

they approach these last hours of the 109th Congress. Pressured by the complexity of today's society and limited by constitution and human capability, they have regularly turned to You to help foster the American dream and enact laws and policies for the American people and our neighbors on Earth. You have not failed them in their compromises. You have counseled them in dealing with mistrust and reconciled differences in the search for the common good.

Called to lead Your freed people is not always easy. Popular understanding for decisions cannot be the guide, only world history can adequately measure and ultimately, You alone, Lord God, can offer judgment.

Lord, bless the accomplishments, nurture the seeds which have been planted, reward justice with peace, heal all blindness and paralysis, and supply compensation for all our deficiencies. Reward and bless J. DENNIS HASTERT for his public service as Speaker of this House. For not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to You, Lord God, be the glory, honor, power, and thanksgiving now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. CHABOT 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

SUNSET ON THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as the sun sets on the 109th Congress today, the sun is also setting in the Southwest at a border unguarded from illegal entry, open for settlement and incursion. Our government has voiced empty words of border security and protecting our Nation from foreign invasion.

Much like the Empire of Rome in 364 A.D., when the Goths encroached into Roman lands, there were not enough border security agents to keep them

out. They were not required to assimilate into the Roman culture. The Romans did nothing. Blind to Goth occupation, Rome created its own downfall and disappearance as a Nation.

Inability to protect borders and keep intruders out has led to the extermination of civilizations throughout history. Our government has failed with empty, meaningless political promises to protect the American people from border invasions.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are tired of the hollow, hapless words. They are demanding secure borders to keep our Nation sovereign. It is the moral responsibility of this Nation to protect its citizens from invasion, to secure its borders from foreign invaders, before we become another Rome and pass smoldering into the ash heap of historical insignificance.

All the while the sun sets in the Southwest. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of my dear friend LANE EVANS. LANE EVANS is a hero who has tirelessly fought to provide just for over 200,000 "comfort women" who were forced into sex slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. He has been a voice for those voiceless women who are still holding out hope that they will receive a formal apology from the Japanese Government for the indignities they have suffered.

I want to assure LANE that I will do my best to continue his work and legacy on this issue after his retirement this year. He has personally inspired me, and I look forward to seeking the justice the "comfort women" deserve, knowing that LANE EVANS blazed much of the trail.

Mr. Speaker, for his leadership, mentorship and companionship, for his work on behalf of those who would have otherwise been forgotten, and for his unparalleled work these past 24 years, I will not forget LANE.

LANE, Semper Fi.

LASALLE, MT. NOTRE DAME MAKE CHAMPIONSHIP RUNS, MERCY TAKES HOME RUNNER-UP

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of three exceptional high school teams from my district in Cincinnati, the volleyball teams from Mt. Notre Dame and Mother of Mercy High Schools, and the cross-country team from my alma mater, LaSalle High School.

On November 11, Mt. Notre Dame and Mother of Mercy battled for Ohio's Division I State volleyball championship. In the third and most important meeting of the season, Mt. Notre Dame emerged victorious. The victory marks Mt. Notre Dame's fifth State volleyball title. Mother of Mercy also gave a top-notch effort and finished an impressive second in the State.

The GCL also saw one of its own bring home a State championship when the LaSalle Lancers' cross-country team sprinted to their second consecutive State title.

It gives me great pride to acknowledge the achievement of these exceptional young men and women, and their coaches and parents and fans and teachers and administrators. It is important to point out that while these schools enjoy tremendous success in athletics, they also have a tradition of academic excellence, and they should be equally proud of that accomplishment.

Congratulations again to Mt. Notre Dame and Mother of Mercy, and my alma mater, LaSalle.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The American people made clear on November 7 that they demand a new direction in Iraq: Out. Bring the troops home. Just 1 month later, they have their answer. President Bush will not bring the troops home.

The Iraq Study Group report does not recommend bringing the troops home and ending the occupation. Read the fine print of the report. Only Congress can bring the troops home and keep faith with the American people.

The money is there. Just 2 months ago, we appropriated \$70 billion for the war. That money should be used to start bringing the troops home now. If Congress gives the President another \$130 billion in the spring to keep the war going, we will then be directly responsible for the casualties.

Why won't we take responsibility for bringing the troops home? The money is there now to bring the troops home. The American people voted for a new Congress to bring the troops home. We cannot say we are against the war and vote to fund it. We cannot say we are for the troops and vote to keep them in Iraq when the money is there to bring them home now.

IN MEMORY OF DR. GEORGE MEETZE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. George Meetze of Columbia,

South Carolina. Dr. Meetze passed away on Thanksgiving Day after a brief illness.

