

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
O Lord our God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You have kept us in life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this moment.

Bless the Members of the People's House that You have gifted to serve our Nation. Preserve them this day and for the coming day. Supply their needs according to Your riches and prompt them to work harmoniously with one another. Give them a heart for the needs of all people and help them to reason together for the public good. Should they be tempted by rancor, ease their passion and grant them the respectful desire to see past differences toward accomplishments worthy of Your desire for the benefit of all.

May all that is done 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. HULTGREN. 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. HULTGREN. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALTMIRE 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

STATE OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Albany, NY, June 20, 2011.

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
The Capitol, Washington DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: As New York State's Secretary of State, I have received

the resignation of Anthony D. Weiner as New York's 9th Congressional District Representative in the United States House of Representatives. The New York State Department of State filed the letter today. A copy of his letter of resignation is attached.

Sincerely,

CESAR A. PERALES,
Secretary of State.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2011.

Hon. CESAR PERALES,
Secretary of State, New York Department of State, State Street, Albany, NY.

Hon. ANDREW CUOMO,
Governor, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY PERALES AND GOVERNOR CUOMO: I hereby resign as the Member of the House of Representatives for New York's Ninth Congressional District effective at midnight, Tuesday, June 21, 2011. It has been an honor to serve the people of Queens and Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY D. WEINER,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER), the whole number of the House is 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BRING HOME TROOPS IN VICTORY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Last night, we heard President Obama's plan for withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan. While I share the President's goal of wanting to bring home our brave troops as soon and as safely as possible, I'm concerned that political considerations were given more weight in this decision than military strategy.

As a military veteran of 27 years, I understand how important it is to base decisions like this on the guidance of our commanders in the field. Our military commanders are the best military strategists in the world, and they are the ones in a position to know how many and what type of troops they need to do their mission.

When the President announced his troop surge, he included the lasting influence of Taliban among his reasons. The Taliban remains allied with al Qaeda, and both terrorist networks would rather see Afghanistan destroyed than lose their influence over the Afghan people.

Mr. Speaker, we've learned that fighting our Nation's wars from the Oval Office does not work. Let's make sure our troops come home in victory.

MEDICARE TURNS 46

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

Ms. BASS of California. In July, Medicare will be 46 years old. This is an opportunity for all of us to take a look at history.

In 1965, 44 percent of Americans over the age of 65 had no health insurance. Many seniors were pushed into poverty by medical costs. In 1965, when Medicare was first passed, out of 200 Republican Members of Congress, less than half voted for it. Future Presidents Bush and Reagan called Medicare socialized medicine. So it should be no surprise that Republicans are still trying to end Medicare. Today, it's called saving Medicare—we should end it in order to save it.

Seventy percent of the public does not support the Republican plan to end Medicare. And so it is a sad fact that a month before the 46th anniversary of Medicare, Republican Members of the House are not celebrating the Nation's commitment to ensure that our seniors have health care but are instead trying to end Medicare before the 46th anniversary.

HERE THEY GO AGAIN: NLRB AND UNIONS ARE KILLING 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. Mr. Speaker, the NLRB, under the influence of union bosses, on Tuesday acted again to restrict workers' rights. The NLRB proposed new rules that would speed up elections for unionization. In doing so, unions would force workers into union memberships before fully considering both the advantages and disadvantages of membership. By implementing a shorter voting period, U.S. Chamber Vice President Randy Johnson has revealed this is a cleverly disguised mandate to pressure workers into joining a union without making an informed decision.

Moreover, the NLRB wants to delay litigation over many voter eligibility issues. As Chairman JOHN KLINE stated, "Big Labor has found faithful friends on the Obama NLRB."

The job-killing influence of unions over the NLRB must be stopped before it tramples the rights of American workers, killing jobs at Boeing in South Carolina, and now killing jobs across America.

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

RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN EGYPT

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

Mr. SIREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern for the escalating persecution of the Christian community in Egypt.

We were all inspired by the call for freedom and democracy in Egypt this winter, but for some in Egypt, the transition has led to more threats, more fear, and more violence. While Mubarak is gone, extremist groups in Egypt are using the newly opened political space to escalate their war against Christians. Churches are burning and people are being murdered in the streets over their religious beliefs. If these groups get their way, the opportunity for a democratic and free Egypt would be lost.

As the United States partners with Egyptian communities to support democracy in this time of transition, it is imperative that human rights violations are not pushed aside. The United States must demand that any Egyptian Government protect the rights and lives of its citizens before any U.S. dollars are given to that government.

The respect of human rights, including religious freedoms, is imperative for the future and stability of Egypt and the region.

