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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We thank You that You give us a share in Your creative work, having endowed each with unique and important talents.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the care of this great Nation's people. Because of the great blessings You have bestowed on our Nation, may we embrace this opportunity to build a better world beyond our borders as well.

As they return to their home districts, may they bring discerning ears to hear not only what they are inclined to hear, but those words that might be unwelcome but important to hear. May all citizens help to make their Representatives better as legislators and as people as well.

May all that they do this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia 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 entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING JIM MCNEAL

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, with great sadness, I rise to mourn the passing of Jim McNeal, a California business and civic leader, who for decades guided one of the largest and oldest independent ambulance companies in California, Schaefer Ambulance.

His work ethic was legendary. At the age of 83, he was still running the family business. For all those years, he struggled with the challenges of competing against his own tax dollars in a highly regulated environment, facing and fighting government double standards at every turn. I know all about that. I would get an earful from him every month or so.

Jim McNeal was a patriot who served in the Korean war and believed in freedom as a gospel that he would preach to everyone that he met.

During his marriage of 53 years, he and his wife, Louella, raised three children and had six grandchildren. Their family's grief today is shared by all who knew him. Our country has lost an exemplary citizen and, his family, a devoted patriarch.

WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Warrior Beach Re-

retreat, a north Florida charity dedicated to supporting our combat wounded warriors, their families, and caregivers.

The organization was established by Linda Cope after her son, Sergeant Joshua Cope, was severely injured by an IED blast in Baghdad, Iraq, on November 12, 2006.

The Cope family turned tragedy into triumph, and twice a year, Warrior Beach Retreat welcomes 50 wounded warriors and their caregivers to Panama City with a parade and a weeklong retreat dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice.

I wish I could be with them today in Panama City to welcome these brave wounded warriors, but unable to do that, I would like to officially recognize Warrior Beach Retreat in the RECORD and thank them on behalf of our north Florida community for all the hard work they do for our veterans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH ACT

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I am introducing the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act. This bill is a bipartisan effort to make communities safer by improving access to mental health services for people in the criminal justice system.

U.S. jails have effectively replaced in-patient mental health facilities as the largest institutional treatment providers for adults with mental illnesses. Each year, more than 2 million people with serious mental illnesses are booked into jails, as well as millions more coping with less serious mental illnesses that jails are nonetheless required to address.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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