

years is that lower marginal tax rates have not led to particularly impressive economic growth, labor markets or revenues. Growth was actually more impressive back when marginal tax rates were higher.

The verdict is in. We need to reform our tax code now, for the sake of fairness, and for the sake of our economy. We cannot continue to fight tooth and nail for special interests, for the sake of justifying unprecedented cuts to everything from education to health care to infrastructure to public safety. We cannot protect the wealthy few at the expense of tens of millions of low-income and working-class families.

There is no excuse for this. We can, and we must, do better.

We all know we'll have to make hard choices to come to an agreement. But my Democratic colleagues also know that we must do all we can to preserve our economic progress, create jobs, and preserve programs that serve struggling families. We must reduce the deficit—but we must do it while adhering to basic principles of fairness and morality.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11:30 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11:30 a.m.

□ 1130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 11:30 a.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Joe Pool, First United Methodist Church, Rockwall, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, creator of all things, author of all life, and giver of all grace, You have brought us to this time through the blessings of Your hand, and we remember that we do not work alone, serve without Your spirit, or act without Your guidance.

Open Your heart to us as we depend on You for wisdom beyond ourselves, discernment that fulfills the cry of need, and strength for the challenges we face.

May we be about Your work of justice and mercy, security and peace, comfort and provision. Forgive us our shortcomings. Create in us Your will and way. Write these upon our hearts so that we might serve You as we serve Your people.

We invoke the recognition of Your sustaining and guiding presence at today's session and beyond. Accomplish in us the work of Your hands. May we be worthy of all that is entrusted to us this day.

In Your most holy name we 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 North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COBLE 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.

RECOGNIZING GUEST CHAPLAIN DR. JOE POOL

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to again recognize our guest chaplain, Reverend Dr. Joe C. Pool, pastor of my home church, my home town, First United Methodist Church of Rockwall, Texas.

Reverend Pool's ministry spans more than 30 years in north Texas and includes serving as associate pastor in Dallas and as pastor in Irving and Gainesville prior to serving in my home town of Rockwall.

Reverend Pool earned a bachelor of arts degree from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and earned both a master of theology degree and a doctor of ministry degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He has been a long-time member of the executive board and the Mentor Pastor Program at Perkins.

Over the past quarter of a century, Reverend Pool has led mission trips to the Appalachian region, Mexico, and the Navajo Nation. He has been involved in hurricane recovery and rebuilding efforts throughout Texas and Louisiana through Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina, and Rita. Active in community service, he was selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America three times and also was selected for inclusion in Who's Who in America.

Reverend Pool is blessed by his wife, Becky, and their three children—Candace, Corey, and Amanda. And Rockwall is in turn blessed by this minister and his family. Reverend Pool is known as a wonderful preacher, a great teacher, a close friend of mine and friend of many, and may God continue to bless his life and his ministry for many years to come.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also tell you—or perhaps warn you—that he and PETE SESSIONS were roommates at the university.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further re-

quests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AGE NOT AN ISSUE FOR BASEBALL'S JACK MCKEON

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Jack McKeon resides in Elon, North Carolina. And in 2003, he became the oldest manager to win a World Series championship, having defeated the New York Yankees. Jack was recently recalled by the Florida Marlins and now finds himself in the Marlin wheelhouse again, this time as the second oldest manager to manage a Major League team.

Jack responded when people questioned his age. He said, "Experience should not be penalized." And Trader Jack further said, "I'll probably be managing when I'm 95."

From one octogenarian to another, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we extend hearty good wishes to Jack McKeon for the remainder of this season and until he is 95 years of age.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Emily Gordon and Dylan Burke, young advocates in the fight to cure type 1 diabetes.

Emily and Dylan are making a significant impact on the research for diabetes, and their work will benefit future generations. That's because they are both delegates representing Rhode Island in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Children's Congress gathered here in Washington this week, and they are with us on the floor today.

Emily, of Lincoln, Rhode Island, and Dylan, of Newport, Rhode Island, are working to raise public awareness of the critical need for diabetes research to eliminate this disease. Diagnosed at 17 months old, Emily has known diabetes for most of her life and doesn't view herself as different from other children. And Dylan has seen firsthand some of the complications of type 1 diabetes since his father also has the disease.

The work that Emily and Dylan are performing during the Children's Congress is critical to the nearly 26 million Americans who have diabetes. I commend and congratulate them for overcoming great obstacles to work towards a cure that will improve and save lives in generations to come.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members not to address guests on the floor of the House.