

helps people get back on their feet. Programs like this are exactly what many of the long-term unemployed need. And while we continue to debate extending the emergency unemployment program, SCSEP is addressing the problem head-on for many of our constituents by offering a solution that is good for employees, businesses, and the economy as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Older Americans Act was developed so our country's seniors could age with dignity. Today it continues to provide support to older Americans who are eager to work and live independent lives as they age. The Senate has advanced its own bipartisan Older Americans Act bill, and I am hopeful my colleagues will follow suit and support H.R. 4122.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4192. An act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia" to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

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 10 o'clock and 34 minutes 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 Don Williams, Maine State Police, Augusta, Maine, offered the following prayer:

I thank You, God, for giving me the opportunity to represent You and the Maine State Police and the people of the great State of Maine. I pray that I represent them well, as should be the desire of this great body as they represent their States.

My dearest Heavenly Father, I come to You today on behalf of this body of Representatives from our great and wonderful United States. As they represent their people, I ask that You give them wisdom and understanding from above.

God, we all need Your wisdom. I thank You for these men and women who have given of themselves to represent their people and make decisions that will affect all the people of this great and wonderful Nation.

God, please give them the character and integrity to rule this Nation. Give them strength to stand true to their beliefs and the courage to stand for what is true and right. Help us to be faithful to Your Word. Lord, I ask for Your blessing to return to our great and wonderful Nation.

In thy Holy 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DON WILLIAMS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Chaplain Donald Williams as today's guest chaplain.

Chaplain Williams is originally from Springfield, Missouri, but he came to Maine in 1985, where he served as pastor of the Fellowship Baptist Church.

Chaplain Williams was sworn in as deputy sheriff and chaplain for the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office in 1987. In addition to serving as chaplain for the Maine State Police and Augusta Police Department, he is involved with the Maine Law Enforcement Chaplain Corps and the State's Criminal Justice Academy.

Chaplain Williams has gone above and beyond in serving the spiritual needs of Maine's police force for over 20 years. His remarkable service was reflected in his nomination for the 2010 National Sheriff's Association Chaplain of the Year award.

He is a true asset to our State and our country. I am proud to stand with him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ICANN

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, the President recently announced that the U.S. Commerce Department would end its Internet agreement with ICANN, a nonprofit organization who has overseen our databases since 1998.

President Obama's plans could lead to international control and come at a time when nations all over the world are looking for any technological advantage they can gain over the United States.

Both Republicans and Democrats alike agree that the Obama administration's decision to cut ties with ICANN could lead to an uncertain future that hinders free speech and threatens national security.

The United States has always been the most protective country of free speech in the entire world. As other countries and international organizations advocate for a more globalized Web, the trampling of our First Amendment rights and greater censorship will be at an even higher risk.

It is imperative that we closely monitor this situation moving forward to ensure that free speech in any medium is never censored.

In God we trust.

FACES OF THE UNEMPLOYED

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last week, I unveiled the "Faces of the Unemployed," an effort to help put a human face on the unemployment crisis.

Yesterday, out-of-work Americans from all over the country came to Congress to tell their story, and they were shut out of the Capitol Building. They were not allowed to share their experiences inside the building that belongs to them and in front of the people they sent to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, you may have stopped them from sharing their stories inside the Capitol yesterday, but with the "Faces of the Unemployed," their faces and stories will be in the Halls of Congress every single day until you bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

There are 2.5 million Americans without this safety net today, and that number could reach nearly 5 million if Congress does not act to extend unemployment benefits before the end of this year. These are real Americans, many of whom have worked their whole lives until recently and now can't afford basic necessities. They spent all their savings. Some have become homeless, and others are on the verge of losing everything.

Every one of these people deserves a vote, Mr. Speaker. I urge you to bring the Senate bill to the floor for an immediate vote so that we can extend unemployment benefits and help millions of Americans.