the remainder of her duty on another ship.
As if the horrifying assault and sub-
sequent mistreatment of Petty Officer
De Roche is not heartbreaking enough,
her predators didn't get the punish-
ment they deserved. In fact, something
very different happened instead of the
martialing the predators, her command
decided to handle the rapes with so-
called nonjudicial punishments. The
punishment required the rapists to
admit their crimes—so they admitted
them. They got 6 months docked pay
and a reduced rank for only one of the
rapists. Both of the rapists were per-
mitted to remain on active duty. When
command informed Petty Officer De
Roche of the outcome, they also ad-
vised her to “accept the situation” and
refrain from speaking out against the
lack of punishment or accountability.

Petty Officer De Roche’s story, like
many others, highlights a system that
is unimaginable to so many of us and
a system that is so clearly broken. In the
military, a base commander has com-
plete authority and discretion over
how a degrading and violent assault
under his command is handled. The
commander can issue virtually any
punishment for any reason. If they
don’t want a black mark on their
record or their friends were accused or
if they simply don’t know the correct
way of dealing with a case, they can
issue just a simple slap on the wrist.

My bill, H.R. 3435, the Sexual Assault
Training Oversight and Prevention Act, the STOP Act, takes this issue
and puts it in the hands of others who
can handle it appropriately.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 17
minutes a.m.), the House stood in re-
cess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House
was called to order by the Speaker at
noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Roger Schoolcraft, Fay-
etteville, Arkansas, offered the fol-
lowing prayer:

Almighty and most high God, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, You led our Fore-
athers to weave Your presence in the
fabric of our Nation. Move us also to
acknowledge and trust Your presence
among us daily. And although we may
face many obstacles and adversities,
continue to shower us with Your mercy
that we may grow stronger.

Today, we thank You for healing our
Nation from the attack on Pearl Har-
bor 70 years ago. We are grateful for all
those who sacrifice their lives to pre-
sure our freedom. O Lord, may we not
squander it. Bless all wounded war-
riors, veterans and their families. Fill
them and us with Your peace and joy
this Christmas season.

Give us wisdom, and lead us by Your
Spirit. The officers made here
would result in our country united, an
economy restored, and hearts grateful
for Your loving care through Jesus
Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has ex-
amined the Journal of the last day’s pro-
ceedings and announces to the House
his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Jour-
nal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman
from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) come for-
ward and lead the House in the Pledge
of Allegiance.

Mr. QUIGLEY led the Pledge of Al-
legiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
United States of America, and to the Repub-
lic for which it stands, one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND ROGER
SCHOOLCRAFT

The SPEAKER. Without objection,
the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, today it
is my privilege to introduce Reverend
Roger Schoolcraft of Fayetteville, Ar-
kansas.

Reverend Schoolcraft retired from
the ministry in 1993 after nearly 40
years in the ministry, serving con-
gregations in Iowa, Nebraska and, most
recently, in northwest Arkansas, where
he led St. John’s Lutheran Church in
Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Reverend Schoolcraft was called to
the ministry in 1953 after accepting an
invitation from a friend to attend a
Sunday school class at St. John’s Lu-
theran Church in Rochester, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Schoolcraft’s
service extends well beyond the walls
of the church. He served as campus pas-
tor of the Lutheran Student Center at
the University of Arkansas. He was a
circuit counselor for 11 years and was
assistant dean and dean for two na-
tional campus missionary institutes.

Locally, he was president of Coopera-
tive Emergency Outreach, secretary-
treasurer of the Fayetteville Ministe-
rial Alliance, and treasurer for the
Council of Religious Organizations.

Reverend Schoolcraft is married to
Deborah Steen Schoolcraft; and they
have two children, Andrew and Aaron.

On behalf of the United States House
of Representatives, I want to thank
Reverend Schoolcraft for his long-
standing devotion to the ministry, the
churches he has served, and his fellow
man.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs.
miller of Michigan). The Chair will
entertain up to 15 further requests for
1-minute speeches from each side of the
aisle.

WHAT A GAME

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam
Speaker, I would like to congratulate
the gentleman from Illinois, Congress-
man RANDY HULTGREN, on winning our
friendly wager on the MAC football
championship game last Friday. The
participants in the game, Ohio Univer-
sity and Northern Illinois University,
are located in the districts that we are
privileged to represent.

The game was an instant classic.
Both teams left everything on the field
and gave it their all and, in the proc-
ess, made their universities and their
fans proud.

The OU Bobcats jumped out to an
early lead, but the Huskies of Northern
Illinois fought back. They showed their
toughness and won the game’s final
play. Another way to say it is that OU
won the first half and that Northern
Illinois won the second half. Both teams
were worthy of partic-
ipation in the game, but it’s a shame
that either team had to come out on
the losing end.

I am very proud of the OU Bobcats,
and I look forward to watching both
teams compete in their bowl games and
represent their schools in the same
fashion they did last Friday night.

Congratulations to Congressman
HULTGREN.

SUPPORT THE PAYROLL TAX
EXTENSION

Mr. POLIS asked and was given per-
mission to address the House for 1
minute and to revise and extend his
remarks.

Mr. POLIS. A huge tax increase is
looming unless this House takes action
immediately. Unless this House takes
action in the next few weeks, a typical
American household earning $50,000,$60,000 a year will see a tax increase of
$1,000 a year on payroll taxes—yes,
Madam Speaker, a $1,000 tax increase
for middle class families, many of
whom have not seen any raises or in-
creases for several years due to the re-
cession.

People who are struggling to support
their families will see a $1,000 tax in-
crease if this body does not act in the
next several weeks. This is a tax in-
crease that most families haven’t budg-
eted for and haven’t prepared for. They