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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. SERRANO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSÉ E. SERRANO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Richard Fowler, Ninth Street Baptist Church, Covington, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

Lord, God, Jehovah, I lift Your name in praise and thanksgiving for Your providing this Nation with resources, talent and opportunity. I seek Your forgiveness for our many sins of waste and frivolity. I seek Your guidance, direction and leadership in the areas of economics, social welfare for the masses and international peace.

I ask for Your wisdom in bountiful supply on our Nation's leadership as they address the serious issues, both national and international.

Bless them with the powers that bring a lasting peace to our cities, prosperity to our economy, hope to our youth, civility to our government, honor to our past and respect for our future. May they be constantly reminded that they are representatives of all the people of this Nation, both small and great.

May we be mindful of Your words, that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, I pray.
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. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON 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.

WELCOMING REV. RICHARD FOWLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Richard B. L. Fowler, a dedicated community servant and spiritual leader from the Fourth District.

Reverend Fowler was born and raised in Covington, Kentucky. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering science from the University of Cincinnati and then attended the Cincinnati Bible Seminary, where he earned a master's in ministry degree.

He served our great country during the Vietnam War as a member of the Army stationed in Germany. Upon completing his military duty, Reverend Fowler began an impressive 28-year career with Procter and Gamble. During his tenure with the company, he acknowledged his call into the ministry and was ordained in 1979.

Reverend Fowler has served as pastor of the Ninth Street Baptist Church in

Covington since 1983. And in addition to his duties at the Ninth Street Baptist Church, Reverend Fowler has contributed to his community as a member of numerous boards and committees, including the United Way, Northern Kentucky Children's Home, the Northern Kentucky Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council, and our local community and technical college. He is also the founder and organizer of OASIS Incorporated, a nonprofit agency for education, community advocacy and substance abuse recovery.

On the 25th of June, Reverend Fowler marked the beginning of legislative business in the House of Representatives by offering the opening prayer on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Reverend Fowler in offering him our sincerest thanks for his years of service to Kentucky and to our Nation.

ELECTING CERTAIN MINORITY MEMBERS TO A STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. PENCE. On behalf of the House Republican Conference I offer birthday wishes to our beloved floor director, Jay Pierson, and I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

Resolved, That the following Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR—Mr. Kline of Minnesota, to rank before Mr. Petri, and Mr. McKeon, to rank before Mr. Hoekstra.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

□ 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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There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WELCOMING HOME PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANDREW PARKER, AMER- ICAN HERO

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to offer a warm welcome home to a soldier who sacrificed for his country and to thank all of those who are working to make his return home a successful one. Private First Class Andrew Parker enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from Lamaille Union High School in 2007. On November 20, 2008, his MRAP vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb near Kandahar, Afghanistan. Andrew suffered injuries that left him paralyzed from the chest down.

During the months that Andrew spent recovering in DOD and VA hospitals, his neighbors and friends in Vermont worked together to complete an incredible project to modify his home to make it accessible to him upon his return. His kindergarten teacher, the Hyde Park VFW and countless other businesses, organizations and individuals donated time, money and labor to make it possible for Andrew to return home to a new addition to his home, a living room, a bedroom, a bath and a bay for his new van.

Now Andrew will have the resources he needs to focus on rebuilding his strength as he works to fulfill his new dream of becoming a teacher. He should know that all Vermonters and all Americans are with him in spirit as he continues on his courageous journey.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Secretary Sebelius spoke in the Energy and Commerce Committee and said that one of the concerns with health care was in Kansas there were not many choices. Indeed that is the concern across the Nation. But as we look at solutions for the health insurance crisis, establishing Uncle Sam's Health Insurance Company may not be the answer.

Under those circumstances, you get to buy insurance from any State, no

matter where you live. You get to bypass State mandates, and you get to bargain for better prices and better quality as a group. But private plans you still have to buy only within your State. You have to stick within your State mandates, which add to the costs, and you don't get to join bigger groups and bargain for better price and quality.

As we work on health care, let's continue to work together and find solutions. We can do this. We can drive down price and improve quality. But let's make sure that all the choices are fair and that we have competition.

INVESTMENT IN AMERICAN STEEL ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last night I introduced the Investment in American Steel Act of 2009.

My bill will ensure that as our Nation moves toward an energy-efficient, green economy that we continue to invest both in American-made steel and our Nation's steel workers.

The production of wind turbines in the United States offers an exciting opportunity for thousands of American steelworkers and manufacturers nationwide.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included an important provision, providing manufacturers with a tax credit for investing in clean, renewable energy, and one of them being wind energy. While I fully support the initiative, I believe if a company receives a tax credit for building windmills here in the United States, they should use American-made steel to build those windmills.

My bill will encourage the use of American steel in windmills by giving the full tax credit to companies using U.S. steel. The less U.S. steel they use, the lower the tax credit would go. During this difficult economic time, it is more important than ever that we make an investment in both our Nation's workers and in the U.S. steel market. My bill will accomplish just that.

NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a fighter pilot who flew 62 combat missions in Korea against aggression in the fifties, Americans need to know that just as North Korea prepares to launch a missile aimed at American citizens in Hawaii, the Democrats slashed 19 missile interceptors from the Defense Department budget that we are voting on today.

The President's failure to sternly address North Korea's provocative threat is extremely troubling. Added to the

fact that the Democrats are cutting missile interceptors, I'm very, very concerned for the future of this country, the safety of our Nation, and the security of our homeland.

The President comes across as lacking resolve. The Democrats in Congress look weak, and that is not a good place for America to be in. Wake up, America.

THE PROUD ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 2681, the PROUD Act, which will allow motivated students who are immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship.

America is the land of opportunity. And it is wrong to unfairly punish innocent young people who came to America by no choice of their own. A high school graduate, upon turning 18, may apply by presenting their transcripts to prove that they have completed grades 6 through 12, show that they understand U.S. history, government, civics, and additionally can prove they are of good moral character.

The PROUD Act will be a positive impact in schools and communities throughout the Nation. This is one piece of the puzzle. There is more that needs to be done for comprehensive immigration reform.

Today the President will hold a long anticipated meeting about immigration. Now is the time to act. We need reform now more than ever.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2681, the PROUD Act, and work towards comprehensive immigration reform.

HOT DOG DIPLOMACY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the bold and brave students defy the imperial regime of President Ahmadinejad of Iran as they struggle for freedom.

The people of Iran are being shot, assaulted and arrested by their repressive government. This is the same government that supplies arms and money to insurgents that are at war with our military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard, a state sponsor of terror, or more appropriately called the "Demons of Democracy", are killing their own people, mostly students, whose only crime is speaking out in public against these tough tyrants.

As the Fourth of July nears, the most sacred of all days of liberty, how about we invite the sons of freedom and the daughters of democracy of Iran for a bit of "Hot Dog Diplomacy?" The youth of Iran have shown more tenacity and love of freedom than the world has seen in years.