

WELCOMING REVEREND MATTHEW BARNES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's opening prayer was given by my good friend and mentor, Matthew Barnes, who serves as chaplain at the Indiana State House and also serves as State director for Capital Commission in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I am only a freshman in this body, but it doesn't take a seasoned veteran to know that our government is made up of human beings who need wisdom, discernment, and grounding in the truth of God's word.

A true servant-leader, Matt has made it his mission to serve, teach, and pray for those who are in positions of authority. In 2004, he was called to serve Indiana's elected officials. Matt ministers in love, knowing that he serves a God whose will is good and gracious and whose law is truth.

In my time in the State legislature, I saw Matt give comfort and counsel to so many of my colleagues. His heart for the members of that body is inescapably clear.

Matt and his wife, Miriam, have three wonderful children: Sarah, Micah, and Emma. Their work and sacrifice have made Indiana a better place.

I'm honored that my friend has been able to join us today.

HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

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

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman of incredible strength and courage, one who has inspired and personally pushed numerous young ladies to achieve beyond their wildest dreams. I am of course talking about the record-setting leader of the Lady Vols basketball team, Pat Head Summitt.

Now, I could stand here and read off a list of her stats and accomplishments on the court—and they are many and quite impressive—but, Madam Speaker, I believe that would miss the true scope of Pat Summitt's impact not only on the sport, but on the lives of her players and so many who have watched her career.

While the world saw her impact on the sport, her focus was always on teaching young women about life and using their shared passion of basketball as the tool. Her student athletes were always students first. They left the University of Tennessee equipped for a successful life.

She instilled in her players the work ethic she learned on a dairy farm in Henrietta, Tennessee. It was her father's values of determination and hard work and her years of holding her own

among the boys in her family that inspired the toughness, the drive to achieve, and the winning attitude.

Now the legendary Pat Summitt will inspire countless Americans off the court as she raises awareness in her personal fight against Alzheimer's. One item from her well-known list of the definite dozen is to be a competitor. Those of us that have admired her for years know that she is a true competitor and is ready for the fight.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children who were massacred under the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.

Each year, Armenians throughout the world mark April 24 as Genocide Remembrance Day by honoring those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and I join my friends and colleagues in remembering the victims today.

It's important to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter in world history, but also because learning more about this horrific tragedy underscores the importance of eliminating intolerance and bigotry wherever it occurs.

Armenian Americans living in my home State of Rhode Island have made significant contributions through their leadership in business, law, academia, government, and the arts.

As a cosponsor of House Resolution 304, I strongly believe that the time has come for the United States Government to recognize this atrocity for what it was—genocide. I join my colleagues today in recognizing the victims of the Armenian genocide.

PRESIDENT'S POLICIES
ENDANGERING SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, our Nation's Social Security system is sadly approaching bankruptcy. The Secretary of the Treasury spoke on Monday, revealing that Social Security benefits are expected to become insolvent in only 21 years—3 years sooner than was projected just last year.

In a recent article in the Washington Post, Emily Miller wrote:

Thanks in large part to Mr. Obama's insistence, the program's 2011 deficit of \$148 billion was the second largest single-year deterioration since 1983. If Washington doesn't do anything to address the program's imbalance, the trustees say it will take raising the payroll tax to 16.7 percent to cover the gap.

This administration continues to take money out of the Social Security

fund, shifting it for programs we cannot afford. It is past the time for Congress to act and stop Washington's out-of-control spending, which will ultimately result in higher taxes and more debt, destroying jobs and putting senior citizens at risk.

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

Welcome, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, to Washington for Supreme Court oral arguments.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, you had to look at their faces and right into their eyes to see the worry that these young people had.

Just yesterday, I convened a roundtable of students at Daemen College in my district and we talked about the biggest concern on their mind. It wasn't their final exams; it was the knowledge that in 3 short months, if this body does not act, these young people will face a doubling of the interest rate on their student loans from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. These young people are afraid; they're concerned.

I asked them what it would mean to them. One man who already has \$120,000 in debt now said he would probably have to leave in order to start paying back his debt. One woman said she would probably have to take a fourth job on top of her third job. Another junior said he probably would not be back next year. Heartbreaking stories, ladies and gentlemen, but we can stop it from happening.

You've got to ask: What's wrong with this picture? Banks are lending to each other at about zero percent. You can get a home mortgage loan for 3.9 percent. Why are our young people, who are doing nothing other than having a shot at the American Dream that each one of us had by getting a good education, why are they going to be strapped with this debt?

I ask all of us to join in asking the House of Representatives leadership to allow us to vote on this bill.

□ 1310

MORE EPA REDTAPE MEANS
FEWER ILLINOIS JOBS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, once again, to express my concern about the EPA, their redtape, and its effect on jobs and the economy in my home State of Illinois.

In fact, a recent study found that the rules proposed by the EPA could destroy more jobs in Illinois than in any other State. According to this study, more than 38,000 Illinois jobs are at

risk. These new layers of redtape would especially be harmful in their impact on the price of electricity, raising costs for small businesses and forcing them to lay off employees.

