

rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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 New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE IRANIAN DUCK

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran continues to inch closer to making its nuclear ambitions a reality.

The administration wants Israel to give diplomacy more time, but Prime Minister Netanyahu said, "pressure on Iran is growing, but time is growing short."

For Israel, a nuclear armed Iran threatens its very existence. Ahmadinejad says he wants to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth, and this radical extremist means what he says.

Israel will do what it has to in order to be master of its own faith, with or without the United States. Unfortunately, the days of full trust between the U.S. and Israel seem to be on shaky ground.

Netanyahu said:

I will never let my people live in the shadow of annihilation.

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. But this duck is a nuclear duck, and it's time the world started calling a duck a duck.

Mr. Speaker, America must totally get behind our friend and let the Iranian duck know whose side we are on.

And that's just the way it is.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is very important to the hardworking men and women in my home State of Rhode Island. Rhode Islanders learned yesterday that our workforce has grown smaller and our unemployment rate sits at 10.9 percent, the third highest in the Nation.

While some may struggle to see these problems from the steps of the Capitol, I hear frequently from constituents who can't understand why the House still has not considered a comprehensive jobs plan. That's why I and many of my colleagues have been working hard on legislation to put Americans back to work, including our Make it In America agenda to help reinvigorate American manufacturing.

We also need to start developing new ways to repair America's infrastructure and new ways to finance it, like a national infrastructure bank, a modern-day version of the WPA, and provide much needed help to small businesses and entrepreneurs. Yet the House leadership has stood in the path of progress on these issues.

Rhode Islanders know that Congress can do better. We need to work together and get these things done and get the American people back to work.

HIGHER GAS PRICES ARE HURTING OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

(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, since the President was sworn into office in January of 2009, gas prices have risen drastically by 156 percent. This fact shows the President's energy policy is failing our country and destroying jobs.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business, rising energy costs are a constant struggle for our small business owners. Our small business owners are already threatened with the rising cost of health care due to the mandates in the government takeover health care bill.

Instead of supporting effective energy policies that will lower the price at the pump, this administration has decided to delay the Keystone pipeline, a project that will create over 100,000 jobs at no taxpayer expense. If completed, this project will dramatically decrease our dependence on foreign oil and provide relief with energy costs for every small business.

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

HEZBOLLAH IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my concern about the pres-

ence of Hezbollah in the Western Hemisphere.

In the Homeland Security Committee, we've heard from experts who testified that Hezbollah, which is a terrorist proxy for Iran, Syria, and Venezuela, has an active membership in 14 North American cities, including Toronto, which is 90 miles from my west-end New York home.

Some dismiss this concern by saying that their activities are limited to fundraising. This is not comforting.

Madam Speaker, I have joined with my colleague, JEFF DUNCAN, to introduce H.R. 3783, the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act. Our legislation would call for the State Department to investigate Hezbollah's presence in the Western Hemisphere and to create a long-term strategy for keeping our communities and our Nation safe.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to say that this bipartisan legislation was unanimously passed in the subcommittee. As this bill moves through the House, I urge my colleagues to support our legislation to combat this growing threat.

PASS OUR JOBS BILL

(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, it has been 4 years since the height of the Great Recession and our economy is nowhere near where it should be. Unemployment continues to hover around 8 percent and thousands upon thousands of hardworking Americans have left the job market altogether.

After the President killed the Keystone pipeline, gas prices have skyrocketed, and, by some estimates, more than 20 percent of homeowners are underwater on their mortgages.

Madam Speaker, Americans need real jobs, real solutions, and real results, not the unprecedented, unacceptable, and unsustainable wasteful Washington spending some of our colleagues continue to promote. It's time Washington started protecting and respecting the hardworking American taxpayers. We need a system where their hard work is rewarded and every American has a chance to succeed.

I urge the Senate and the President to pass our jobs bills and work with us to get the American people back to work.

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IT'S TIME TO GET RID OF THE SPECULATORS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. I paid \$4.01 a gallon at home in Oregon last weekend. There's a lot of people who've got long-term plans, drill now, drill here, drill everywhere, conservation, whatever. They

say there's nothing we can do in the short-term. Well, there is.

Seventy percent of the oil futures, the supply of oil, is owned by speculators on Wall Street and other places around the world—70 percent. The head of ExxonMobil testified that about \$38 a barrel is due to speculation. That's the head of ExxonMobil. He says we're paying 38 bucks a barrel for speculators on Wall Street.

Goldman Sachs says, well, it's only \$22 to \$28 a barrel. Let's take the lowest number, \$22 a barrel. That would lower regular gas by 64 cents a gallon if we got rid of the speculators.

I've proposed a tax of 1/100 of 1 cent per transaction that would drive most of these speculators out of the market and raise some revenues.

