

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, January 13, 2010

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 13, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY BERKLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Samuel Tialavea, Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, offered the following prayer:

God of the faith of our fathers and Lord of our homage, we embrace You and one another in heart and soul, thought and mind, giving You praise and trusting Your faithfulness. Bless this day and our activity in Your service.

O Lord, help us to remember that proclamation from ages past, "Where there is no vision, people perish."

Enable us, therefore, to be visionary in our decisionmaking, particularly with those resolved in Your wisdom by the leadership of our Nation. Grant this Congress the ability to see, the faith to believe, and the courage to leap forward in their journey of determination for tranquility and peace, upholding those virtues by which all may benefit from in our "home of the brave and land of the free."

God of the Most High, may Your will be done, Your vision be known, and Your righteousness prevail, 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD 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.

HONORING REV. SAMUEL TIKERI TIALAVEA OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome Rev. Samuel Tialavea to the Chamber today. Rev. Tialavea, or "Sam" as he is popularly known in our Samoan community, is from my home district in American Samoa.

Rev. Tialavea is currently the General Secretary of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, a position he has held now for some 8 years. He was appointed Secretariat of the Partnership Consultation Committee on Ministry and Mission of the United Church of Christ and the Congregational Christian Church, again, a post he has held for some 8 years now. He was ordained in the mid-1990s, where he became pastor of the Bread of Life Church in Honolulu prior to his election as the General Secretary of the CCCAS.

This is a historic occasion for my district. To my knowledge, Rev. Tialavea is the first ever Samoan to give the opening prayer to begin a regular House congressional session.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Rev. Tialavea's lovely wife, Fa'aipoipoga, who is present with us in the gallery. Also with her to witness this momentous occasion are Rev. Elder Leatulagi Faalevao, who is the vice chairman of the Congregational Christian Church, and his wife, Vagai; and Rev. Reupena Alo, who is the assistant to the General Secretary, and his wife, Deanne.

It is my distinct honor and privilege again to welcome to the House today my good friend, Rev. Samuel Tialavea, Sr.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TAXING BANK BONUSES

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, I introduced H.R. 4414, a bill that imposes a 75 percent tax on the outside bonuses bankers are paying themselves from windfall profits earned from massive Federal Government support.

This bill is necessary because bankers are about to pay out some of the largest bonuses in history. All banking corporations, whether they received direct assistance or not, received substantial benefits from government bailouts. Bankers' failures to self-regulate, let us remember, were the direct result of the crisis we're in today. They need to be told that the money they're making is a public trust, not something they've earned for good behavior.

Bank profits are the result of a deliberate Federal Government policy to restore banking capital and ultimately investment in American prosperity. Banking bonuses have nothing to do with these objectives, and payouts to bankers are a form of appropriation of public wealth.

Banks could be using their profits to do many things to improve the prospects of economic recovery, including strengthening their capital base, recognizing and writing off their real estate losses, reducing fees charged to customers, especially for seniors and struggling consumers, and increasing lending to small and medium-sized companies.

Support H.R. 1414.

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(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. In South Carolina last week, I met with people making a difference promoting jobs by visiting the OneStop employment centers across the district. I visited the directors and staff, desk to desk, in Columbia, Lexington, Aiken, Barnwell, Orangeburg, Hampton, Ridgeland, and Beaufort. I want to thank the energetic, optimistic, and talented employees and commissioners of the Employment Security Commission for their dedication to helping put people back to work.

Another economic development is being announced for South Carolina today. The Estill Correctional Facility is adding 50 more jobs with a biomass

☐ 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.