

strong sentiments stand in opposition, we ask discernment for the Members that they might judge anew their adherence to principle, conviction, and commitment.

Protect them from a deafness toward one another, lest they slide uncharitably toward an inability to work together to solve the important issues of our day.

Give them the generosity of heart and the courage of true leadership to work toward a common solution which might call for compromise, even sacrifice, on both sides.

In the end, may we all, as Americans, be proud of the processes of elective, democratic government.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LONG 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.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 103(c) of Public Law 108-83, the Speaker appoints Janice C. Robinson as Director of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs of the United States House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 633. An act to prevent fraud in small business contracting, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The message also announced that pursuant to provisions of Public Law 107-306, as amended by Public Law 111-259, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, and after consultation with the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, announces the appointment of the Senator from Indi-

ana (Mr. COATS) to serve as a member of the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute requests on each side.

NO NEW TAXES

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

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I'm new to this House. I'm new to politics, actually. I'm a small business owner. I ran my own business for 30 years. And when you have your own business, you get a lot of free, unsolicited advice, and most of that advice is telling you how to run your business.

Back home, a fellow would tell you, after his 30-minute dissertation on how to run your business, he'd stop and revise and extend his remarks by saying, "Well, I guess I can run everybody's business but my own." Because usually they've been bankrupt a couple of times and been fired, but they want to tell you how to run your business.

When I hear the United States government say, "We need to create jobs, we need to tell the job creators how to operate, what to do," I'm reminded of the fellow back home who says I can run everybody's business but my own. Because we haven't had a budget in this country in over 850 days.

We don't do much right up here, and trying to run businesses is not something we should be doing. We should be reducing taxes, reducing spending, reducing regulation. And we need to get those three free trade agreements from the White House over here. If you don't believe me, ask the European Union. Car exports up over 200 percent after they signed their free trade agreement with Korea. Their aircraft is the same. It's up over 2,300 percent.

LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, last week we passed a bill to extend funding for critical highway and transit infrastructure projects for 6 months. I don't think 6 months is long enough.

We're told by businesses that they need certainty before they can invest, and the same is true for those businesses that would help us build an infrastructure that reflects the challenges of the 21st century. To give that certainty, we need to pass a long-term highway and transit funding bill now so we can create lasting jobs.

In my home city of Los Angeles, we're already pursuing innovative

measures like the 30/10, America Fast Forward initiative to get the infrastructure we need to stay competitive tomorrow built today. That initiative promises to create 160,000 jobs in my area alone. Just think of what that good program could do for our country as a whole.

A long-term bill will put us one step closer to realizing that goal.

Keeping our Nation competitive in the future requires vision and boldness in the present, and I urge my colleagues to pass a long-term surface transportation bill equal to the opportunity before us.

WE LOVE OUR CARRIE MEEK

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of our former colleagues, a woman who is really an institution in south Florida, in Florida, and in the Nation, and that is, of course, Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

She was the first African American elected to the Florida Senate in 1982, and then along with two other colleagues became the first African American to be elected from Florida to the U.S. Congress since Reconstruction.

But here is what I know and remember about Carrie Meek. She is the consummate stateswoman. She is a person who loves her country. She loves this institution. It doesn't matter what party you're from. Whenever you have a need, whenever you have an issue, when you want counsel, she's the person that to this day we continue to go to.

So today again, Madam Speaker, I'm here to honor a great woman, a great stateswoman, a person who in the State of Florida is revered by Republicans and Democrats alike. Her son followed her into Congress, Kendrick Meek, and he did a wonderful job, and also comes from that great tree that is Carrie Meek.

Again, I'm here to honor Carrie Meek. Carrie, we love you, we miss you, we honor you.

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS

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

Mr. FARR. I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, and today over a thousand returned Peace Corps volunteers are here in our Capitol to bring us the attention that the Peace Corps deserves.

Congress passed legislation authorizing the Peace Corps and giving it a mandate to "promote peace and friendship."

Since then, 200,000 Americans, including myself and Congress Members TOM PETRI, MIKE HONDA, and JOHN GARAMENDI have served our great country in the name of peace and friendship.

I am so proud that 18 volunteers currently are serving from my district in California. They include Jonathan Cotham from Monterey. He's producing 500 environmental educational books in El Salvador, which will help 6,300 folks in local schools; Joshua Twisselman from Salinas. He's teaching English in Madagascar and has an English language radio station.

Just now there are 8,655 Americans currently serving in 80 countries. But Peace Corps service doesn't end when you leave the country. This weekend, more than 1,300 Peace Corps volunteers are here in Washington, D.C. They are the advocates for peace and prosperity and goodwill that the Peace Corps embodies.

Join me in making the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps truly an opportunity to serve our country.

