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## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 19, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, architect divine and the definer of measured change, help us to seize the present moment and accept our place in Your loving plan for us and for this Nation.

By Your grace, enable us to notice all the love that surrounds us and the unconditional love that comes from You alone. Fill us with gracious thanksgiving for all our many blessings, so the joy of gratitude may be shared with everyone who has a place at our table of life.

To You be praise and thanks, Almighty God, both now and forever.  
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 Texas (Mr. POE) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### TAKING CARE OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, very often Members stand before this body and talk about the fact that we should never forget 9/11. Yesterday, I had an opportunity to stand with those first responders who responded to 9/11, not just the first responders themselves, but many of the family members of those who have passed away as a result of their service. And it's sad to hear their comments that, in fact, we have forgotten about 9/11, certainly the people that responded first. They are in desperate need of health care benefits as a result of the service that they rendered on that day at the World Trade Center site.

I think, when all is said and done, the quality of a society is not measured by its ability to wage war but, rather, by its ability to take care of those in its society who need it most. These individuals need the help of Congress to pass legislation to ensure that the health benefits that they need as a result of their service to this country are taken care of.

I strongly urge Congress to pass legislation to ensure that our first responders are taken care of.

### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(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. Mr. Speaker, two nights ago, America learned that recovery.gov, the official administration Web site, was full of fake stimulus jobs in fake congressional districts. Last night, even ABC News broke that the Government Accountability Office says that one out of every 10 jobs created by the stimulus are also fake. When asked about the inconsistencies, the spokesman for recovery.gov replied, Who knows, man? Who really knows?

One thing is certain—Americans need real jobs. I call on my colleagues to listen to Republican plans to promote real jobs. Where are the jobs?

The Economic Recovery and Middle-Class Relief Act of 2009, which I support, unleashes the potential of American small businesses. It reduces the burden that government places on employers and employees.

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

### FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I rise today to recognize the importance of the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act. These grants are a prominent demonstration of the Federal support for our Nation's first responders by enhancing their ability to protect the public from fire and related hazards. The Assistance to

□ 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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