

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, AMERICAN 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.