In Illinois we could see electricity prices rise as much as 18 percent, a huge burden on small businesses already struggling to keep their doors open. Time and again, I've heard from small businesses in my district who are concerned about this regulatory onslaught.

But House Republicans are not standing idly by. With bipartisan support, we've passed a half-dozen pieces of legislation that would rein in the EPA and help protect American jobs.

Unfortunately, as with so many of the bills that we've passed to create jobs and spur economic growth, the Senate has refused to act. Perhaps another reminder of what is at stake will finally spur them to action.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, let me get this straight. My good friends on the Republican side are really interested in cutting taxes for the wealthy, but when it comes to maybe cutting the taxes that students would be paying on the student loans that they have by \$1,000 more a year, they're not nearly so interested.

Well, let me read to you a posting to my Facebook from a young woman that really hits home. She wrote:

Going to college was the worst decision of my life. I hate to say it, but it's true. I did everything right. I graduated high school early, at the top of my class. I got all my core courses out of the way at community college, then transferred to a 4-year college, but I couldn't afford it and had to stop just before my last year. It's the biggest regret of my life that I couldn't afford college. I'm not lazy, I'm not stupid, but I had the misfortune of being born poor.

Madam Speaker, it's time for us to make sure that the poor students in our country have the right to go to college and to see it as a good decision, not a wrong decision.

CONGRATULATING TWO PLANO HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recent victories of two Plano high school teams: the 2012 Plano West girls soccer State champions and the 2012 Plano Senior High School WorldQuest National Champions.

Last weekend, the Plano West girls soccer team defeated Katy Seven Lakes, earning the school its fifth State title. Under first-year Coach Carley Phillips, who won the school a

state title in 2002, the soccer program has excelled and continued in its success.

And last month, the Plano Senior High School's WorldQuest team successfully defended its national championship title. For the second year in a row, this team placed first in the national academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture.

Congratulations to these two stellar teams. That's the way to represent the great State of Texas. God bless you, and I salute you.

EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in these tough economic times, it's critical that Congress work to make quality higher education available to all Americans. We know that investing in education is an investment in our future, an investment in the strength of America.

By the year 2018, 63 percent of all American jobs will require some level of higher education. Sadly, if Congress does not act soon, the interest rate for student loans will double from 3.4 to 6.8, higher than home loans. This will cause thousands of dollars in new debt for more than 7.4 million American students.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress have refused to go forward with legislation that would prevent this crisis. And some Republican leaders have openly criticized students who graduate with college debt.

It's time that Congress worked together to help middle class families, not just the wealthiest few. We must pass legislation that strengthens the Pell program and prevents an increase in student loan rates.

Thank you, President Obama, for taking the lead in helping our future generations and leaders of tomorrow.

ANNUAL AUDITS FOR THE GSA

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

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about the corruption, the fraud, the waste within GSA, an agency that has nearly a \$10 billion slush fund that they hide from the American taxpayers every single year.

Today I'm going to be introducing a bill that will request transparency on an annual basis, show an annual audit so the American taxpayers can see exactly where this waste is going and hold this agency accountable.

We're going to hold another hearing on the issue to make sure that the waste stops, and that we actually start selling off some of the buildings that are sitting vacant right now today, an opportunity for Republicans and Demo-

crats to actually come together, just getting rid of waste, and at the same time that we sell the properties and redevelop the things that we aren't using, put people back to work.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was observed last week on April 19. The theme of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day was "Choosing to Act," offering an important reminder of the sacredness of human life and the need for all of us to stand against evil.

The Holocaust represents one of the darkest periods in human history and illustrates the worst of human behavior, yet some still deny the events of the Holocaust ever occurred. It is no wonder that Israel is extremely concerned with the development of nuclear weapons in Iran, putting these arms in the hands of radicals who have shown no respect for human life or basic human rights.

We must support and stand by Israel during these dangerous times. We must always keep in the back of our minds the history of the Jewish people. Understanding their history helps us understand their concerns and feelings about what is currently going on in the world.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day we are reminded that the Jewish people have had firsthand experience with true evil, and we must work to ensure that such atrocities do not happen again.

KEEP THEM ON THE FARM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the regulators are going after America's farms. Now they are considering prohibiting kids from working on farms. Growing up on a farm teaches kids valuable lessons and a strong work ethic.

Now the Federal Government is contemplating prohibiting kids from doing chores on their uncle's farm, including "the storing, marketing, and transporting of farm product raw materials."

According to the Department of Labor, "prohibited places of employment would include county grain elevators, grain bins, feedlots, stockyards, and livestock exchanges."

Anyone under 16 would not be allowed to drive any type of power equipment, including tractors. So if the farmer wants to hire a young boy to help him move some hay, it'd be a crime?

People who know nothing about farms are trying to stop educating our future farmers, because a lot of these