MR. PRESIDENT, DON'T PLAY POLITICS: SUPPORT AMERICAN ENERGY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. The cost of gasoline is devastating American family budgets, destroying jobs, and debilitating our economy. Gas prices in my home State of Illinois are among the highest in the Nation.

It's clear that America needs an energy policy that will take advantage of America's vast supplies of oil, gas, and other resources. But instead of choosing to boost domestic energy production, which would create jobs and help get our economy moving again, the President has chosen the shortsighted, politically expedient, and financially expensive route of tapping our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I urge him to reconsider his decision and embrace the legislation we have passed to increase domestic energy production.

I have been proud to support the bills we've passed because they will not only reduce our reliance on unstable and unfriendly regions of the world, they will also create good-paying jobs here at home. So instead of tapping the SPR to help his reelection campaign, the President should do what is truly best for America and support our efforts to increase domestic energy production and create the jobs hardworking Americans are looking for.

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SUPPORTING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Yesterday, I was proud to join 158 of my House colleagues—women and men—in cosponsoring this simple constitutional guarantee that “equality of rights” shall not be denied or abridged on account of one's gender. The ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and won approval from 35 States before falling just three short of ratification. Since then, women have gained significant protections in society, in the workplace and at home; but it is clear that much more must be done.

Earlier this year, a sitting member of the U.S. Supreme Court stated his view that the Constitution does not prohibit “discrimination on the basis of sex.” While many legal scholars were quick to disagree, his words illustrate clearly the need for explicit constitutional protections. Without them, Congress has—and has already attempted to—roll back these gains.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the ERA and in standing up for the constitutional protection for women and families.

REDUCING THE CORPORATE TAX RATE

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise to support my colleague DONNA EDWARDS and her bill to reduce the corporate tax in order to create more jobs in this country.

The corporate tax is, perhaps, the most regressive tax we have because, in reality, you cannot tax a corporation. It simply becomes a part of the cost of doing business, and they pass it on to the consumer, who pays the tax, which makes everything cost more that the consumer buys, so the consumer will be benefited in several ways when we reduce the corporate tax rate.

Corporations will grow, and there will be more jobs. More corporations will move to this country, creating more jobs. By the way, the revenue stream from this increase in the size of corporations and in the number of corporations may actually increase as a result of reducing the tax rate. There will be more jobs for our consumers, and the things they buy will cost less. This is a win-win-win for everybody.

Thank you, Congresswoman EDWARDS, for your leadership.

WASTEFUL SPENDING WITHIN THE FHA'S INTERNATIONAL SCAN PROGRAM

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, this week, I cosigned a letter to Transportation Secretary LaHood expressing concern about the waste of taxpayer dollars at the Federal Highway Administration's International Scan Program. This program has likely wasted

millions of dollars over the past 10 years, sending government officials abroad most recently to study billboards in five different countries, over 17 days, at a cost of \$300,000 to the taxpayers.

Rightly, Secretary LaHood responded to our letter by immediately suspending the program, but the question remains: Why did it exist in the first place, and how many others like it exist throughout the Federal bureaucracy?

We must continue to scrutinize the budgets at all Federal agencies so we can put an end to this type of wasteful spending once and for all. Hopefully, the suspension of this billboard program is just a sign of things to come.

ENCOURAGING JOB CREATION AND THE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud Representative of Indiana's hardworking Third District and as an original member of the Job Creators Caucus. I have come to the floor today to talk about what makes America great and what we can do to encourage job creation and America's entrepreneurial spirit.

America's curiosity, passion for excellence and drive for efficiency moves every small business owner and entrepreneur in our Nation. Mom-and-pop grocery stores, local mechanics, independent insurance agents, farmers, and countless others make our Nation great. Make no mistake. Our greatness is not attributed to our prosperity. Rather, America is prosperous because she is great, and she is great because she is free.

As a small business owner and a farmer, I have firsthand knowledge of our Nation's unique and wonderful design. Business owners are free to make the countless decisions that they face each and every day. Unfortunately, that entrepreneurial spirit is under attack. Individual Americans are still restless for opportunity, but a threat comes from an excessive government that limits opportunities and stifles job growth.

In 1913, the Ford Motor Company reduced its production time from 14 hours to 1½ hours. Today, a massive bureaucratic machine produces job-killing regulations at a speed that would make Henry Ford shudder. Every year, unelected bureaucrats issue more than 3,000 final rules, close to 10 rules a day.

I have proudly cosponsored the REINS Act, which would reverse the harmful onslaught of regulation that cripples businesses and thwarts job creation. I know that when government gets out of the way it allows Americans to realize their full potential.

The American entrepreneurial spirit is not dead. Men and women across the