to return to its pre-1967 borders.

President Obama's call for Israel to make more sacrifices in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East is unacceptable. The borders that were established in 1967 followed three wars launched against Israel. For Israel, acceptance of the 1967 borders would mean that Israeli sacrifices were for nothing. The territory acquired by the Israelis after they were subjected to unprovoked attacks serves as a buffer between Israel and enemies intent on destroying her.

We all want to see peace in the Middle East. But it is unrealistic and naive to think that peace will come as a result of Israel, the only democratic state in the region, making more concessions. Restoring the pre-1967 borders would be a victory for Hamas, a terrorist group committed to Israel's demise. This is not the path to peace, and the President should acknowledge this.

President Obama must stand by our most steadfast ally in the region. He must acknowledge that peace cannot be achieved through Israel's weakening its ability to defend itself against terrorists. The President, and all of us, must stand with Israel.

WALL STREET SPECULATORS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. This Memorial Day weekend, families all across America have cancelled their travel plans. Others are digging deep to pay 60 bucks for a fill-up. And \$10 of that \$60 is going to speculators on Wall Street.

Just yesterday, finally, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission filed its first suit against Wall Street market manipulation and speculation gouging the American people. The Republican reaction: Cut the budget of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission—that's what they proposed this week—and block any regulation of energy speculators.

So while families across America are struggling to keep their lifestyle, fill their tanks, and have a little fun with their families, the Wall Street speculators can ride down in their private elevators and relax in the backseat of their limousines while the chauffeur whisks them out to their third house in the Hamptons, because the Republicans have their backs and will protect the speculators at any cost.

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this Chamber, we listened as Prime Minister Netanyahu outlined a viable plan for peace in the Middle East, a plan that includes a free Palestinian state and a secure Israel.

Earlier, President Obama used the phrase, "The United States believes," to articulate his beliefs that this peace should be based on the 1967 borders.

This is not how the United States feels or has ever felt about Israel, an ally and a close friend; a friendship based on common democratic values, religious affinities, and security interests. As a friend, we cannot force Israel into indefensible borders ultimately leading to its destruction, because Israel is surrounded by people who want to see it wiped off the face of the Earth.

Israel is our friend, and we, the United States of America, believe in standing with our friend.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Association in Rhode Island.

As we look toward Memorial Day, we remember all of our Nation's heroes who put their lives on the line because our country asked them to.

More than 54,000 deaths resulted from the Korean War, which occurred between 1950 and 1953, and more than 103,000 were wounded. In Rhode Island, more than 12 percent of our veterans served in the Korean War. Because of these servicemembers, we are able to enjoy the freedoms that we have here at home today.

We owe our veterans and their families our utmost gratitude and respect for the great sacrifices they have made on our behalf. In honor of their sacrifices, we must fulfill our promise to our veterans and their families by providing access to the highest quality health care, education, mental health services, housing, and employment.

I commend the Korean War Veterans Association of Rhode Island on its achievements and its hard work to support veterans and organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans.

I wish all veterans and their families a happy Memorial Day.

LIBYA

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed this morning when I