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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Bishop Fred T. Simms, Heart of God Ministries, Beckley, West Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Father, bless, we pray You, the leaders of this Nation. Strengthen the courage of the Representatives in Congress—sincere men and women who want to do right, if only they can be sure what is right. Make it plain, Father. Release the same spirit of wisdom and unity that brought these 50 States together to form this great United States of America to fall fresh on this great governing body as they make decisions affecting over 300 million Americans.

Father, at this time we join our hearts, minds, and spirits for our fellow miners and families in West Virginia who have suffered great loss in the midst of tragedy. Out of the depths of our present grief and helplessness we cry unto Thee, praying that Thou will draw near unto us, and let the light of Thy countenance shine upon us during this dark hour of time. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. GRIFFITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GRIFFITH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1749. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and similar wireless devices by Federal prisoners.

WELCOMING BISHOP FRED T. SIMMS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome to the House of Representatives our guest chaplain today, Bishop Fred T. Simms, D.D., pastor and founder of the Heart of God Ministries in my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia.

It is an honor to have such a distinguished West Virginian here with us today, and it is particularly fitting to have Bishop Simms join us in offering the morning prayer on behalf of our Congress and our Nation on this somber day. Today we will act on a congressional resolution honoring the courageous miners who lost their lives in the tragic explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine and recognize the heroic actions of the rescue teams who also risked life and limb to search for the missing miners.

Bishop Simms was called to the ministry and preached his first message in December, 1977. Since that time, Bishop Simms has continued his Biblical studies through Aeon Bible College and the Institute of Biblical Studies in Lynchburg, Virginia. He received his doctorate of divinity degree from

the St. Thomas Christian College in 2008. He has received numerous awards for his community service, which includes the Citizen of the Year award from the Mountain State Bar Association, Mountain State University's School of Leadership and Professional Development's Living Leadership award, and recognized by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission of the State of West Virginia with its "Sharing of Self" award.

Bishop Simms, one of eight children born to George Simms and Audrey Simms Totten, is married to Marilyn Staples Simms, and the father of five daughters and 11 grandchildren. His greatest strength perhaps may be his humbleness of heart and his ability to become less, so that God gets all the glory. He teaches his congregation by example, as he lives what he preaches.

Bishop Simms' two mottos are, "It's not about Fred T., but about God," and "Come on, let's have church."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor Bishop Fred Simms today, and proud that he gave our invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minute requests from each side of the aisle.

☐ 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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TAX DAY TAX BREAKS

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

Ms. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, Tax Day is tomorrow, and thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act middle class families in western Pennsylvania and throughout the country are seeing big tax returns this year. The Recovery Act provided tax cuts for 99 percent of working Pennsylvanians and resulted in a 10 percent increase in the average tax refund this year. That's a big help to families in my district who are working hard to pay their bills.

The Recovery Act extended the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and college tax credits for families and students. First-time homebuyers benefit from a tax credit of up to \$8,000, and businesses can write off new equipment purchases and increase bonus depreciation. Americans are saving an estimated \$222 billion in taxes this year thanks to the Recovery Act.

I am proud that through the work we have been doing here in Congress we have lowered the tax burden for my hardworking constituents.

AND THE BORDER WAR GOES ON

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the violence at our southern border with Mexico has escalated, resulting in murders, kidnappings, old west shootouts, Mexican military helicopter intrusions into the U.S., and criminal cartels cloning Border Patrol vehicles to smuggle the drugs.

An Arizona rancher was murdered at the border recently on his ranch. A California border agent was assassinated just a few months ago. In El Paso, Texas, our Border Patrol agents are being targeted by the Azteca hit men. These outlaws protect shipments of dope for the Juarez drug cartel.

Now these Mexican criminal cartels have put a \$250,000 bounty on our Border Patrol agents. In response, our Border Patrol agents have been told to wear bulletproof vests. Why do we wait for more tragedy before more boots are put on the ground? Our law enforcement agents need help. Doesn't Washington know that the border has become a violent war zone? National Guard troops should be deployed to the border immediately to protect us from the narcoterrorists.

And that's just the way it is.

CEREMONY HONORING VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of National

Crime Victims' Rights Week, which occurs from April 18 to April 24. As founders and co-chairs of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, Congressman Ted Poe and I this evening are hosting the annual Victims' Rights Caucus Awards ceremony, honoring six individuals from around the country for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of victims services and victim advocacy.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week helps us all to celebrate and acknowledge the victim service providers and the criminal justice professionals who every day provide critical assistance to the victims of crimes. They do it on a 24-7 basis.

Crime victims are our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, and our friends. They are struggling to survive in the aftermath of a crime, and they deserve services and support to help them cope.

SUPPORT FOR NASA

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that we have the most advanced manned space flight program on earth, attracting and inspiring the world's greatest minds. Our space program is a matter of great national pride and of great national security importance.

We are profoundly disappointed in the lack of vision coming from the administration, sending a message to our scientific community that indicates a lack of understanding and commitment. This matter goes to the very essence of what makes America the greatest country on earth.

Lowering expectations for manned space flight is not compatible with the culture of America. Dr. Holdren's recent statement that we can't expect to be number one in everything indefinitely is shockingly, shockingly uninspiring. However, if we do not strive to maintain our primacy in manned space flight, we will be well on our way to mediocrity.

I and the entire NASA Caucus will do everything in our power to fund Constellation with a budget that is respectful of the investments we have made in our space program.

RECENT TAX CUTS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is Tax Day, of course, and that is somewhat of a dreaded day in many people's minds. But the fact is in the past year we have had more tax cuts than almost any time in our Nation's history. But with President Obama and this Congress, they have been directed to the lower working class people, the lower income people, and not the top 2 or 3

percent, as happened during the Bush administration.

President Obama stood at the podium behind me in his State of the Union address and said, "Now let me repeat, we cut taxes. We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families. We cut taxes for small businesses. We cut taxes for first-time homebuyers. We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for 8 million Americans paying for college. We put \$300 billion worth of tax cuts into people's pockets so there was demand and businesses had customers." I am proud to have supported the President in these measures.

A third of the stimulus package, the ARRA, was tax cuts. It is something the American people don't realize because of the false rhetoric that has been spread throughout this country. I appreciate the work of this Congress and President Obama, and I thank him for his leadership.

NEWSWEEK SHOULD REPORT FACTS ON ECONOMY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to my left is the Media Fairness Caucus' Newsweek Wall of Shame, a collection of the magazine's very biased cover articles. Previous covers have featured Vice President Al Gore with the caption, "The Thinking Man's Thinking Man"; President Obama with the caption, "Yes, He Can"; and Vice President JOE BIDEN, "A Vice President to be Reckoned With." This week's cover reads, "America's Back! The Remarkable Tale of our Economic Turn-around".

Apparently Newsweek hasn't heard that the unemployment rate remains close to 10 percent, with 16 million Americans unemployed, that personal income has fallen over 3 percent since President Obama took office, and that the President's budget doubles the national debt in 5 years and triples it in 10.

The only way to bring America back is to reverse the administration's policies of higher taxes, runaway spending, government takeovers, and record debt. Newsweek should report the facts on the economy, not provide free and false advertising for the Obama administration.

□ 1015

CANCELING THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the President's budget proposal to cancel our human space flight program. It's under the Constellation Program, which was authorized both by