

investing in renewable energy alternatives, thereby stopping the flow of hundreds of billions of American dollars to irresponsible regimes. It includes strategies to strengthen international intelligence and law enforcement operations to bring individuals involved in violent acts to justice, while respecting human and civil rights. And it supports civil organizations and programs in the developing world because they play a critically important role in preventing or resolving conflicts.

I want to thank the cosponsors of H. Res. 363, Chairman JOHN CONYERS, Chairman ED MARKEY, Congresswomen BARBARA LEE and MAXINE WATERS, cofounders of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE, a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, the Smart Security Platform For the 21st Century is ambitious, wide-ranging and tough. It uses the many national security tools that we have. It would make us safer here at home. It would cost less than what we are spending now on national security. And it isn't "soft" power, Mr. Speaker. It is real power. It is smart power. It is the kind of power we need to make America and the world more secure for ourselves and for our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S REQUEST FOR PRAYERS AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 1787, there was a real problem with the Constitutional Convention. They couldn't reach agreement on a Constitution. So Benjamin Franklin stood up in Constitution Hall and he said this. Let me read what was going on. I want to draw you a picture first.

The Constitutional Convention was on the verge of breaking apart completely over the issue of representation, a stalemate created by the concern of smaller States that they would be overpowered by the larger States, and the concern of larger States that smaller States would be given representation out of proportion to their relative size.

Tempers were short, and the ship of state seemed headed for the rocks before its maiden voyage had barely begun, when Benjamin Franklin rose and said these immortal words:

"In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to dis-

tinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding?"

"In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in a struggle must have observed instances of superintending Providence in our favor.

"To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?"

And this is the part that I think every American remembers, when he said, "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Tomorrow is National Prayer Day. And I hope that everybody in this country during these perilous times with our economy and the problems around the world will join together, regardless of their faith, and pray that we solve these problems and that there is peace and prosperity in America and around the world. The President of the United States, President Obama, will be signing a proclamation tomorrow observing National Prayer Day. And we appreciate that he is going to do this. And if he has time tomorrow, I hope the President will manifest his support for this great day by showing publicly his support by praying with a number of his members at the White House. I think it would be a great example.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OBSERVING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Public Service Recognition Week. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize the contributions that so many who have gone into public service make. Whether it be government service or whether it be volunteering for nonprofits, serving in the Service Corps, working for a 501(c)(3) organization, there are so many ways that people across this country can commit themselves to

public service. And it is important that we take a few moments out of the hectic demands of our day and our year to recognize the people that make these contributions.

I had a unique opportunity before I came to Congress to serve in the public sector and the private sector at the same time. I worked as a lawyer representing health care providers in my private sector position. But I also had the chance for 8 years to work with the State Department of Education in Maryland. And I did this simultaneously. So every day, I had the opportunity to go between the private sector and the public sector and to come to understand the perceptions and perspectives that each has of the other.

One of the things I was glad to be able to report to my colleagues in the private sector was that I had come to see the dedication, the hard work, the experience and the know-how, and just the pure smarts of people that serve in the public sector, who commit themselves to public service. It was a true inspiration for me to see that day in and day out. Then I came here to the Congress and had the opportunity in the first couple of years to serve on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and on the subcommittee that deals with the Federal workforce. So every time we had a hearing, we would have panels of witnesses, of people, yes, the higher-up folks in these Federal agencies, but often the rank-and-file, who could testify as to what they were doing, their commitment and their dedication. And I want to salute the members of the Federal workforce for what they do day in and day out.

We couldn't be living in a more important time, a more exciting time, when it comes to public service. And President Obama has issued a call for public service, and people are responding to that across the country. The most immediate opportunity that we have seen was with the passage last week of a new Service Corps bill, Serve America. Senator KENNEDY on the Senate side was very involved with this, GEORGE MILLER here in the House and many others. It upgrades the capacity of AmeriCorps and other Service Corps programs, increases the number of opportunities that are going to exist, and it creates new dedicated Service Corps programs. So on this week of recognizing public service, we ought to salute Members of this House and Members of the Senate and the President of the United States for putting that bill into place and for providing those opportunities.

It is so critical right now to encourage the next generation to come into public service. And there are many ways that we can do this. One is to talk about the very good benefits and opportunities that exist, particularly in the Federal workforce. And I tell that story every day to try to encourage people to make that decision. Secondly, we have strengthened the loan