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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Your wisdom is profound beyond our grasp and Your love penetrates all You create to reveal Your infinite beauty in everything and to everyone.

Bless the House of Representatives, its Members, and all who work here serving the people of this Nation. May the vision of righteousness, where justice and peace reign and where truth and true patriotism are standard, remain the constant guide in the daily labor to enact just laws and clear policies.

Gracious God, in truth we recognize that our own insights and powers are not able to right all the wrongs or find the paths to peace and reconciliation. So we turn to You, all powerful Lord, and place our trust in Your faithfulness, 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 gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SLAUGHTER 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 up to five 1-minute speeches from each side.

HOPE VS. REALITY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the President's speech last night was long on hope and short on reality.

The administration's answer to America's problems is more investments, which is a fancy word for more spending and more government control.

The administration plans to freeze domestic spending, but domestic spending is already too high. Since last year the national debt has gone up over \$1.7 trillion.

Once again, the administration presents an incomplete solution to America's economic problems: A spending freeze is not enough to fix the deficits or the debt. We must go one step further and actually cut massive out-of-control government spending to get us out of this spending madness.

If we cut spending, then we need to also cut taxes. Putting money back in the hands of the American people is the proven way to stimulate the economy. We must cut both taxes and spending to reboot the American economy. We need less spending, fewer taxes, and less government. Congress needs to deal in reality, not hope.

And that's just the way it is.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the President gave a great speech

last night. In it he mentioned the word "jobs" 31 times; he used the word "innovate" 11 times. But he didn't mention the word "unemployment" a single time.

That's because creating jobs is different than ending unemployment. In America capitalism and entrepreneurship have created great things and great wealth. To name a few, the automobile, the personal computer, the airplane. It is my hope that the cure for cancer will come from an enterprising entrepreneur.

But there is one persistent problem that innovation has not solved: unemployment. As FDR said, "Necessitous men are not free men."

So I challenge our leading innovators to help find a way to eliminate unemployment, since Democrats and Republicans have run out of ideas.

Mr. Gates, Mr. Buffett, Mr. Zuckerman, Mr. Immelt, Mr. Mulally: Put your organizational genius, your job-creating skills to use so that our Nation can be free from the threat of unemployment. But don't give us ideas that have been tried before, because none of them have eliminated unemployment.

Our task as leaders should be to end the scourge of unemployment once and for all so that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness can really be available to all Americans.

IRANIAN CHRISTIANS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on an early morning last month, over 70 Christians in Iran were suddenly arrested and detained by the Iranian authorities. As these Iranian Christians were taken to a notorious Tehran prison, one married couple was forced to leave a 2-year-old child behind. Another mother was taken while breast-feeding her baby.

□ 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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Eleven were released after hours of harsh interrogation. The fate of the others remains unknown. According to some reports they are suffering through sleep deprivation and blindfolded interrogations. They are likely to face charges of proselytizing, a death penalty offense in Iran.

The peaceful worship of these Christians poses no threat to the Iranian Government, and the government's persistence in accusing its own population of being enemies does nothing to strengthen the regime.

We stand with these oppressed Christians and other religious minorities in Iran that face constant harassment and potential prosecution. Most of all, we call on the Iranian Government to release those prisoners so they can raise their families and peacefully practice their faith.

Mr. Speaker, why would a government that claims to be so powerful be afraid or threatened by such a small, peaceful minority?

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOCK BROWN

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to a community giant, Mr. Dock M. Brown, a very special friend who passed away yesterday.

As a lifelong resident of Weldon, North Carolina, Dock Brown was an undeniable force who dedicated his 81 years to serving his community and as a champion for education. Dock Brown was a veteran of the Korean War, teacher, principal, county and town commissioner, a State legislator, 50-year deacon at First Baptist Church in Weldon, and much more.

He was a true public servant with a legacy that will live on through the many people he inspired over the years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and work of Dock Monteria Brown and to join me in praying for his wife, Helen, and his entire family and community during these difficult times.

SAFETY OF OUR SHORELINES

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I represent a gulf coast district in Florida; so the safety of our coastlines is critical—it's of the utmost importance to me.

I am troubled that Cuba is moving ahead with plans to drill oil 50 miles off Florida's coast. Florida doesn't allow drilling within 125 miles of our shores; so why in the world would we allow Cuba to drill even closer?

Cuba's rig, built by the Chinese, would even drill deeper than BP's rig that exploded a year ago. And if there was a spill, they claim it would only take 3 days to get to our shores.

Whose problem does it become then? Let me guess, America's problem.

I have introduced legislation to stop this project. I hope my colleagues from both sides will join me in this effort to protect our coast.

TRIBUTE TO JACK LALANNE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a truly remarkable constituent of mine, Mr. Jack LaLanne, who passed away this past Sunday.

Known as the godfather of fitness, Mr. LaLanne opened his health club in Oakland in 1936. For over 30 years, he starred in "The Jack LaLanne Show," encouraging all Americans to eat healthier and to exercise.

Today, as our country faces an epidemic of obesity, we know that Jack LaLanne's emphasis on physical fitness and healthy eating made him a man truly ahead of his time.

In addition, he accomplished many remarkable feats over the course of his life, such as swimming handcuffed from Alcatraz to Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco in 1955, completing 1,033 pushups in 23 minutes on TV in 1956, and swimming the Golden Gate Channel towing a 2,500-pound cabin cruiser in 1957.

Jack LaLanne used to say, "I can't afford to die; it would wreck my image." But I think we can all agree that his image is intact and his influence on our Nation's health will continue for years to come.

He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Elaine, and 3 children: Dan, Yvonne, and Jon.

Thank you, Jack LaLanne, for all you have done for the health of this country.

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NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a grassroots movement that is currently taking place all across our great Nation, the celebration of National School Choice Week. In many States across the country, events are being held to promote school choice as a commonsense idea that gives every parent the power and freedom to choose what's best for their children's education.

Here in Washington, D.C. we've seen the positive impact of injecting free-market principles into the educational system. While the previous Congress chose to decide against innovation, I sincerely hope this new Congress will see fit to remember that every child is

important and that every child learns differently.

Across this Nation, we are seeing proposals for school choice expansion in places like Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Indiana and others. In my home State of South Carolina, I'm pleased to see that legislators in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle have introduced a bill that would give opportunity to all children in South Carolina to attend the school of their choice.

It is imperative that we empower parents with the ability to choose the best educational experience for their child, whether it is public, charter, private, or home school.

May God bless our children, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

CONGRESS ON YOUR CORNER

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, less than 3 weeks ago, a horrible tragedy in Arizona gave our Nation pause. All Americans were horrified at the news that Congresswoman GABBY Giffords, her staff, and constituents were shot in an appalling act of violence. Six people lost their lives that day. Even more were hurt. And our friend GABBY now faces a long road to recovery.

But some good came out of all of that horror. Ordinary Americans risked their lives to help those in need. Violence was denounced from the left and from the right. And Members of Congress pledged to not let this tragedy keep them from meeting with their constituents.

To honor GABBY, the other Tucson victims, and our great democracy, I have introduced a resolution today that designates the first Saturday in January as "National Congress on Your Corner Day."

We cannot allow one single gunman to alter our representative form of government. In that spirit, I will be holding a Congress on Your Corner in my district this weekend. And I know that when GABBY is fully recovered, she will do the same.

To honor all those affected by the Tucson tragedy, I urge support of this resolution.

SUPPORTING FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last night, President Obama said that the U.S. stands with the people of Tunisia and supports the democratic aspirations of the people. That has not always been true, however. We've stood for far too long with the undemocratic and the dictatorial