CREATING ECONOMIC CERTAINTY

(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. Madam Speaker, solving this Nation's crushing unemployment problem has been my focus since the people of eastern and southeastern Ohio sent me to Washington to start the process of change.

Today I rise to outline five specific actions we must accomplish to create economic certainty, give job creators the confidence they need to begin hiring again, and make American companies more competitive both here at home and globally.

They are: require the Federal Government to balance its budget annually; scrap the current Federal Tax Code and implement a flatter, fairer tax code; eliminate all pending Federal regulations not directly tied to public health or national security; establish a clear national energy policy; and repeal the President's health care law.

Now, I've discussed all of this with countless residents of eastern and southeastern Ohio, and they all like what they hear. But the popularity of this agenda has little to do with me. These ideas are rooted in the American dream, and they can boost America's economy and lead to real job creation.

If this administration wants to help us, we can start creating the jobs Ohio and America needs.

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WE LOVE OUR CARRIE MEEK

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. I have asked some of my colleagues to join me today to pay tribute to a wonderful, wonderful stateswoman who represented Florida's 17th Congressional District for more than a decade—Congresswoman Carrie Pittman Meek. It is my present district. As a part of the Congressional

Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, her colleagues are honoring her today for her distinguished service to greater Miami, to Florida, and to this Nation.

In Congress, she focused on issues near and dear to her heart and to those of her constituents, including economic development, education, affordable housing, and issues affecting Haiti and Haitian Americans.

The Miami-Dade County community has shown its appreciation to her by naming an elementary school, a health clinic, a boulevard, a branch of a local college, and a community center in her honor.

Congresswoman Meek once said, "Service is the price you pay for the space which God has let you occupy." I cannot think of someone who embodies this principle more than she.

Thank you, Carrie Pittman Meek, for standing up for all of us, and we are all standing on your shoulders.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MICHAEL COLE

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

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Michael Cole, a distinguished New Jersey resident who died over the weekend and whose funeral will be held tomorrow in Morristown, Morris County.

Michael was among New Jersey's distinguished lawyers and public servants. He served as Governor Thomas Kaine's chief counsel in the 1980s and was very active in heading the board of the New Jersey Legal Services Corporation. Michael was a mentor to more than a generation of New Jersey lawyers, including me when I worked under his leadership in Governor Kaine's administration.

Michael leaves his wife, Jaynee LaVecchia, a member of our State's highest tribunal, the New Jersey Supreme Court, as well as a daughter, Elyse, and a son-in-law and granddaughter.

The State of New Jersey has been enriched enormously by the life of Michael Cole. My wife, Heidi, and I mourn his loss, but join countless New Jerseyans in celebrating his wonderful life.

WE LOVE OUR CARRIE MEEK

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

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank Congresswoman WILSON for bringing us together today to honor a truly exceptional public servant and friend, Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

Carrie Meek's record of accomplishments is truly too long to list, but her unique commitment to fighting for our most vulnerable communities is unmatched. Of course, there is no bigger supporter and protector of Medicare,

Medicaid, and Social Security than Congresswoman Meek, who was a member of the Appropriations Committee; and she actually counseled me to seek a slot on that committee.

So, today, we say thank you for fighting the good fight, and we applaud all of your service and your work, Carrie. Now, in this new chapter of your life, our young people continue to benefit from your wisdom through your foundation, which really deserves all of our support.

Carrie was a friend of my mentor's, our beloved Shirley Chisholm. I miss sharing our memories of Shirley Chisholm, and I also remember so much wise counsel that Carrie gave to me. I remember her sound guidance and also her principled stance. Today, I join in celebrating the many ways in which her work and her spirit have contributed to the success and well-being of countless, countless people throughout south Florida, our country, and our world.

I miss you, Carrie. I miss you especially during this Congressional Black Caucus ALC weekend. I miss your congressional classrooms. We love you. Thank you so much for your leadership. Believe you me, all of us are better people as a result of your being here for so long and for your continuing to fight the good fight for our seniors and for our children.

WE LOVE OUR CARRIE MEEK

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in their friendly comments about our former colleague from Florida, Carrie Meek.

I first met Carrie when I was representing her brother, who was a retired military veteran and a highly decorated veteran. That relationship ended when we laid him to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. We really got to know each other well when I had the privilege of chairing the Appropriations Committee, and Carrie was a really great member of that Appropriations Committee. I remember, in some of the very tense moments which happened on occasion, she would always find some way to bring a little bit of light and a little bit of pleasure to relieve the tension that was there.

We talked often. I would say Carrie, Why is it that I can never get you to vote right?

And she would say, You know, Chairman, I've been wondering the same thing about you, why I can never get you to vote right.

We had this great relationship. I miss her serving here because she brought a lot to the House. She brought a lot to the committee.

Carrie, like your other colleagues have mentioned, we really love you; and we really appreciate and respect your service to our great Nation.