The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 161. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, Sept. 15, 2005.

Speaker DENNIS HASTERT,
House of Representatives, Room H–209, the Capital, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: This letter is to resign my seat on the Committee on Government Reform and all subcommittees under its jurisdiction as of September 30, 2005.

Sincerely,

GINNY BROWN-WAITE,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. TOM DAVIS AND HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE, TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH OCTOBER 17, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

THE SPEAKER'S ROOM,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, Oct. 7, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DAVIS and the Honorable ROSCOE G. BARTLETT to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through October 17, 2005.

DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THREE JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS, HEROES

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the second lady of the gulf, Rita, hit Jefferson County, Texas, first responders hunkered down to wait out the storm. They did not leave during this hurricane. After the storm, the first responders began working 12-hour shifts and slept in their cars. The county had and still has no power or water. The responders had no food. So three local heroes took control.

Port Arthur police officer Marcelo Molfino, Port Arthur fire fighter David Barclay and a lawyer by the name of Everett Sanderson of Nederland, Texas, took control. Molfino and Barclay worked 48 straight hours looking for meat and finding it before it got thawed. Sanderson opened up his beat up, old damaged restaurant and used a generator and set up a barbecue pit outside in a National Guard tent.

These three worked 7 days a week, 15 to 20 hours a day, cooking. Local grocery stores donated more meat during the weeks. One day last week, they fed 6,500 police officers, firefighters, Red Cross and FEMA workers, National Guard troops, Coast Guard and other responders from as far away as Maine, all eating Texas barbecue.

They did so without any government bureaucracy, no red tape forms, no permission and no committee meetings. These three heroes got her done.

FEDERAL RESPONSE TO NEW YORK TERRORIST THREAT LACKING

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the mayor of the City of New York announced that there was a credible threat of a terrorist bombing attack against New York City's trains.

□ 1530

The FBI concurred, and then we heard that the Department of Homeland Security disagreed and said that the threats were not credible.

Madam Speaker, what is going on? We are spending billions and billions of dollars on homeland security, and our Federal officials cannot seem to get it straight. First we had these ridiculous color-coded alerts. Now our FBI and Department of Homeland Security cannot agree on credible threats.

Today, part of Pennsylvania Station in New York City had to be evacuated.

President Bush should summon Secretary Chertoff and ask some very hard questions. This Congress ought to investigate why our Federal officials cannot seem to get their act together with regard to homeland security.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS LEAD FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, all levels of government have recently learned the critical importance of saving and planning for a rainy day.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were a sudden wake-up call for our Nation. As the Federal Government begins to pay for the costs of these devastating disasters, Congress must adhere to a responsible plan and a strict budget. If we do not use this opportunity to reform the spending habits of the Federal Government, our children and grandchildren will inherit tax increases and unimaginable deficits. They do not deserve to suffer the harsh consequences of earlier generations' fiscal irresponsibility.

Yesterday, House Republican leaders introduced a 4-point plan that will increase mandatory savings, decrease discretionary spending, offset reconstruction costs, and will eliminate wasteful government programs. By using our resources to provide for our Nation's needs, this plan will protect the future of American citizens and strengthen our economy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

WILLIAM BENNETT

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, during a recent radio broadcast, conservative critic William Bennett said the following: ''If you wanted to reduce crime, you could abort every black baby in this country and your crime rate would go down.''

But Mr. Bennett's hypothesis, as absurd and racist as it is, does not tell the real story.

According to the Department of Justice national crime statistics of men and women behind bars, approximately 43 percent are black, 38 percent are white, and 19 percent are Hispanic. Whites, however, make up 70 percent of all persons arrested, and 60 percent of those are arrested for violent crime.

So why the disparity between whites arrested and whites convicted? Could it have to do with the fact that poorer defendants, often people of color, are more likely to receive substandard legal representation and harsher sentences?

Madam Speaker, getting justice in America seems to have a lot more to do with the color of your skin and the color of the green in your pocket. Now, that is not virtuous.

HONORING THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS OF GERMAN HERITAGE

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the millions of Americans of German heritage and their ancestors who emigrated from their native lands to come to the shores of this country.

The first German American Day was declared by Ronald Reagan back in 1983 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the first group of German-speaking settlers who arrived in the American colonies. German settlers and immigrants have played a vital role in our Nation's history since its very beginning. Great American icons, too, people like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Casey