

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 Georgia (Mr. PRICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia 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 5 one-minute speeches from each side.

ECONOMIC JOY TO AMERICA

(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, Republican fiscal policies continue to spread tidings of economic joy to families throughout our country.

Yesterday, the U.S. Labor Department reported that consumer prices plummeted last month by 0.6 percent, the largest decrease since 1949. Energy prices alone have dropped by 8 percent. These strong economic indicators are only a sample of gifts created by low taxes and decreased government regulations.

Additionally, 4.5 million new jobs have been created. More Americans are working than ever before in our Nation's history. The unemployment rate is lower than the average of the past three decades. The economy grew at 4.3 percent over the last 10 quarters. Tax receipts increased by \$247 billion in just 1 year after the Bush tax cuts, the largest increase ever. Home sales reached a record high in October. Productivity soared in the last quarter by 4.7 percent, reducing fears of inflation.

We will continue to enact economic policies to help all Americans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11 and the courageous Iraqi voters.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Today, the U.S. House will debate a so-called Victory in Iraq resolution, and vote on whether

or not the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is desirable by the U.S. Government.

Today, Congressman RON PAUL and I have a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the new permanent Council of Representatives of Iraq should debate and vote on whether the continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is desired by the Government of Iraq.

According to the Iraq constitution, the Iraq federal government has exclusive power over foreign policy and negotiation, national defense policy, and the Council of Representatives specifically has the responsibility of creating new law and certifying treaties and international agreements.

The continued U.S. military presence in Iraq is a matter for the elected Government of Iraq, a sovereign nation, to decide. If we define victory as Iraq's self-determination, then we ought to encourage Iraq to make its own decision about further U.S. occupation. But if victory is just a cover for endless U.S. occupation of Iraq, then that is just not going to be acceptable to the American people or to people of the world.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, during the decade I served as a member of the North Carolina Senate and during my first term in the United States Congress, I have found that few things are as important or represent as many problems as illegal immigration.

The terrorist attacks on our homeland highlighted the potential disastrous effects of the porous borders and the need to bolster border security. Illegal immigration also has many other far-reaching and dangerous effects. That is why I am pleased to cosponsor H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. This important piece of legislation will strengthen our borders, crack down on those who hire illegal aliens, increase the punishment for those who smuggle people into our country illegally and allow for the swift deportation of illegal aliens.

I sympathize with those who wish to live in America. We are indeed a nation of immigrants, but also a nation of laws. Immigration laws exist to provide the steps for safe and legal entry into our country. Controlling illegal immigration begins with the enforcement of current laws and the elimination of incentives to immigrate illegally.

Please join me in supporting H.R. 4437.

THURMAN BARNES

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thurman Barnes of LaGrange, Georgia, on receiving his GED at age 96. In fact, Mr. Barnes is believed to be the oldest person ever to receive a GED, attesting to the fact that an education is important and fulfilling no matter what your age.

Eighty years ago, Mr. Barnes failed a Latin class. As so often happens in life, before he could make up his course work, his attention was turned to his job, marriage, and family obligations. But throughout his life, the thought of that elusive high school diploma stayed with him.

Eight decades later, Mr. Barnes began taking classes at West Georgia Technical College. This past Monday, he passed the GED examination with flying colors. When asked what subject was easiest for him, Mr. Barnes replied, "Social studies, because I have lived through most everything in the last 100 years."

Mr. Speaker, it takes a lot of character and tenacity to hold on to the dream of graduating high school for 80 years. I want to thank Mr. Barnes, his family, West Georgia Technical College, and the Georgia Adult Literacy Program for reminding us of the importance of rising to the challenges of life, regardless of age.

MATTHEW SCOTT

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroism of a man named Matthew Scott, who nearly 9 years ago performed an act of uncommon courage that saved the life of a young woman in my congressional district.

In August of 1997, a 15-year-old woman and her friend were driving on a narrow, windy road near a dangerous area called Deception Pass. Unable to see the road, Leslie, the driver, drove off a 185-foot cliff into the freezing ocean below. Her passenger managed to jump to safety from the truck before it went over the edge. At the same time, Matthew Scott, a young Naval Chief Petty Officer, was driving by the location when he spotted a busted guardrail and a group of people pointing to the waters below.

Matthew scaled down the treacherous, dark cliff with only a small flashlight to guide him. At the bottom of his 185-foot descent, he swam 30 yards out in strong tides and frigid water to rescue Leslie who had suffered a broken back, leg, and arm. Because of his selfless, courageous heroics, Leslie is now a 24-year-old mother and a manager of a local coffee shop.

Matthew has continued to dedicate his life to one of military service and is now a lieutenant studying for his MBA at the Naval Post Graduate School in California. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am honored to have had Lieutenant Scott