

House and for its retention in any conference negotiation with the Senate.

There is additional progress to report on another front in this struggle. In May, I introduced stand-alone legislation that proceeds from the indisputable premise that statehood obtained more votes than any other option in the November referendum. The bill outlines the rights and responsibilities of statehood and asks voters in Puerto Rico whether they accept those terms.

□ 1100

If a majority says "yes," the bill provides for the President to submit legislation to admit Puerto Rico as a State after a transition period.

Two months after its introduction, this bill already enjoys support from 100 Members of Congress from both parties and from every region of this country despite the predictable opposition of the status quo party in Puerto Rico and its allies in Congress. I always find it ironic when some of my colleagues from the States, who, along with their constituents, enjoy all the benefits of statehood, seek to prevent my constituents from exercising those same rights and responsibilities. I have concluded that these forces cannot be reasoned with. They must simply be defeated, and they will be.

Next week, I will appear as a witness at a Senate hearing on the November referendum and the Federal response to that vote. Just as I told a United Nations committee last month, I will testify that I have faith that the Federal Government will fulfill its obligation to facilitate Puerto Rico's transition to a democratic and dignified status but that deeds, not words, are required.

Much work remains to be done, and like any civil rights struggle, it will not be easy; but through our sound and steady action, we are closer than ever to finally realizing Dr. Barbosa's dream of equality for the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico.

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 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend John Reynolds, Volusia County Baptist Church, Orange City, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Father, we are humbly grateful for Your blessings on our lives and on our

Nation. We ask Your forgiveness in every area where we have failed You.

I pray these honorable Representatives elected to serve You here in this House will seek, find, and follow Your wisdom. You can give simple solutions to complex problems. Our country needs a revival of solutions.

I pray, also, for the needs of all in the House today. Bless them, their families, and their constituents with Your loving care and protection.

Please bless and protect those serving in our military striving to maintain the peace and freedom we enjoy. May we not neglect nor abuse those blessings.

My Father, at Your instruction, I pray for all those in authority over me. I ask that You help Your people to be good citizens for Your glory and the good of this Nation.

In Jesus' name I pray.
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.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina 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 remind the House that on July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In light of the fact that I have been working with Alabama Governor Robert Bentley to find the earliest possible date for the special election which will occur following my resignation, so that my successor can be seated at the earliest possible time during the 113th Congress, I wish to inform you that I will resign my seat effective 11:59 p.m., August 2, 2013.

Sincerely,

JO BONNER,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2013.

Hon. ROBERT BENTLEY,
Governor, State Capitol,
Montgomery, Alabama.

DEAR GOVERNOR BENTLEY: Pursuant to our conversations, I am notifying you that I will resign from Congress at 11:59 p.m. on August 2, 2013. I share your view that the seat should be vacant for as short a time as possible, and I am pleased the August 2nd date will allow the special election to be completed during 2013.

I remain grateful to the people of the First District of Alabama for allowing me the honor of representing them. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

JO BONNER,
Member of Congress.

WELCOMING PASTOR JOHN REYNOLDS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it's a great honor today to introduce to the House our Guest Chaplain, Dr. John Reynolds of Orange City, Florida.

To our good fortune in Florida, he was invited by four families to found a church in Orange City, Florida, in 1996. It now has 1,500 members—one of the largest congregations in Volusia County in central Florida—and supports hundreds of missionaries worldwide. In addition to his pastoral work, Dr. Reynolds has preached at conferences across the Nation and foreign countries. His leadership and willingness to help others is an inspiration to us all.

Dr. Reynolds graduated in 1964 from Tennessee Temple College in Chattanooga and started his church ministry. He returned to Temple Baptist Seminary and graduated in 1968. His life experiences include many positions, which include president of a Christian recording company, vice-president of development at his alma mater, and minister of music.

Dr. Reynolds married his lovely wife, Becky, in 1964. They have four children, two of whom are preachers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Dr. Reynolds and