The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:
WASHINGTON, DC, January 10, 2012.
I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
Reverend Anthony Craig, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Hibbing, Minnesota, offered the following prayer:
Heavenly Father, You protect, provide, and establish us. We praise You for who You are, the source of eternal salvation.

We give You thanks for all the good things that You give us, Your children. We look to You today, Lord Holy Father, to be our strength this day.
Please protect us in Your mercy, provide for the needs of our Nation, and establish us in truth which will guide our decisions.
Draw near, Almighty God, and grant that we may ardently desire, prudently examine, truthfully acknowledge, and perfectly accomplish what is pleasing to You for the praise and glory of Your name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 493, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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 PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 493, no organizational or legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ADJOURNMENT
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(c) of House Resolution 493, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, January 13, 2012.
Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, January 13, 2012, at 11 a.m.
The Senate met at 11 and 4 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

M. K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate stands adjourned until Friday, January 13, 2012, at 12 noon.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11 and 32 seconds a.m., adjourned until Friday, January 13, 2012.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. IRA LEE SULLIVAN FOR DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Ira Lee Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan was born on May 22, 1918 in Webster County, Mississippi. His life was transcended on November 7, 2011. He was married to Jo Ella Campbell-Sullivan for 63 years until she preceded him in death in 2009.

Mr. Sullivan is a remarkable veteran for a number of reasons. His tour of duty was filled with heroic actions, life threatening calls to duty, and celebration. He volunteered for the U.S. Navy on July 6, 1938 out of Grenada, Mississippi and spent most of his tour of duty in the Pacific. He was aboard the USS Enterprise on December 7, 1941 in Honolulu during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was a member of the USS Enterprise (CV–6) aircraft carrier which became one of the most decorated U.S. Naval vessels of World War II. Mr. Sullivan was aboard the destroyer USS Morrison that was sunk on May 4, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa. While aboard, more than twenty-five Japanese Kamikaze planes air raided the vessel killing 152 of the 331 aboard. Mr. Sullivan’s parents were notified by the Navy that he was aboard the vessel when it sank and was therefore missing in action and presumed dead. Yet despite all the odds, a few weeks later he returned home to the astonishment of his family. He was honorably discharged on November 30, 1945, with numerous awards and citations that included the Presidential Unit Citation Award and the Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ira Lee Sullivan, a decorated World War II veteran and an unforgettable hero for his dedication and service to this country and the pride of this family.

FRED ANDERSON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Colorado State Senator Fred Anderson. A Loveland native and former Senate President, Mr. Anderson recently passed away at the age of 83. Senator Anderson is remembered by his colleagues for his decency, statesmanship, and expertise on water issues. He was first elected in 1966, at the age of 38. For eight of his sixteen years in office, he also served as Senate President. Among his signature achievements were helping to integrate Colorado’s ground and surface water rights, restructuring state water laws, and securing instream flow water rights.

Since retiring from the legislature in 1982, Senator Anderson stayed active on water issues and chaired the Loveland Water and Sewer Board. He received a Presidential appointment to the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, where he served for six years. Additionally, he helped found the House of Neighborly Service and Project Self-Sufficiency, and was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Fred Anderson’s family has resided in the Loveland area since his great-great-grandparents, indentured servants from Sweden, were married there in 1876. He grew up on a farm before serving with the U.S. Army in the Korean War. After the war, he returned to Colorado and married his wife of 57 years, Anne, and began a career raising cattle. He is also survived by four children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Senator Fred Anderson. I rise today in remembrance of his dedication to his family and to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING MR. HOSEA SPENCER FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Hosea Spencer, of Greenville, Mississippi. Mr. Spencer attended Coleman Middle & High School, located in Greenville, Mississippi. Mr. Spencer withdrew from school in the 11th grade to join the military, enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and serving through 1957. Mr. Spencer was awarded during his service for being a Rifleman and a Sharpshooter. He also received a National Defense Service Medal.

Mr. Spencer learned a lot about life during his time in the service. Being in the U.S. Air Force taught him everything as a young man and gave him a chance to see the world. His only regret is that he did not make a career with the military.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hosea Spencer for his time and dedication to serving our country.

