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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal and gracious Lord, nothing escapes Your attention. You read the intentions of our minds and the true desires of our hearts.

May everything we do begin with Your holy inspiration, continue with Your sustaining grace, and reach Your divine purpose for the good of Your people, not just some people, but for the good of the entire Nation.

So both in word and deed, may we give You glory now and forever. 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

AMERICAN TEENAGERS MURDERED IN MEXICO

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Juarez, Mexico, is one of the most dangerous cities in the world, experiencing

a fierce turf war between drug cartels. More than 3,000 people were murdered there in 2010 alone. Three triple homicides occurred just this past weekend. Also, two American teenagers, Carlos Bermudez and Juan Echeverri, were brutally murdered in the weekend shootings.

Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, as well as the rest of the border, is a lawless war zone controlled by the violent drug cartels. Despite the continued loss of American life, the United States Government refuses to admit that there is a war on the southern border. This violence is a lethal cancer and is spreading quickly into the United States. The narcoterrorists do not recognize international lines. This is a matter of national security, and it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to protect the border.

Meanwhile, the administration has proposed a whopping \$53 billion in high-speed rail subsidies. Instead of more choo-choo trains, that money should go to the national border security defense.

And that's just the way it is.

THE SPIRIT OF DETROIT

(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, a couple of days ago, during the Super Bowl, a TV ad was aired that highlighted the grit and spirited ingenuity of Metro Detroiters, which gives us the ability to make some of the greatest cars in the world.

Well, that spirit of Detroit is rooted in our American values of life, of liberty, of the pursuit of happiness; and it is that spirit that transformed Detroit in World War II into the arsenal of democracy that saved this country—that saved this world—from the threat of fascism.

Mr. Speaker, I believe today that that same spirit of Detroit will help build the new cars that will be powered by electricity; will help build new homes and offices which will be heated by the Sun; and will help manufacture the best products in the world.

You see, when you make it in Detroit, you help make it in America.

APPRECIATING DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.

(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, as Americans recognize Black History Month, I am honored that this month in the midlands of South Carolina that history is being made by the Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.

Dr. Jackson is being hailed on February 27 for serving a historic and extraordinary 40 years of dynamic leadership at Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia. He began preaching at age 9, and at age 18 was installed as pastor, energizing one of the fastest-growing congregations in the Southeast. With great humility, he encouraged the church's 65 ministries.

Dr. Jackson promoted a new sanctuary that seats 2,300, followed by a 68,000-square foot community resource center. In 2008, Brookland acquired a 94,000-square foot educational facility, with 11 acres downtown, while employing over 160 dedicated personnel. A second location was launched in Richland Northeast, pastored by Dr. Christopher Leevy Johnson.

Dr. Jackson is married to the former Robin Hoefler, and he is the father of two children, Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Jr., pastor of the New Laurel Street Baptist Church, and Candace Jackson, an associate attorney with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough; along with his daughter-in-law, the former

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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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Iva Gaymon; and four grandchildren, Kayla, Charles, III, Caleb, and Carter.

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

“DON’T TREAD ON ME”

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the House will debate the extension of the Patriot Act.

I have here a report from the latimes.com that says that FBI intelligence investigations have compromised the civil liberties of American citizens far more frequently and to a greater extent than was previously assumed.

The report goes on to say that, in 2007, the Justice Department’s Inspector General told Congress the FBI may have violated the law or government policy as many as 3,000 times since 2003 in the course of secretly collecting telephone, bank and credit card records without warrants—instead, using so-called “national security” letters that give them the ability to demand this kind of information and get it.

The Patriot Act is a destructive undermining of the Constitution. We started this Congress off with a discussion about reading the Constitution. Many of us carry Constitutions with us in our pockets. How about today we take a stand for the Constitution to say that all Americans should be free from unreasonable searches and seizures and to make certain that the attempt to reauthorize the Patriot Act is beaten down.

It is time that we really remember the essence of what that motto “don’t tread on me” means. It means you protect your liberties; you stand for freedom.

HONORING RONALD REAGAN AND THE MIND ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 1994, former President Ronald Reagan announced that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. “I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life,” he wrote in a letter.

At that time, 4 million Americans suffered with Alzheimer’s. Today, over 5 million now carry that diagnosis. For members of my generation, that number will double to 10 million.

President Reagan’s 100th birthday would have been this past Sunday. This week, I am introducing the MIND Act. If passed, it will establish the issuance of United States Alzheimer’s bonds to aid in the funding of Alzheimer’s research. Proceeds of bond sales would fund the program and would be avail-

able to the Director of the National Institutes of Health solely for Alzheimer’s research. The revenues generated by the sale of bonds would be funds for research in addition to, not instead of, regular appropriated funds.

In his letter, President Reagan said, “I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead.”

I know he is correct.

There could be no more loving gift for members of my generation and of future generations than to provide additional non-Federal funding to help people who are afflicted or who will be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

□ 1410

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, that any manifestations of approval or disapproval of the proceedings of this House is in violation of the rules of the House.

THE TIME HAS COME TO DENY ALL FEDERAL FUNDING TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF AMERICA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it comes as a surprise to most Americans to learn that the largest abortion provider in America is also the largest recipient of Federal funding under Title X. It is heartbreaking news this morning the Planned Parenthood of America has now been the subject of one more undercover video showing someone posing as a pimp being facilitated by employees at Planned Parenthood in how to secure secret abortions, STD testing, and contraception for child prostitutes.

You know, as a father of two teenage daughters, I see the video that came out this morning, I see the video that came out last week, and it is an outrage to me that employees of Planned Parenthood clinics across the country are facilitating the abuse of minor girls in this country. It should be a scandal to every American.

The time has come to deny all Federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America. I have authored the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, which would deny Title X funds to Planned Parenthood or any other abortion provider, and Congress must act and act now to move this important legislation. Pro-life Americans, and all Americans, should not be forced to subsidize America’s largest abortion provider or to continue to provide Federal taxpayer dollars to Title X clinics that engage in this abhorrent behavior.

CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ENVOY ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

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

Mr. WOLF. In the wake of the devastating attacks targeting Christians in Iraq and Egypt last year, it is clear that religious minorities in the Middle East are facing a grave threat. There are even reports of Christian women who, having fled Iraq, are living in ghettos in Syria and have been driven to prostitution in a desperate attempt to provide for their families.

With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to ancient Iraq than any other country: Abraham, Nineveh, Esther, Daniel, to name a few.

Iraq and Egypt are not an anomaly. A Christian mother of five in Pakistan remains in prison charged with blasphemy. If found guilty, she faces the death penalty.

In the face of these grim realities, I have introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 440, which would create a special envoy at the State Department to advocate on behalf of religious minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia. I urge all colleagues who care about the persecution of Christians in Iraq and Pakistan and Egypt to co-sponsor my bill.

HONORING RONALD REAGAN ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, America came together to honor the 100th birthday of President Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan believed that personal accountability and hard work are the cornerstones of the American Dream. He understood America’s greatness and its exceptionalism. No American will ever forget how he touted America as a shining city on a hill and “built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind-swept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace.”

In these troubling economic times, we would be wise to follow Reagan’s lessons that limited government, low taxes, and free enterprise foster economic growth and job creation.

Reagan knew that freedom was America’s greatest export to the world, whether it was promoting freedom overseas against a Communist threat or at home through free markets.

President Reagan left an unparalleled legacy to his country, and we honor his extraordinary life on what would have been his 100th birthday.