

and why, beyond just some historic accident and water rights policy no longer adequate for today's challenges.

I strongly urge my friends in Congress to reflect on the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act by getting serious today with our constituents at home about what we are going to do for the next 35 years of clean water.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Bobby L. Johnson, First Assembly of God, Van Buren, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, today we come humbly and thankfully to You. Humbly, for allowing each of us to be in our positions and thankfully, for Your guidance at this time.

None of us knows what this day holds, but we trust You to see us through every decision we make. Help us to realize that it is by Your hand that we are free and well. Grant us wisdom to know the right thing to do in every decision. Give us the strength to follow through with what is right regardless of the consequences.

Within the hands of these public servants rests the destiny of this great Nation. Help this great body to bring peace to our Nation and the world. Give them the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Samson, the faith of Abraham, and the ability of David to accomplish the challenges we face. In Jesus' 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND BOBBY L. JOHNSON

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce a good friend, a man who ministers to the men and women of western Arkansas, a man of God, our guest chaplain, the Reverend Bobby L. Johnson of Van Buren, Arkansas. He has been pastor of First Assembly of God in Van Buren since June of 1980. Since then, the church has grown from over 200 at Sunday School to over 2,000, placing it among the fastest growing Sunday Schools in Arkansas and the Nation.

His mission is bringing the Word to the people through his extensive outreach, from mobile ministry to television and over the Internet. A graduate of both the University of Central Arkansas and Evangel College in Missouri, Pastor Johnson has taught public high school and pastored three other churches in Arkansas.

It is my honor to welcome Pastor Johnson to the House of Representatives and thank him for his service to his calling and to the people of Arkansas.

SCHIP

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, our Nation's values are reflected in how we spend taxpayers' hard-earned money. Yesterday, rather than encouraging us to invest in the good health of our children here at home, the President asked for permission to spend \$200 billion in Iraq. Well, it is okay to ask and it is okay to respond by saying, "No, thank you." The health of our Nation's children is more valuable than making more of a mess in Iraq.

My friends, enough is enough. It is time to spend our tax dollars right here at home. Last week, 44 Republicans joined the Democratic majority in attempting to override the President's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP. This issue is not going away. We will prevail. It is a matter of how long it will take.

Here are some facts to keep in mind: SCHIP saves tax dollars by sending children in need to the doctor's office, not to the costly emergency room. And over 90 percent of those in SCHIP earn less than \$41,000 a year. There is a better way of doing things in America. By working together, we will find it and guarantee access to health care for all those in need.

RUSH LIMBAUGH LETTER RAISES MILLIONS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, America's number one radio personality, Rush Limbaugh, auctioned off for charity a letter shamefully signed by a group of 41 Democratic Senators. The letter to Limbaugh's employer attacked Rush for comments blatantly distorted by Media Matters regarding persons who had lied about their service in the military.

I am happy to report that the Senate letter of infamy was auctioned for \$2.1 million, an amount Rush says he will generously match. That brings the total to \$4.2 million.

The money will be donated to the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation. This charitable organization provides financial assistance to the children of fallen marines and law enforcement officers. I wish to commend Rush for overcoming what was clearly a political ploy to chill his first amendment rights of free speech. Rush took an abusive power by Democratic leadership and turned it into something positive. Between Rush Limbaugh and Senate Democrats, America knows who really supports our troops.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.

DEMOCRATS TRYING TO EASE THE PAIN OF MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES BY MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to address the House. I am excited to be a Democrat. I always take pleasure in giving reasons for why I am a member of the Democratic Party.

Since taking control of Congress, Democrats have worked to pass legislation that will help families once again live the American Dream. Over the last 6 years, college costs have shot up 40 percent, putting higher education out of reach for most Americans. I have one son in college today, and I can tell you I am excited over the fact that we passed, and the President did, in fact, sign the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. This law is the single largest increase in college aid since the GI Bill. It strengthens the middle class by cutting interest rates in half and subsidizes student loans over the next 5 years. We are also able, in this bill, to increase the maximum Pell Grant scholarships by \$500.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased and I am excited to be a Democrat.

SCHIP

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, SCHIP continues to be used as a political game by Washington liberals. Sensible, effective compromise does exist to bring meaningful bipartisan support for this necessary program.

The Kids First bill, of which I am a cosponsor, adds 1.3 million new children to the SCHIP program by 2012. It encourages the States to move children to private coverage. Kids First provides \$14 billion in new SCHIP allotments, and it includes \$400 million in grants for outreach and enrollment. This is a sensible approach.