During his 97 years, Dr. Meetze touched numerous lives. I had the honor of working with him during the 17 years I served in South Carolina's State Senate. Dr. Meetze was elected chaplain of the South Carolina Senate in January 1950 and served until his death. His 57 years of service make him the longest-serving chaplain of a legislative body in the history of our Nation.

Dr. Meetze spent his life in service to others, honorably working for his God, his community, and his country. He was a colonel and chief chaplain in the South Carolina State Guard, a past president of the South Carolina American Cancer Society, and a faithful member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Dr. Meetze was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 UNC WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an accomplishment for which my constituents and all North Carolinians have tremendous pride. The 2006 Lady Tarheels of the University of North Carolina have just claimed their 19th Women's Soccer National Championship, beating the Notre Dame Fighting Irish 2-1 in the title game last Sunday.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Anson Dorrance, Carolina women's Soccer has been the most dominant program in the history of college athletics, winning 18 of the last 25 national championships since the NCAA established the women's tournament.

The national title game capped off a stellar career for senior captain Heather O'Reilly, who was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Offensive Player, as well as for Carolina's other seniors. Junior Defender Robyn Gayle was named Most Outstanding Defense Player, and seven freshmen played for the Lady Tarheels in the game.

I also take great pride in the fact that the championship game took place in my district at the SAS Soccer Park in Cary. The sell-out crowd of more than 8,300 enthusiastic fans is a testament to the growing popularity of soccer in North Carolina and across the country.

So I extend my congratulations to the Lady Tarheels on their outstanding success, to a Notre Dame squad for a well-played tournament, and to the university community in Chapel Hill that has come to embrace women's soccer as one of its most precious gems.

Even the great Dean Smith, himself the winningest coach in college basket-

ball history, once remarked: "This is a women's soccer school. We're just trying to keep up with them."

TRIBUTE TO J.B. HUNT, SR.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Arkansan, a giant of American business who passed away yesterday morning, J.B. Hunt of Springdale, Arkansas.

He built a billion-dollar trucking business from humble beginnings, and in the span of a lifetime went from a sharecropper's son to the employer of over 16,000 people and a major force in shaping the economy of the Third District of Arkansas.

He donated to charities, he was very, very active in his church, and was known to carry \$100 bills in case he ran across somebody who needed help immediately. When asked why, he explained, I was hungry once, a lesson we can all learn from.

I knew him when I was a young man, when he had absolutely no idea who I was; and I knew him when I was a young professional in my community, and later on as his Congressman. He was the kind of man that treated me the same in regard to all of those stations in life.

He was a wonderful man, and certainly our prayers are with him, his wife Johnelle, his family, and his company which lives the American Dream every day.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS AND A NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the differences between this session of Congress and the one that will begin next month will be vast. In this tale of two Congresses, let us compare the current "do-nothing" Congress, led by the Republican Majority, and the upcoming Democratic New Direction Congress.

The Republican "do-nothing" Congress that ends this week has set abysmal records for the fewest number of days worked and for defeating numerous important bills, or simply not bringing them forth at all. Now they will adjourn for good at the end of this week, long before they need to, without passing a budget for 9 of the 11 appropriation bills. It is shameful, Madam Speaker, but fortunately it is about to change.

In January, when the Democratic Majority takes control of this body, we will immediately begin to pass legislation that will benefit working families all across our country. Democrats will raise the minimum wage, pass ethics reform, lower the price of higher edu-

cation and prescription drugs, and repeal the needless tax breaks to big oil all within the first 100 hours of the next Congress.

Madam Speaker, Democrats will turn this do-nothing Congress into a body that works hard for all Americans.

HOMELAND AND BORDER SECURITY

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

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss subjects of homeland security and border security as it relates to my District 22 in Texas, which is Houston, Sugar Land, and Clear Lake. That includes two distinct assets. One is Johnson Space Center, and one is Ellington Fields.

These two important assets require some additional funding that would have been discussed had the process allowed for a little more opportunity. But because of the lack of regular order, they may not be addressed in the continuing resolution that will be brought up either today or tomorrow.

On a positive note, there will be a Predator squadron placed at Ellington Field, but on a more concerning note, we may lose our F-16 jets, which provides excellent homeland security for petrochemical products that are made in our area, the Port of Houston, NASA, and the Texas Medical Center.

It is my hope that these two assets, both Johnson Space Center and Ellington Field, will be adequately funded in the very near future.

□ 0945

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1102 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1102

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of December 8, 2006.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 8, 2006, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 1 hour.