LAWRENCE ATENCIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of outgoing Pueblo, Colorado City Council Representative Lawrence Atencio. Mr. Atencio’s last day representing Council District 2 was December 31, 2011.

A man of wide-ranging experience and talents, Lawrence Atencio served in the Armed Forces and worked in municipal government, academia, the arts, and in private business before his election to the council. He served two terms of office, beginning in 2007. After graduating from East High School in 1965, Lawrence earned associate’s and bachelor’s degrees from Southern Colorado State College, and later a master’s in public administration from the University of Northern Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army from 1970–1972, and then returned home to Pueblo and became a Health Inspector. Since 1984, he has owned and operated LA Distributing Company.

Mr. Atencio has also been an instructor of classical ballet since 1972, as well as director/choreographer for the Colorado State Fair Fiesta Committee Scholarship Pageant and an actor in community theatre and the film industry. Since 1991, he has taught Business, Macro Economics, Sociology, and Chicano Studies at the college level. Mr. Atencio is active in the Knights of Columbus and is a private pilot.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Councilman Lawrence Atencio. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo.

RECOGNIZING MR. ISAAC DANIEL SCOTT FOR HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran and lifelong resident of the Mississippi Delta, Mr. Isaac Daniel Scott.

Mr. Scott was drafted to serve in the United States Army while pursuing an education in Agriculture Business at Tennessee State University: Mr. Scott served during the Vietnam Conflict and was a member of the 1st Calvary Air Mobile Unit. He earned the rank of Specialist and an Honorable Discharge after his tour of duty. Upon completion of his tour of duty, Mr. Scott returned to the Mississippi Delta to pursue farming with his father, Mr. Edward Scott.

Mr. Scott wanted to continue his contact with fellow veterans and became a member of...
RECOGNIZING THE TEACHERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Teachers Federal Credit Union, a financial institution dedicated to the continued success of its members and to promoting financial literacy throughout the community.
It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to the TFCU on the occasion of its 80th anniversary and the opening of its new headquarters in Hauppauge.
Since its founding in 1932, Teachers Federal Credit Union has grown from a tiny credit union with seven members and $35 to an institution with over 200,000 members and $4 billion in assets. Along the way, TFCU and its members have found time to demonstrate a continued commitment to efforts aimed at preserving the environment and improving the quality of life enjoyed by Long Islanders.
I would also like to commend TFCU on its continuing dedication to the promotion of financial literacy. In recognition of that dedication, the Teachers Federal Credit Union has been awarded the Desjardins Youth Education Award, given in honor of significant commitment to youth financial education, six times.
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to convey my sincere thanks to the Teachers Federal Credit Union, and my hopes for their continued success at their new Hauppauge location.

RAY AGUILERA TRIBUTE
HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of outgoing Pueblo, Colorado City Council President Ray Aguilera. Mr. Aguilera’s last day representing Council District 4 was December 31, 2011.
Ray Aguilera knows the City of Pueblo well; thanks to his roles as a student recruiter at Pueblo Community College and as manager of both Pueblo Boulevard Liquors and Fiesta Used Cars. This extensive business and educational experience has served him well during his two stints with the Council, first in 2003 and then beginning in 2007.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT JOE NATHAN WILSON FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY
HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable veteran, Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson. Sergeant Wilson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and desire.
Sergeant Wilson, a lifelong resident of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, was born on October 7, 1973 to Joseph Johnson and Maxine Adams.
He graduated from Crystal Springs High School in 1993. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he served until the Chinook helicopter he was aboard went down on November 2, 2003, in Al Fallujah, Iraq. In 2002 he married Erica Beaty and to that union they had a daughter, Yasmine.
Sergeant Wilson’s attitude was always positive, whether serving in the army or competing on the football field at Crystal Springs High. He attended White Oak Baptist Church in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. As a member of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, Staff Sergeant Wilson received several honors including the Purple Heart.
Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson for his unwavering dedication to serving our great country.

LGBT RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly agree with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she declared on December 6, 2011, that LGBT rights are human rights. I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the speech she gave in recognition of International Human Rights Day in Geneva, Switzerland, when she passionately and persuasively described the importance of the LGBT struggle for basic human rights.

REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
Good evening, and let me express my deep hope and pleasure at being here today. I want to thank Director General Tokayev and Ms. Wyden along with other ministers, ambassadors, excellencies, and UN partners. This evening, we will celebrate Human Rights Day, the anniversary of one of the great accomplishments of the last century.
Beginning in 1947, delegates from six continents devoted themselves to drafting a declaration that would enshrine the fundamental rights and freedoms of people everywhere. In the aftermath of World War II, many nations pressed for a statement of this kind to ensure that we would prevent future atrocities and protect the inherent humanity and dignity of all people. And so the delegates went to work. They discussed, they wrote, they revisited, revised, rewrote, for thousands of hours. And they incorporated suggestions and revisions from governments, organizations, and individuals around the world.
At three o’clock in the morning on December 10th, 1948, after nearly two years of drafting and one last long night of debate, the president of the UN General Assembly called for a vote on the final text. Forty-eight nations voted in favor; eight abstained; none dissented. And the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. It proclaims a simple, powerful idea: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. And with the declaration, it was made clear that rights are not conferred by government; they are the birthright of all people. It does not matter what country we live in, who our leaders are, or even who we are. Because we are human, we therefore have rights. And because we have rights, governments are bound to protect them.
In the 63 years since the declaration was adopted, many nations have made great progress in making human rights a human reality. Step by step, barriers that once prevented people from enjoying the full measure of liberty, the full experience of dignity, and the full benefits of humanity have fallen away. In many places, racial laws have been repealed, legal and social. And so, the rights of women to second-class status have been abolished, the ability of religious minorities to practice their faith freely has been secured.
In most cases, this progress was not easily won. People fought and organized and campaigned in public squares and private spaces to change not only laws, but hearts and minds. And thanks to that work of generations, for millions of individuals whose lives were once narrowed by injustice, they are now able to live more freely and to participate more fully in the political, economic, and social lives of their communities.
There is still, as you all know, much more to be done to secure that commitment, that reality, and progress for all people. Today, I want to talk about the work we have left to do to protect one group of people whose human rights are still denied in too many parts of the world today. In many ways, they are an invisible minority. They are oppressed, beaten, abused and executed. Many are treated with contempt and violence by their fellow citizens while authorities empowered to protect them look the other way or, too often, join in the abuse. They are denied opportunities to work and learn, driven from their homes and countries, and forced to suppress or deny who they are in order to protect themselves.
I am talking about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, human beings born...
free and given bestowed equality and dignity, who have a right to claim that, which is now one of the remaining human rights challenges of our time. I speak about this subject because my own country’s record on human rights for gay people is far from perfect. Until 2009, it was still a crime in parts of my own country. Many LGBT Americans have endured violence and abuse in their own lives, and for some, including many young people, bullying and exclusion are daily experiences. So I want to talk about the difficult and important issues we must address together to reach a global consensus that recognizes the human rights of LGBT citizens everywhere.

The first issue goes to the heart of the matter. Some have suggested that gay rights and human rights are separate, and distinct, and that the struggle in my own community, and the same is true, of course, 60 years ago, the governments that drafted and passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, back in 1948, did not think about how it applied to the LGBT community. They also weren’t thinking about how it applied to indigenous people or children or people who identify as women, or other marginalized groups. Yet in the past 60 years, we have come to recognize that members of these groups are entitled to the full measure of dignity and respect that we share a common humanity.

This recognition did not occur all at once. It evolved over time. And as it did, we understood that it called for a more accepting world of rights and people always had, rather than creating new or special rights for them. Like being a woman, like being a racial, religious, tribal, or ethnic minority, being LGBT does not make you less human. And that is why gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.

It is violation of human rights when people are beaten or killed because of their sexual orientation, or because they do not conform to cultural norms about how men and women should look or behave. It is a violation of human rights when governments declare it illegal for gay people to marry or refuse to protect gay people who go unpunished. It is a violation of human rights when lesbian or transgendered women are subjected to so-called corrective rape, or forcibly subjected to hormone treatments, or when people are murdered after public calls for violence toward gays, or when they are forced to flee their nations and seek asylum in other lands to save their lives. And it is a violation of human rights when life-saving care is withheld from people because they are gay, or equal access to justice is denied to people because they are gay, or public spaces are out of bounds to people because they are gay. No matter what we look like, where we come from, or who we are, we are all equally entitled to our human rights and dignity.

