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No. 113

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 13, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM PRICE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Louis V. Iasiello, President, Washington Theological Union, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Most good and gracious God, You bless us and guide us at every moment of our lives, and most especially at times of great trial and adversity.

We thank You for the priceless gift of this great Nation and for the constitutional principles that guide it. We thank Thee for the many liberties that mark us as a blessed and a free people, and for myriad patriots who have worn the sacred cloth of military service throughout our proud history, citizen warriors who have defended those freedoms against the tyrannies of days past and those who continue the good fight this very day. We know their service honors You, for it stands as yet one more sign of the great bounty that is the United States of America.

And so at this troublesome time of national emergency, in the current struggle against global extremism, we ask for the strength to face adversity with pure and sincere hearts that You might empower us to be a light for all the nations and build a world with justice and peace for men and women of good will everywhere. So help us God, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 866. An act to make technical corrections to the United States Code.

SMALL BUSINESS NEEDS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to continue addressing the needs of small businesses that create seven out of every 10 jobs in our communities. Small businesses are the backbone of our local economies.

During the past month, I held small business walks down the main streets and through the business districts of towns and villages in New York's Hudson Valley.

I talked directly to small business owners and employees in places like

Warwick, Port Jervis, Beacon and Highland Falls to hear directly from them about the challenges they face every day.

They asked for continued tax relief so they can afford to pay their employees. They need to keep more of their earnings in order to create new, good paying jobs in our local communities.

They asked for affordable health insurance to be more accessible for them to be able to provide for their employees. Only 41 percent of the smallest businesses can afford to offer health benefits, compared with 99 percent of large companies.

When I discussed small business health plan legislation that we have passed in the House, they often agreed that would be a practical first step toward solving the problem of America's uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, these and other proposals are part of a five-point plan I have been pushing to help our small businesses, and I ask my colleagues to support these initiatives that level the playing field for small businesses and provide them the tax relief they need.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, hard on the heels of the anniversary of 9/11, instead of dealing meaningfully with the concerns of the American people, like immigration and the economy, instead the House deals with horse slaughter rules and Indian gaming. There is no meaningful action or even debate on how the Bush administration's war of choice has left Iraq in shambles and civil war.

North Korea and Iran are more threatening and dangerous than when labeled the "Axis of Evil."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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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We are losing ground to the Taliban in Afghanistan, where the NATO commander cannot even get the troops he says he needs.

Independent polls show America's standing in the world at the lowest ever recorded.

The good news is that there will be a chance in November's election where we will be able to not just send a message but change the leadership here in the House and start a new direction for America.

BETRAYED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the battle on the second front continues, and the U.S. Government shows it is on the wrong side of the border war.

Two border patrol agents named Ramos and Compean chased a drug dealer down on the Mexico-Texas border. Gun shots were exchanged. The drug smuggler fled back to safety in Mexico, leaving his van and 800 pounds of dope on the American side.

The U.S. decided to prosecute. The U.S. Attorney went to Mexico, found the drug dealer, took him to America, treated his bullet wounds, and then, get this, gave him immunity to testify against agents Compean and Ramos for their shooting him, the criminal.

Both border agents were convicted by an overzealous prosecutor that was looking for pelts in her belt. She appeared to have more loyalty to Mexico than to America because she was on the wrong side.

Both agents await sentencing. The two border agents should have been given medals and sent back down to the border to bag another drug dealer instead of being prosecuted.

Yet another example of how our government is more concerned about illegals and drug dealers than they are about America and Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

TAX CUTS FOR WEALTHY, PAY CUTS FOR MIDDLE CLASS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for a lot of American families it is becoming more and more difficult to make ends meet in the Bush economy. With sky-high gas prices this summer, rising health care costs and stagnant wages, working Americans are feeling a serious squeeze on their family finances.

Unfortunately, President Bush and the congressional Republicans refuse to address our economy because they think it is moving along smoothly. But that is simply not the case.

While full-time minimum wage earners face a 50-year low in buying power, and all Americans face wages that are

falling after inflation, corporate profits have reached their highest share of the economy since the 1960s. It would be nice if corporate CEOs and shareholders were not the only ones benefiting from the production American workers are bringing in every day. Democrats believe it is time for them to get their fair share.

Mr. Speaker, working Americans are ready for a new economic direction, one where workers are justly compensated for their efforts and the benefits of increased productivity can be shared by all. The days of catering exclusively to the wealthiest have helped create the troubling economic conditions that our Nation now faces. It is time for a change.

NATO STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a delegate of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and very active in its defense subcommittee, and also the chairman of the Baltic Caucus, I am excited and extremely pleased with NATO's recent announcement in a letter of intent after 6 months of negotiation.

Thirteen Nations have developed a plan to create a NATO Strategic Airlift Capability based at Ramstein Air Force Base. Initially comprised of three to four C-17s, the SAC will be flown by multinational air crews, pilots and loadmasters, and a multinational military structure will be created to command and control these aircraft.

Boeing, who builds the C-17, is a great U.S. company. This aids in NATO's transformation and jobs for U.S. workers.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 453

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, with record temperatures set in the first half of 2006, with hurricane season upon us, the need for Congress to address global climate change is more pressing than ever.

There is no longer debate within the scientific community. Global warming exists, and we need to do something about it.

We have the opportunity and the responsibility to take action to reverse the negative impacts of global climate change. However, this must be done both domestically and internationally.

It is time the U.S., with the international community, fully address the issue of global climate change.

Congressman Jim Leach and myself have introduced H. Con. Res. 453, a bipartisan resolution expressing the need for the U.S. to participate in inter-

national agreements that address global climate change.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and join us in taking this step and begin addressing global climate change.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, millions play our national pastime for the love of the game, but only the truly elite can claim the title of world champion.

I have the great pleasure of representing Columbus, Georgia, home of the 2006 Little League World Champions. Our community beams with pride for these incredible young sluggers and slingers.

The players for Columbus Northern are living the dream of every American boy who has ever slipped on a glove. In order to compete for the world championship, Columbus Northern first had to defeat the best Little League teams that the United States had to offer.

Then, as the American champions in the World Series, Columbus Northern took on a tough and talented Japanese team. The game was a defensive struggle, allowing Columbus Northern to win 2-1 after a 2-run homer by catcher Cody Walker, who also caught the fastball of winning pitcher Kyle Carter. The champs recently met one of the Nation's biggest baseball fans, President Bush, when he was in Atlanta.

The Columbus Northern team is on top of the world. It will have memories to last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the players of Columbus Northern. Georgians and Americans are thrilled with their success, and we are more than a little jealous, but very thankful, that they get to live every boy's dream.

PRESIDENT BUSH CONTINUES TO MISREPRESENT THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in his speech on Monday night, President Bush continued to try to justify the invasion of Iraq by drawing nonexistent links to the 9/11 attacks. The President's misuse of the fifth anniversary of the attacks shows that he will go to any length to divert our attention from his failures in Iraq, which has diverted focus from America's real national security concerns.

President Bush, and most Republicans here in Congress, refuse to admit that things are not going well in Iraq. One has to only look at a report that we requested from the President's own Pentagon showing that the situation in Iraq has greatly worsened. The number of attacks against Americans and