

know people in this town. That is why it must be reformed or ended.

UNRWA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for years, I have been pushing for the United States to reexamine its relationship with UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

UNRWA employs individuals affiliated with Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that openly and loudly incites violence against Israel; yet the United States—which means the U.S. taxpayer—sends nearly \$300 million a year to this organization, to UNRWA without questioning, without scrutiny.

Just last week, the U.N. quietly suspended several individuals after allegations of incitement were brought forth from the NGO U.N. Watch. And we thank U.N. Watch for carefully looking over this organization.

These allegations, Mr. Speaker, are just the tip of the iceberg. We must not continue to send taxpayer dollars to UNRWA—again, that is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency—and, subsequently, to individuals tied to the terror group Hamas in violation of our laws.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I reintroduced my bill that would stop all U.S. contributions to UNRWA until the organization purges its payroll of individuals who incite violence against Israel and until that organization ends all its affiliations with Hamas. Is that really too much to ask, that we should demand that before U.N. agencies get one penny of U.S. taxpayer money that they must not incite violence and that they must no longer affiliate themselves with a U.S.-designated terrorist organization?

So I urge my colleagues to support this measure, to sign on as cosponsors, and to lead in the effort to fight the incitement to violence against Israel.

HONORING JACINTO ACEBAL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary south Floridian and one of the most highly decorated veterans of the Vietnam war, my dear friend Jacinto Acebal.

Just last January, Mr. Acebal—or “Ace,” as we all call him—was diagnosed with larynx cancer. The news hit Ace like a ton of bricks; and, like so many others diagnosed with this horrible disease, the chances of a favorable outcome looked disheartening.

However, no stranger to tough situations, Ace made a commitment to his family that he was not going without a fight. After a total of 8 chemotherapy sessions, 33 radiation treatments, and 3 different surgeries, Ace is no longer bedridden and has been declared cancer-free.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jacinto “Ace” Acebal

on this incredible milestone and wishing him many years of good health throughout his life.

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 5 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

Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Assyrian Church of the East, Salida, California, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; Amen.

Father of mercy and God of every consolation, we come to You at this hour asking You to bless our civil servants as they labor for our country and its citizens. Grant them Your wisdom and enlighten them with Your truth that they might serve the greater good of our country.

Strengthen them to be instruments of peace and justice in our society today. May they bring about reconciliation and hope in our communities and neighborhoods, and may they be exemplary citizens and servants to their constituents, without distinction of race or creed.

Father, we ask You to bless our land, which has been a beacon of hope and a refuge for the oppressed and the marginalized. Grant freedom to the captive, relief to the suffering, and help us all to construct a better and safer tomorrow for our future generations of Americans.

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.

Mrs. WALORSKI. 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.

Mrs. WALORSKI. 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 gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE 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 BISHOP MAR AWA ROYEL

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to introduce to the House our guest chaplain, Bishop Mar Awa Royel.

Bishop Royel currently presides over the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East's Diocese of California and serves as Secretary of the Holy Synod. He was consecrated as a Bishop in 2008 and is the first American-born Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Bishop Royel is one of five trustees of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization. He is also the president of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations and Educational Development.

I have been honored to know Bishop Royel and work with him to help raise awareness of the plight of Assyrians in the Middle East who are facing unspeakable violence and persecution. Many Central Valley residents have family members who are suffering under ISIL's campaign of terror. I am thankful for Bishop Royel's efforts. Bishop Royel is a gifted speaker, esteemed author, and leader of California's large and faithful Assyrian community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming him today. We thank him for offering this afternoon's opening prayer in the United States House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING PAULA NICHOLS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize South La Porte County Special Education Cooperative Director Paula Nichols for her dedication to providing services to nearly