The second issue is a question of whether homophobia is a particular part of the world. Some seem to believe it is a Western phenomenon, and therefore people outside the West have grounds to reject it. Well, let me tell you, people are born with it and belong to every society in the world. They are all ages, all races, all faiths; they are doctors and teachers, farmers and bankers, soldiers and politicians, and whether we know it, or whether we acknowledge it, they are our family, our friends, and our neighbors.

Being gay is not a Western invention; it is a human reality. And protecting the human rights of all people, gay or straight, is not something that only Western governments can do. Some have written that the aftermath of Apartheid, protects the equality of all citizens, including gay people. In Colombia and Argentina, the rights of sexual minorities are protected; in South Africa, the supreme court has ruled that equal rights apply to LGBT citizens. The Government of Mongolia has committed to pursue new legislation that will tackle anti-gay discrimination.

Now, some worry that protecting the human rights of LGBT people is a luxury that only wealthy nations can afford. But in fact, in all countries, there are costs to not protecting these rights, in both good and bad times: disease and violence, and the silencing of voices and views that would strengthen communities, in ideas never pursued by entrepreneurs who happen to be gay. Costs are incurred whenever any group is treated as lesser or the other, whether they are women, racial, or religious minorities, or the LGBT. Former President Clinton and others have pointed out recently that for as long as LGBT people are kept in the shadows, there cannot be an effective public health program to tackle HIV and AIDS.

The third, and perhaps most challenging, issue arises where cultural values or cultural practices are held up as a reason to violate or not to protect the human rights of LGBT citizens. This is not unlike the justification offered for violent practices towards women like honor killings, widow burning, or female genital mutilation. Some people still defend those practices as part of a cultural tradition. But cultural doesn’t mean it’s cultural; it’s criminal. Likewise with slavery, what was once justified as sanctioned by God is now properly reviled as an unconscionable violation of human rights.

In each of these cases, we came to learn that no practice or tradition trumps the human rights that belong to all of us. And this holds true for inflicting violence on LGBT people, criminalizing their status or behavior, expelling them from their families and communities, or tacitly or explicitly accepting their killing.

Of course, it bears noting that rarely are cultural and religious traditions and teachings actually in conflict with the protection of human rights. Rights and our culture are sources of compassion and inspiration toward our fellow human beings. It was not only those who’ve justified slavery who leaned on religion, it was also those who sought to abolish it. And let us keep in mind that our commitments to protect the freedom of religion and to defend the dignity of LGBT people emanate from the same source. For many of us, religious belief and practice is a vital source of meaning and identity for who we are as people. And likewise, for most of us, the bonds of love and family that we forge are also vital sources of meaning and identity. And caring for others is an expression of what it means to be fully human. It is because the human experience is universal that human rights are universal and cut across all religions and cultures.

The fourth issue is what history teaches us about how we make progress towards rights for all. Progress starts with honest discussion. Some believe that all gay people are pedophiles, that homosexuality is a disease that can be cured or caught, or that gays recruit others to become gay. This is not simply not true. They are also unlikely to disappear if those who promote or accept them are dismissed out of hand rather than invited to share their fears and concerns. No one has ever abandoned a belief because he was forced to do so.

Gay rights include freedom of expression and freedom of belief, even if our words or beliefs denigrate the humanity of others. Yet, while we are each free to believe as we choose, wherever we choose, we cannot, in a world where we protect the human rights of all, shrug off understanding of these issues takes more than speech. It does take a conversation. In fact, it takes a constellation of conversations in places big and small. And it takes a shift in belief to see stark differences in belief as a reason to begin the conversation, not to avoid it.

But progress comes from changes in laws. In many countries and places, indigenous rights, legal protections have preceded, not followed, broader recognition of rights. Laws have a teaching effect. Laws that discriminate validate other kinds of discrimination. Laws that require equal protections reinforce the moral imperative of equality. And practically speaking, it is often the case that legislation change before fears about change dissipate.