I support SCHIP, and I am committed to ensuring that it is a successful program that helps children who need it and the children for whom it was really intended, those who are in poverty. It makes SCHIP a program for those whom it was intended for.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives CAMP and HULSHOF, for their work on this bill. I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in this compromise approach to help put our poor children first.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. ARMY'S 3RD ARROWHEAD BRIGADE-2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a U.S. Army brigade from Fort Lewis, Washington, that has served with distinction in Iraq.

On October 11, the last of the roughly 3,800 men and women of the 3rd Brigade-2nd Infantry Division returned home to Fort Lewis after completing their second deployment to Iraq. The Arrowhead Brigade has been a trailblazer for the Army as the first brigade to be outfitted with the Stryker combat vehicles, the first Stryker Brigade to serve in Iraq, and now the first Stryker Brigade to complete two tours in Iraq.

During their recent deployment, the Arrowhead Brigade supported operations in Mosul, Baghdad, Baqubah, and other critical areas. On several occasions they were asked to secure downed U.S. aircraft and the sites of numerous suicide attacks. In addition, the Arrowhead Brigade constantly remained prepared to mobilize and deploy anywhere in Iraq for any number of contingencies within 24 hours.

In tribute to their brave service, seven members of the brigade were awarded the Silver Star, the United States' third highest award for combat valor. In the course of their deployment, the Arrowhead Brigade lost 48 of their comrades, with another 700 wounded.

I want to express my deep condolences to the 3-2 Brigade and the families of those fallen soldiers. Their contribution and sacrifice will not be forgotten. The men and women of the 3-2

Brigade have done everything their country has asked of them and more. We all should have the utmost respect and admiration for their service and sacrifice.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, recently Congress passed House Resolution 590, supporting the goals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month while raising awareness of domestic violence throughout our country. I am here to voice my support for everyone impacted by this horrible nightmare. This is an issue which affects millions in urban and rural areas alike. It crosses economic lines, geographic lines and ethnic lines. No segment of our population is immune. One out of five women and one out of 14 men have been domestically assaulted at some point in their lives.

In my home State of Nebraska, there are more than 5,800 protection orders needed for those living in fear of violence. Domestic violence is an issue which too often is swept under the rug or ignored. So as part of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I am wearing a purple ribbon to raise awareness about the crime of domestic abuse as we work toward ending this violence.

SCHIP

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, last week, despite the best efforts of the Democratic majority and about 44 Republicans, we were unable to override the President's veto of health insurance for the children of poor and working families. Now, I listened to the argument that we can't afford providing health care for our children, despite the fact that our SCHIP program was entirely paid for.

Look, Madam Speaker, I believe that a strong Nation can do both. You can be fiscally responsible and you can take care of your children. Good families manage to be fiscally responsible and take care of their children. It is just a matter of priorities. I will say, Madam Speaker, that I was struck by some of the mispriorities that I heard about. The same people who said that we can't afford health insurance for our children increased spending 7 percent a year since 2001 and voted to increase our debt limit 4 out of the past 5 years. The difference is that they spent on the wrong things. No spending? We can't afford health care for children but billions of dollars in tax cuts for the most profitable oil companies on Earth? We can't afford spending for health insurance for our children

but billions of dollars in spending in no-bid contracts for Halliburton? We have increased the debt. We are putting it on our kids' shoulders, and now we are telling our kids we can't afford to help them with the x-rays.

FISA

(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, in the early hours of May 11, seven U.S. soldiers were on lookout near a patrol base in Iraq. Some time before dawn, heavily armed al Qaeda gunmen made coordinated surprise attacks on the soldiers. Four of the soldiers were killed and three others taken hostage. What happened next is a travesty and a failure of our public policy in support of the troops in the field. A search to rescue the men began immediately but was brought to a halt because of our FISA law, by the need for military lawyers to jump through legal hoops in order to gain approval to conduct surveillance of terrorist communications. Ten hours passed before they were granted such permission. The search for a kidnapped U.S. soldier was halted so that lawyers could find grounds to have the Attorney General grant special permission to listen in on the communications between the individuals in Iraq. Our FISA law, as the President has requested, needs reform, not the flawed bill the Democrats are seeking to pass.

□ 1015

SPENDING FOR CHIP VERSUS SPENDING IN IRAQ—IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

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

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, last week the rubber stamp Republicans in this House once again held true to their name by voting to stand with the President and reject health care coverage for 10 million American children. The spending priorities of the President's Republican allies in the House are simply out of line with the priorities of the American people. In fact, the 86 percent of Americans who support this bipartisan CHIP reauthorization might be interested to know that for the cost of just 37 days in Iraq, we could provide health care coverage to 10 million children. Yet the President's irresponsible, open-ended commitment to the occupation in Iraq continues, while the number of American children without access to health care keeps climbing.

Madam Speaker, yesterday the President asked Congress to borrow another \$196 billion to continue his failed blank-check, no-plan policy in Iraq. But he and his Republican friends in