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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 16, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA LEE to act a Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Tri Robinson, Vineyard Boise Church, Boise, Idaho, offered the following prayer:

Good morning. It is a privilege to be here.

At a time like this, I didn't want to rely on my own wisdom to pray for you this morning or with you this morning, so I would like to pray the words of the Apostle Paul as he addressed the Philippians.

Dear Lord, as the Apostle Paul once prayed over the people of Philippi, today we echo not only his words, but the heart from which they were spoken.

We pray that if we have any encouragement from belonging to God, any comfort from His love, any fellowship together in His spirit, then let our hearts be tender and compassionate, agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and one purpose.

We pray, as Paul prayed, for pure motives, for selflessness, not trying to impress others, but being humble, thinking of others as more important than ourselves. We pray that we wouldn't look out for our own interests, but rep-

resent the interests of those that we're called to serve. We pray that we might have the same attitude as that of Christ, as He willingly and purposefully became a servant, literally laying down His life for the benefit of all mankind.

We pray these things over this place, this House today, in Jesus' name. 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 New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANCE 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 REVEREND TRI ROBINSON

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

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to welcome to this august Chamber the Reverend Tri Robinson, the founder and leader of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, one of the largest and most rapidly growing churches in my home town of Boise, Idaho.

Tri leads a Christian fellowship, proud of its natural, Bible-based worship, devotion to prayer, and generous service to all in need. Tri and his parishioners feed the hungry, house the

homeless, engage and educate our youth, and work hard to protect the places we love in the West. He is an educator, author, and Idaho cowboy who has become a pioneer of environmental stewardship for the evangelical churches all over America.

As his Representative in Congress, I welcome Tri Robinson to this House, and I thank him for his moving spiritual guidance.

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.

CONGRATULATING BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Broward County School District, one of four finalists for the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The Broad Prize is known as the "Nobel Prize for public education" and is awarded to districts that show strong reading and math skills among low-income and minority students.

As a finalist for the second consecutive year, Broward schools have made real strides toward closing the achievement gap in public education and have set a standard of excellence for all students.

The winning school district, to be announced this week, will take home \$1 million in student scholarships, and all finalists receive \$250,000, a critical boost in these difficult economic times.

I congratulate Superintendent James Notter and School Board Chair Maureen Dinnen, as well as the students, parents, and teachers in the

☐ 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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Broward school system for a job well done. Keep up the good work.

A REPUBLICAN SOLUTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(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 am humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support by the people of South Carolina.

House Republicans have been developing commonsense reforms for our health care system. The Republican Study Committee, led by Dr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, has introduced H.R. 3400, a bill to make health insurance accessible, affordable, and portable. The bill gives small businesses the tools to provide coverage for their employees, it covers preexisting conditions, and promotes wellness and a healthy lifestyle.

The Republican plan does not impose taxes on individuals and small businesses, which will cost jobs. It does not add billions more to our Nation's debt. The American people have spoken, and their voices must not be ignored. We can work together for health insurance reform.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, the great debates in this Chamber often center around the question of whether and how much government can do to address a particular problem. There is one thing, though, that we can all agree on, which is that if our families act more responsibly on just about everything—education, energy, health—we are all much better off.

Madam Speaker, September is Emergency Preparedness Month, and as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, nowhere is this more true than when we think about our health and our security. Our families can do some simple things to make them safer and healthier: have a plan in the event of an emergency, have a place to meet, know how to contact each other.

As we think about facing the H1N1 threat this winter, there are some simple things we can do as families. We can wash our hands often. We can sneeze into a tissue. We can stay home if we feel ill. If we do these small, small things, we can take what is potentially a large problem and make it much, much smaller.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE FLOYD

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

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, Wednesday and Thursday mark the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Floyd, a storm that battered the east coast from North and South Carolina to New Jersey.

The damage from Floyd was estimated at \$250 million in New Jersey, including close to \$100 million in Bound Brook and Manville in my congressional district, when more than 13 inches of rain fell and flooded rivers into homes, businesses and streets, forever changing the face of both communities.

Ten years later, Bound Brook and Manville have implemented important flood control efforts in preparation for the next Floyd. A complex flood control system of walls and levees is being built around Bound Brook. Manville police and fire personnel now have boats and sirens to alert and assist residents. Bound Brook also has an emergency management team of 25 members that communicates with the community if a flood is coming.

On Thursday, I hope to join residents of Bound Brook in celebration of the reopening of the historic Brook Theatre, a century-old venue severely damaged by the flood. The Brook Theatre reopening is a symbol of triumph and rebirth of the towns devastated by Hurricane Floyd 10 years ago.

SWEEPING REFORMS LEAVE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BEHIND

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, last time I spoke, I pointed out that the health care reform bills currently being debated in the House and Senate do not include the United States territories. Today, I would like to discuss why these reforms are needed just as much, or more, in my district as in any other part of the United States.

There are only 80,000 people in my district in the Northern Mariana Islands, but the health care infrastructure there is struggling. There is only one surgeon for all three of the populated islands. Common equipment that is used to save lives every day across the Nation, like a hyperbaric chamber or a heart catheterization lab, is not available. Funding at the Commonwealth Health Center, the only hospital, is so strained that upfront payment is required before patients even see a doctor.

My constituents are proud Americans who honor and serve their country, so how can I explain to them that these sweeping reforms they have heard so much about will only leave them behind?

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, experts have predicted that meaningful liability reform can save our health care system \$126 billion annually. What does \$126 billion in annual savings mean? We would not have to cut \$500 billion from our seniors' Medicare program over the next 10 years. We would not have to levy \$800 billion in job-killing taxes on our economy. We would not have to ask every American to give up their liberty because of a government edict to purchase government insurance that they may not be able to afford.

My colleagues, meaningful liability reform is the silver bullet in this debate. It can stop the practice of defensive medicine, save our health care system over \$100 billion a year, and protect the American people from the occasional greedy lawyer seeking a windfall.

As an OB/GYN who practiced medicine for over 30 years, I know how dire the consequences are if we continue our failure to act. It is time to put partisan politics aside and stand up for the American people. Meaningful liability change cannot wait. It must be included in any health care reform bill.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give my support to the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, a bill which will make historic investments in our Nation's higher education.

This legislation covers a broad array of initiatives to make college more affordable and accessible for everyone, and I am particularly glad to see that it does much to strengthen community colleges.

In this challenging economy, community colleges offer a crucial opportunity for students to fully prepare for the workforce. In 2007, there were over 156,000 students enrolled in Ohio's community colleges. I was pleased to see that this legislation provided the attention and funding that community colleges deserve.

This bill creates a new grant program that improves the resources and instruction at community colleges and emphasizes the partnerships between the colleges and local employers. In addition, it invests in the renovation and modernization of aging facilities.

In areas where many students can't afford a 4-year university, these community colleges provide a quality education and the training needed to succeed. These students deserve the increase in funding this legislation proposes. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.