Many in my country thought that President Truman was making a grave error when he announced the repeal of the exclusionary policy of our military. They argued that it would undermine unit cohesion. But that wasn’t the decision of the Marine Corps Commandant who was one of the strongest voices against the policy at the time, says that his concerns were unfounded and that the Marines have embraced the change.

Finally, progress comes from being willing to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes. We need to ask ourselves, “How would it feel if it were a crime to love the person I love? How would it feel to be discriminated against for something about myself that I cannot change?” This challenge applies to all of us as we reflect upon deeply held beliefs, as we work to embrace tolerance and respect for the dignity of others and as we engage humbly with those with whom we disagree in the hope of creating greater understanding.

The final question is how we do our part to bring the world to embrace human rights for all people including LGBT people. Yes, LGBT people must help lead this effort. But in many countries, the supporters of the policy could not foreclose the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” would have a negative effect on our armed forces. Now, the Marine Corps Commandant, who was one of the strongest voices against the policy, says that his concerns were unfounded and that the Marines have embraced the change.

But in fact, in all countries, there are costs that the Marine Corps Commandant, who was one of the strongest voices against the policy, says that his concerns were unfounded and that the Marines have embraced the change.

Conversely, when we see denials and abuses of human rights and fail to act, that sends the message to those deniers and abusers
that they won’t suffer any consequences for their actions, and so they carry on. But when we do act, we send a powerful moral message. Right here in Geneva, the international community has come together to strengthen the global consensus around the human rights of LGBT people. At the Human Rights Council in March, 85 countries from all regions supported calling for an end to criminalization and violence against people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

At the following session of the Council in June, South Africa took the lead on a resolution about violence against LGBT people. The delegation from South Africa spoke frequently about their own experience and struggle for human equality and its indivisibility. When the measure passed, it became the first-ever UN resolution recognizing the human rights of gay people worldwide. In the Organization of American States this year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights created a unit on the rights of LGBT people, a step toward what we hope will be the creation of a special rapporteur.

Now, we must go further and work here in every region of the world to galvanize more support for the human rights of the LGBT community. To the leaders of those countries, our people are jalled, beaten, or executed for being gay. I ask you to consider this: Leadership, by definition, means being out in front of your people when it is called for. It is up for all of us to stand by all your citizens and persuading your people to do the same. It also means ensuring that all citizens are treated as equals under your laws, because let me be clear—I am not saying that gay people can’t or don’t commit crimes. They can and they do, just like straight people. And when they do, they should be held accountable, but it should never be a crime to be gay.

And to people of all nations, I say supporting human rights is your responsibility too. The lives of gay people are shaped not only by laws, but by the treatment they receive every day from their families, from their neighbors. Eleanor Roosevelt, who did not live, the schools they attend, the factories, farms, and offices where they work. These places are your domain. The actions you take, the ideals that you advocate, can determine whether human rights flourish where others are extinguished.

And finally, to LGBT men and women worldwide, let me say this: Wherever you live and whatever the circumstances of your life, whether you are connected to a network of support or feel isolated and vulnerable, please know that you are not alone. People around the globe are working to support you and to bring an end to the injustices and dangers you face. That is certainly true for my country. And you have an ally in the United States of America and you have millions of friends among the American people.

The Obama Administration defends the human rights of LGBT people as part of our comprehensive human rights policy and as a priority of our foreign policy. In our embassies, our diplomats are raising concerns about specific cases and laws, and working with a range of partners to strengthen human rights protections for all. In Washington, we have created a task force at the State Department to support and coordinate this work. And in the coming months, we will provide every embassy with a toolkit to help improve their efforts. And we have created a high-level governmental effort to support to defenders of human rights for LGBT people.

This morning, back in Washington, President Obama put into place the first U.S. Government strategy dedicated to combating human rights abuses against LGBT persons around the world. It builds on the already underway at the State Department and across the government. The President has directed all U.S. Government agencies engaged with international collaboration and advocacy to coordinate their efforts to protect LGBT refugees and asylum seekers, to ensure that our foreign assistance promotes the protection of LGBT rights, to enlist international organizations in the fight against discrimination, and to respond swiftly to abuses against LGBT persons.

