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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BONNER).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 29, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO BONNER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Barry C. Black, Chaplain, United States Senate, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, high and lifted up, Your ways are often beyond our understanding.

Today, guide the leaders of our Nation and world.

When they cannot discern Your purposes, open their eyes.

Lead them away from the valleys of discouragement and pessimism to the high ground of faith and cheer.

Through Your power, direct them when clouds obscure the light of Your countenance.

May they do Your work when there are none to applaud and encourage.

Give them the wisdom to strive simply to please You.

Remind them that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your purposes.

We pray in Your holy name. 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 gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KELLY 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

### DO-NOTHING CONGRESS??

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

Ms. FOXX. I rise today to object to a phrase that has been said all too often lately, "the do-nothing Congress." The Democrats are speaking for themselves as they have not put forth any constructive ideas or sound policy.

As for our side of this aisle, this Republican-led Congress has taken major steps in the advancement of our Nation. I am honored to be a part of the 109th Congress and its accomplishments.

This Republican-led Congress has voted to permanently end the death tax and voted for additional tax cuts. The results: The economy is strong. The unemployment rate is at 4.7 percent, its lowest average over the past three decades. Home ownership is up. And just yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average reached its highest level in 6 years.

But most notably is all the legislation that has been passed to support

our troops and protect our homeland. We have listened to the American people and focused on their priorities. Our constituents wanted border security, and we passed several border security bills. In addition, Congress has passed numerous bills that will prevent terrorist attacks and give our military and intelligence forces the tools they need to win the global war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican-led Congress has taken tremendous steps in growing our economy, protecting our homeland, and fighting the global war on terror.

### HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Every day, Americans work hard to meet their responsibilities, to pay their mortgage, to send their children to college, to save for retirement, and every day Americans worry about the health and safety of their family, friends, and loved ones. Yet, under the policy of the Bush administration and the Republican Congress, access to health care has gotten harder.

The number of untreated Americans is on the rise; 47 million are currently without insurance. Health insurance premiums are skyrocketing, a 73 percent increase over the last 5 years. And medical research is stifled because politics, not science, dictates public policy.

Democrats have a plan to make health care more affordable and to advance lifesaving medicine. Democrats will enable small businesses to join together to negotiate more affordable rates for their employees. Democrats will negotiate lower prices for seniors and eliminate overpayments to HMOs, and Democrats will work towards cures for diseases that affect all of our families by investing in the promise of stem

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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H7905

cell research and innovative biotechnologies.

Our plan prioritizes the health of people, not the profits of special interests. Our plan will reduce costs and will find cures.

It is time for a new direction in health and science, one that Democrats can deliver.

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#### LONE STAR VOICE—MAC GARRISON

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the gunning down of the Houston police officer by an illegal who shot him in the back has sparked new immigration safety concerns. Although the "open borders crowd" doesn't want to talk about it, normal citizens are speaking the truth anyway. Mac Garrison of Kingwood, Texas writes, "The murder of Houston Police Officer Rodney Johnson must serve as a wakeup call to all concerned citizens regarding the huge problem of illegal immigration.

"Our borders are nonexistent, our language is deteriorating, and our culture is melting away.

"Those that come here illegally, simply by the nature of their first act on American soil, breaking the law, have no respect for our laws and our social structure. Anarchy seems to rule the day now.

"The Federal Government has failed miserably to protect the border. And local law enforcement agencies are being denied the ability to work closely with other Federal agencies to stop this problem.

"We as a law abiding society must demand more accountability of elected leaders and our citizens. Now, more than ever is the time to get extremely serious about putting a complete halt to illegal immigration before more lives are lost and before our country is completely financially and morally bankrupt."

Mr. Speaker, Mac Garrison speaks for many Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

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#### REGARDING IRAQI OIL REVENUES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in March of 2003, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said: We are dealing with a country, Iraq, that can really finance its own reconstruction, and relatively soon.

Well, I guess 3 years doesn't count as relatively soon. According to a new report by the Iraqi Special Inspector General, the Iraqi oil industry lost \$16 billion because of violence, theft, and corruption. In fact, 3 years after Secretary Wolfowitz's confident predictions, Iraq is actually paying billions of dollars to import refined petro-

leum. Iraq is importing refined petroleum products.

In the words of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, "stuff happens."

Maybe if this Congress had questioned Wolfowitz on his calculations a little closer, maybe if the President had given the commanders on the ground the troops they needed, maybe if this Congress had conducted and sought accountability into Iraq's reconstruction, we wouldn't be dealing with quite so much "stuff." But I guess under Republican leadership, you end up with the leadership you have, not the one you want.

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#### TAX RELIEF/SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the false argument by the Democrats that the tax relief this Republican Congress has provided the American people during the last 5 years isn't helpful.

Democrats are vowing to repeal these tax cuts and are running around with a terribly false sound bite that tax cuts are for the rich.

So I ask them: Do only rich people have children? Because we increased the tax credit to \$1,000 per child for every American family.

So I ask them: Do only rich people get married? Because we fixed a major flaw that punished every American married couple by charging them higher taxes for filing jointly.

And I ask them: Do rich people have a family income of \$14,000 a year? Because it was for them that we created an income range, a new 10 percent tax bracket to specifically cut their tax rates. It cuts taxes for 6.1 million low-income taxpayers in New York alone.

Finally, I ask them: Are you labeling every small business owner in America as rich? Because we on the Small Business Committee worked very hard to ensure the majority of these tax cuts specifically helps small businesses.

When I walk down the main streets of Hudson Valley and visit the small businesses, the owners tell me they are certainly not rich. They tell me they need tax cuts to pay their workers, to serve their customers, and create new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is in the numbers. The Treasury Department shows that a family of four, making \$50,000 a year, would experience a 132 percent tax increase in 2011 if Congress repealed these tax cuts.

Let's remain a Congress that votes in favor of the taxpayer.

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#### TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. A war based on lies. An administration lost in ideological

fantasies, stubbornly ignoring the best advice of military commanders. Getting ready for the next war. A President who refuses to see a situation collapsing around 130,000 young men and women he sent into battle. A global war on terror has become a war of errors, undermining our security around the world and here at home. A national security state has emerged, and America is immersed in lying, spying, and dying.

It is time for a new direction. It is time for a new direction in international relations, achieving security through cooperation. It is time for a new direction here at home in health care, Medicare for all. It is time for a new direction in job creation and infrastructure bill. It is time for a new direction.

We are homeward bound, America. We are coming home. We are coming back to take care of things that matter to people here at home, jobs and health care and education. Time for a new direction.

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#### FOOTY'S BUBBLES AND BONES GALA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize south Florida Y-100 radio station, and especially John Kross, known to our south Florida community as "Footy," for this year's sixth annual Anti-Drug Bubbles and Bones Gala. Proceeds benefit Here's Help, a private, nonprofit, comprehensive rehabilitation agency that caters to inner-city youth with substance dependency and addiction.

In my congressional district, programs such as these have been instrumental in saving the lives of many teenagers and young adults by helping them cope with their addictions.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Footy on this wonderful drug rehab program. This event will provide assistance to so many young people in need to make sure that they one day can live in a Nation where drug and alcohol addictions are no longer a fact of their lives.

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#### AMERICANS WANT A NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are shutting down the debate in Congress today. They don't want the American people to hear anything other than Republican press releases. They have nothing else to show and offer the American people.

November will be a referendum on the President's failed diplomacy, disastrous war in Iraq, and governing America by telling the American people to be afraid.

Now, maybe Aesop was wrong 3,000 years ago in his fable. Maybe you can