It's time to get rid of the speculators, provide price relief to Americans, and then we can talk about a long-term plan for energy self-sufficiency.

THE JOBS ACT

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, the President's policies have failed and, indeed, made our economy worse. For three straight years, unemployment has been above 8 percent, and the Congressional Budget Office predicts now that will last through 2014, the worst period of sustained high unemployment since the Great Depression.

America has a deficit of jobs because America's job creators have a deficit of confidence in this administration. New business startups are at an almost 17-year low, and that's why House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators that will help ease the President's job-killing policies.

Our plan will continue to unfold this week when the House votes on the actual JOBS Act to help small businesses and entrepreneurs access vital equity capital and put Americans back to work. The bill does exactly what the President's own job council recommends. It's time, for once, to work together to pass the bipartisan JOBS Act and give the American people the jobs and recovery they deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, last night we lost a world leader, a father, a grandfather, a brother, an uncle, a great leader who consistently brought light to human suffering taking place around the world and what we here in Washington, D.C., can do for it.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today in memory and in honor of Congressman DON PAYNE, a brilliant leader, former chair of the Africa Sub-

committee on Foreign Affairs, and to do what I'm sure he would be doing if he were with us today, speak out against the massacres taking place in Sudan.

These killings are taking place in the Sudanese state of South Kordofan, outside the view of this Congress, and most Americans are unaware of this humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in the same region where we saw bloodshed in Darfur for many, many years.

Madam Speaker, on this day of mourning for Representative PAYNE, I know he would want us to recommit ourselves to act to prevent further bloodshed and suffering in Sudan.

My thoughts and my prayers are with Congressman PAYNE's family, his friends, and his constituents. May his legacy live forever. I will deeply miss his wise counsel and his friendship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD PAYNE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today the House of Representatives lost a distinguished Member who served with honor for more than two decades. I had the pleasure of working with DONALD PAYNE many times over the years. He had an incredible heart for Africa and suffering people in every corner of the continent.

From Morocco to South Africa, he was a tireless advocate for freedom and self-determination. We worked together speaking on behalf of the Sahrawi people in Western Sahara. Representative PAYNE watched Western Sahara closely, working toward a peaceful resolution that would allow for a free referendum that could establish self-government.

We also worked together in 2007 to recognize the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the British slave trade and to honor the legacy of William Wilberforce.

And in one amazing episode, he risked his life seeking peace in Sudan and nearly had his plane shot down in 2009.

DONALD PAYNE never missed an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the oppressed, and his work has had a lasting impact on the human rights of people around the world. I'm proud to have fought the good fight alongside of him. He will be missed.

GAS PRICES ARE KILLING THE AMERICAN CONSUMER

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

Mr. WELCH. Gas prices are killing the American consumer. They're doing real damage to small businesses.

In my State, Cabot Creamery, which has fixed price contracts to deliver

cheese, very important to farmers, very important to that business, price of gas going up a dollar, it's like another \$135,000 off their bottom line.

There are long-term issues we've got to address, but you know what? There's stuff we can do in the short term. The futures market has been flipped upside down. It should be serving end users like airlines, fuel dealers. Instead, it's been taken over by speculators.

Goldman Sachs study says about \$23 on the price of a barrel of oil is attributable to speculation. That's about 56 cents when you go to fill up your pickup truck, about an extra 15 bucks just for the speculation premium.

Past Presidents have used the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to spook the speculators, to send a shot across their bow that they're going to be on the wrong side, the losing side of these trades. Let's use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to give some relief to our consumers and to our small businesses.

THE JOBS ACT

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I received a letter from a young constituent who is a vigorous Boy Scout and a great citizen, Matthew Barbuti from Yorktown Heights, New York. He's only in sixth grade, but he's very concerned about our economy. And he wrote to me, "If the economy doesn't turn around, our country will no longer be a world leader, and the American people will suffer."

Matthew, you are exactly right. We do have a tremendous job ahead of us, and we are working here, all of us together, for you and for all the kids in this country who need a future, the kind of dreams that we have been privileged to dream.

So this week, we're bringing to the House floor the JOBS Act, part of a whole package of jobs bills that we've been sending to our colleagues in the Senate, and we certainly hope that, with Democratic and Republican support, and with the President's support of this bill as well, we'll be able to activate that economy to create the kind of jobs and opportunities that all of us need throughout this country, no matter where we come from.

Thank you, Matthew, for your common sense.

THE GOP'S ASSAULT ON WOMEN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Rush Limbaugh's appalling attack on Georgetown student Sandra Fluke is no isolated incident, but part of a broader GOP assault on women's health.

Republicans have ushered in Women's History Month with legislation to