I am also pleased to announce that we are launching a new Global Equality Fund that the United States will support and coordinate. The fund is designed to support civil society organizations working on these issues around the world. This fund will help them record facts and support their advocacy, learn how to use the law as a tool, manage their budgets, train their staff, and forge partnerships with women’s organizations and other human rights groups. We have committed to put in $3 million to start this fund, and we have hope that others will join us in supporting it.

The women and men who advocate for human rights for the LGBT community in hostile places, some of whom are here today with us, are brave and dedicated, and deserve the support of all of us. We know the road ahead will not be easy. A great deal of work lies before us. But many of us have seen firsthand how quickly change can come. In our lifetimes, attitudes toward gay people in many places have been transformed. Many people, including myself, have experienced a deepening of our own convictions on this topic. Over the years, as we have devoted more thought to it, engaged in dialogues and debates, and established personal and professional relationships with people who are gay, this evolution is evident in many places. To highlight one example, the Delhi High Court decriminalized homosexuality in India two years ago, writing, and I quote, “If there is one tenet that can be said to be an underlyin theme of the Indian constitution, it is inclusiveness.” There is little doubt in my mind that support for LGBT human rights will continue to grow, because for many young people, this is simple: all people deserve to be treated with dignity and have their human rights respected, no matter who they are or whom they love.

There is a phrase that people in the United States invoke when urging others to support human rights: “Be on the right side of history.” The story of the United States is the story of a nation that has repeatedly grappled with intolerance and inequality. We have fought a hard battle to protect the rights of African American and women, Native Americans, Asian Americans, with people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and on and on. And the march toward equality and justice has continued. Those who advocate for expanding the circle of human rights were and are on the right side of history, and history honors them. Those who tried to constrain human rights were wrong, and history reflects that as well.

I know that the thoughts I’ve shared today involve questions on which opinions are still evolving. As it has happened so many times before, opinion will converge once again with the truth. That all persons are created free and equal in dignity and rights. We are called once more to make the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a living reality. Let us work on the right side of history, for our people, our nations, and future generations, whose lives will be shaped by the work we do today. I come before you with great hope and confidence that no matter how long the road ahead, we will travel it successfully together. Thank you very much. (Applause.)
Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Councilwoman Vera Ortegon. I rise today to thank her for her work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo.

**RECOGNIZING MR. JOSEPH GRAY FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mr. Joseph Gray. He is the American Legion Post Commander of Cooper Yerger Post-28 association for veterans, in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Mr. Gray is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina. He graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Citadel. He is married to the former Mary LaUna Jones of Clarksdale, Mississippi, and they have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Upon graduation, Mr. Gray accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Vietnam from 1967–1968 where he received thirty-seven Air Medals representing over 750 combat missions. Some of the medals he received included the Single Mission Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Sikorsky Winged S for Saving lives. He also logged flight time in a U.S. Marine Sikorsky H–34 helicopter which is now housed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Mr. Gray is currently the CEO of Gray Enterprises, LLC, where he provides small business counseling for startup companies. He conducts seminars and workshops for small business owners on the basic discipline of business, business plans and management-by-objective.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Joseph R. Gray, a decorated Vietnam veteran and hero for his dedication and service to this country, community and family.

**A TRIBUTE TO WYATT CARPENTER**

HON. TOM LATHAM OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Wyatt Carpenter for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Wyatt’s project was to assist in the creation of a resting place in the newest Madrid City Park. This project will be enjoyed by his community for years to come, and his achievement will not go unrecognized.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Wyatt and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career. Thank you.

**RECOGNIZING SERGEANT WILLIE NASON FOR HIS HONORABLE SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life of Sergeant Willie Nason. Sergeant Nason was born on April 12, 1983.

Sergeant Nason, anxious to serve his country, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2000. In 2004, he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines where he served in Weapons Company as a team leader and later squad leader. In August 2004, he deployed to Iraq. Having shown phenomenal capabilities as an inspiring leader, he would go on to become a Drill Instructor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant Willie for his service to our country.
Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
The Senate met at 11:00:04 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 11:00:32 a.m. until 12 p.m., on Friday, January 12, 2012.

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Aderholt to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Anthony Craig, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Hibbing, Minnesota.

Pursuant to section 4(a) of H. Res. 493, the Chair announced that no organizational or legislative business will be conducted on this day.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.