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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House. Send Your Spirit of Wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, work to be done, burdens to be carried. Might they work together with charity and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

We pray especially this day for one of the House's own whom You have called beyond this life. We give You thanks for the life and service to this Nation and this House of Mr. John Patrick Murtha. May he and all those who have served in our military rest now in peace.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress, and all who work for the people's House, in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
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.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota 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

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

"MR. PRESIDENT, BY WHAT AUTHORITY, SIR, DO YOU WAGE WAR?"

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has unilaterally brought America into its third war—the war in Libya.

The Constitution provides that Congress, not the Executive, should decide to go to war with other nations. Even the War Powers Resolution does not give the President the omnipotent power to continue this war.

The resolution says that there must have been an attack on the United States or that the war is in the national security interest of the United States. Neither has occurred. Also, the War Powers Resolution requires a ceasing of hostility after 60 days unless there is congressional approval. Congress has not approved this war.

The President's new innovative argument for this war is that the United States is not really engaged in hostilities in Libya; therefore, we are not at war. I assume war is in the eyes of the beholder.

Mr. Speaker, throughout history, national executives have justified wars because, well, they've wanted to go to war. The Constitution and the law have been trampled on by this march to war. But we cannot let the Constitution get in the way of a "good war," can we?

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING A BRAVE FALLEN HERO, SPECIALIST EMILIO CAMPO

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave fallen hero from my district who was killed in Iraq last week. Specialist Emilio Campo, a remarkable young man from Madelia, Minnesota, gave his life for this Nation.

He joined the National Guard while he was still in high school, and his classmates remember him as a kind, fun-loving young man who had aspirations to attend college and to go into the medical field. He served his country bravely as an Army medic; but when he would come home to questions about his exciting and dangerous work, he would always shrug them off, shy away from the attention, and explain that he was just doing his job.

Earlier in the week, the Mankato Free Press reported that, in the 2009

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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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graduation section of the Madelia Times Messenger, Emilio's favorite quote was listed as: "Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today."

By all accounts, Emilio did exactly that.

Tomorrow, his family, his friends and his community will gather together to honor his memory and to celebrate his life. We will remember his sacrifice to this Nation and how he died and gave the ultimate sacrifice; but we will also remember the kind of person he was—full of life, kind-hearted, a good friend, and a good son.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED JOBS

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

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, unemployment is over 9 percent. Americans are struggling. They need relief. They need certainty. They need jobs.

House Republicans have passed legislation aimed at removing barriers to job creation, including bills to rein in wasteful spending, end unnecessary regulation, decrease uncertainty, and ensure the survival of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

One of the many pieces of legislation passed to spur job growth was our budget. My colleagues across the aisle can critique our plans, but it is unacceptable to demagogue it without having a plan of their own.

Law requires that Congress pass a budget; yet Democrats shirked that responsibility last year when they held the majority, and they have yet to propose an alternative this year. We have heard a few speeches but no honest plan that can be read, scored, compared, and negotiated.

The American people need jobs. Rather than engaging in demagoguery, I ask my colleagues to bring a plan to the negotiating table. Let's do our job so more Americans have one.

RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of June as Pride Month.

Participating and supporting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community is a way of life. At its core, this month stands to recognize a fundamental belief upon which this country is founded: equality.

The first pride parade took place in 1970 to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York. Forty years later, the event has become much more than a parade; it has evolved into a month-long celebration of the LGBT community.

What was once a moment is now a movement, bringing people together to

fight for the rights and benefits granted to them by the Constitution, rights we should all fully support and fight for every day in Washington. We've got a few victories under our belt. Hate crimes legislation and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell have passed these Chambers, but there remains much to be done.

I look forward to celebrating equality for all this weekend at the Chicago Pride Parade and festival, and I am as emboldened as ever to continue this important work in Congress.

ECONOMIC NEWS

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to report some distressing economic news from my district.

To add to our country's rising unemployment, plummeting home values and a steep drop in retail sales last month, Allen Family Foods filed for bankruptcy last week. A well-known name in the poultry industry and a longstanding Delmarva family business, this closing could cost thousands of jobs.

The reason for Allen's collapse: soaring grain prices, energy costs and overbearing government regulations, especially from the EPA.

The chilling signal sent to potential job creators throughout America right now is that the bureaucrats in this administration are now the central planners of our economy—and they are not doing a very good job. We have tried to create jobs their way, and it hasn't worked. Overtaxing, overspending and overregulating cannot and will not create jobs.

It is time to head in a new direction. It is time for a new economic policy. If we stop the spending spree in Washington, businesses will, once again, create jobs in America. It is up to us to restore confidence and certainty and to send a signal to the private sector that the United States is, once again, open for business.

AMERICANS ARE OPPOSED TO ENDING MEDICARE

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, the Republican majority seems to be using any route possible to hide the truth about its "road to ruin" budget and its plans to end Medicare. The Washington Post, the New York Times, the National Journal, and others recently reported that mass mailings sent from Democratic Members of Congress to their constituents have been heavily edited by majority leadership if they address the Republican plan to end Medicare.

But Americans know the truth, Madam Speaker. Every day, I hear

from many of my constituents in the Capital Region of upstate New York who tell me how much they rely on Medicare and how worried they are over the majority's plan to end the program. My constituents know that a voucher will not even come close to covering their rising prescription drug costs and doctors' visits. Our senior community is tremendously wise. They know that the risk associated with the Republican plan is shifted from our government to their pockets.

No matter how it is spun, Americans are opposed to ending Medicare. Let's instead work together to strengthen the program and ensure it remains on strong financial footing.

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OBAMA ADMINISTRATION KILLS JOBS

(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, tomorrow the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, led by Chairman DARRELL ISSA, will conduct a field hearing at The Boeing Company's 1.1 million square-foot manufacturing plant in North Charleston, South Carolina. This will expose an outrage of Big Government killing jobs.

As the Seattle Times correctly editorialized Monday: "The NLRB is attempting to reverse a U.S. investment by the Nation's number one exporter 17 months after the company decided to make it—after the money's been spent, after the equipment is set up, and after 1,000 workers have been hired. For the government to demand now that the company move everything to another State shows no sense of practical reality."

South Carolina recruited this new second line of 787 Dreamliners through a competitive incentive package developed by Commerce Secretary Joe Taylor, which included a trained, world-class workforce, a welcoming pro-business climate, right-to-work laws, and pro-business local government of Republican and Democratic bipartisanship. The Boeing Company's decision was based on economics and sound business policy. The Obama administration should stop its attack on American jobs and American workers.

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

MEDICARE

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, a close examination shows the changes that our Republican colleagues are proposing to Medicare would actually make things much worse, not better.