

In these uncertain times, when thousands of refugees have left their homeland in the search for peace, and so many of Your people immigrate for food, for a job, or for a better way of life for their children, the words of Ruth, the refugee in the Scriptures, echo in the aching hearts of so many in today's world.

"Wherever you go, I will go, wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God too. Wherever you die, I will die, and I will lie down beside you. I swear an oath before the Lord God: Nothing but death shall divide us."

Lord, such expression to faithfulness in a human relationship builds strong families and nations. Ruth's oath speaks of a deep commitment and creates hope for the future.

Dear Lord, uphold the fragile life of refugees. Grant stability to marriages in this Nation. Sustain the families of Members of Congress and the military with patience, endurance and faithfulness.

May Your eternal love and faithfulness sometimes hinted at in the human relationships of Your people be revealed to those who take flight even today. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan 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.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY NEEDS TO TAKE A CIVICS CLASS—HE IS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY has been serving as the Vice President now for 7 years, and he is claiming that he is not a member of the executive branch.

We didn't hear the Vice President disputing his place in the executive branch when he claimed executive privilege at congressional attempts to have CHENEY make public his energy task force members.

No, CHENEY is once again trying to do an end-run around the rules. Last week the House Oversight Committee learned that CHENEY had exempted his

office from the Presidential order that establishes government-wide procedures for safeguarding classified national security information.

Editorials nationwide are decrying CHENEY's actions. The Kansas City Star said that this is another example of his "insistence on secrecy and his disdain for open government." USA Today said there was "no surer way for leaders to get the country in trouble than to mix arrogance with secrecy."

Let's see if the President is still actually standing up to his second.

JUDGE ROBERT E. COYLE COURTHOUSE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Senate bill 1801, a bill to rename the U.S. courthouse in Fresno, California, as the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse. In previous Congresses, I have introduced identical legislation, and I am pleased to see that this is finally happening.

A local man, Judge Coyle was born in Fresno, California, and earned his B.A. from California State University Fresno. After completing his undergraduate work, Judge Coyle didn't have to travel far to earn his J.D. at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. Nominated for appointment in 1980 by President Ronald Reagan, Judge Coyle was subsequently elevated to chief judge in 1990 and served in that capacity until 1996, where he took senior status.

Judge Coyle has dedicated himself to a lifetime of service in the central valley. He has proven himself a strong community leader, and was instrumental in the construction of the new courthouse downtown. It's only fitting that the building bears his name.

This should be a proud day for Judge Coyle and his family. I wish him the best in the years to come and thank him for his tireless devotion to public service.

SO-CALLED GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM CANNOT BE WON BY MILITARY MIGHT ALONE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the so-called global war on terrorism cannot be won by military might alone. It is a war of ideas and philosophies. Terrorism is the tactic used by people who seem to hate what the U.S. stands for more than they love life itself. But it is hard to hate the concepts of justice, individual freedoms and human rights.

The problem is that as long as our enemies can claim that we deny justice and abuse human rights and individual freedoms, we lose ground in this war of ideas. In fact, as long as we maintain

the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, we undermine our standing, our credibility, throughout the world.

This is not what America stands for. America stands for the concept of habeas corpus and human rights. Guantanamo Bay is unAmerican, and that's why it needs to be closed.

PLAYING THE FIDDLE WHILE THE BORDER BURNS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Border Patrol agents report that illegals and drug smugglers are entering the United States through our national forests. They are setting forest fires at the border, at patrol stands and watch towers, attempting to smoke out the agents and divert their attention from the illegal crossings.

National forest firefighters have reported seeing illegals and drug smugglers move right on through fires as the firefighters try to put out the fires. Once assaulted with rocks, cars, guns, now agents must worry about fires. And these arsonist illegals are not just stopping at setting those fires. Reports indicate some illegals have engaged in throwing Molotov cocktails—a crude bomb made from gasoline—at our agents.

The border war has escalated. These new invaders are not the migrants in search of a better life, they are violent land burners who will do anything to invade the United States, including assaulting U.S. border agents.

There is a wildfire of illegal crossings at the border, and the Potomac amnesty-for-all crowd is fiddling the violin of blissful ignorance while the border burns.

And that's just the way it is.

IT'S TIME FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE THE SECRECY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, DICK CHENEY has convinced himself that Saddam Hussein was involved in 9/11, that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and that the insurgency was in its last throes. Now it seems he's convinced himself that he is not actually Vice President, insisting that he, unlike the previous 44, is not a member of the executive branch.

It's difficult for any American who's taken seventh grade civics to miss the hypocrisy of this claim, especially when it comes from a man who so frequently has withheld information from Congress based on the assertion of executive privilege.

It's time for the Vice President to remove the secrecy, reject hypocrisy, and honor his pledge to support the Constitution. It's time for DICK CHENEY to start respecting the citizens who pay

his salary and start leveling with us. Even a child can tell you, you can have special privileges if you obey the rules, and even the Vice President can't have it both ways.

Many of us wish you weren't part of the executive branch, Mr. Vice President, but so long as you accept the executive perks, we will demand executive responsibility and accountability.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to engage in personalities with regard to the Vice President.

AUTO WORKERS ARE AMERICANS WHOSE JOBS ARE WORTH PROTECTING

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled last week by the words of the Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID asking Senators to vote for a job-killing fuel economy standards bill for cars by asking them to, "speak for the American people, not for the three car companies that are closing plants and laying off people."

Well, the last time I looked, the over 1 million people who work directly for the big three are actually American citizens, and millions of others whose jobs are supported by the big three are Americans as well, the last time I looked. Everyone knows that the biggest producer of CO₂ emissions is electricity production, and yet I didn't hear the Senate majority leader volunteer to make the blazing neon blazing casinos in his home State of Nevada more energy efficient. How about we regulate their energy consumption?

Let's hope that the Democratic leaders in this House understand that millions of American workers and their jobs are worth protecting and don't follow the Senate's lead in their attempt to destroy them.

DEMOCRATS MAKE NATIONAL PARKS AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE A PRIORITY IN INTERIOR BILL

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider legislation that begins to restore our commitment to our national parks and our environmental protection.

Over the past 6 years, the Republican-led Congress has cut critical funding to maintain and restore our national parks and our water infrastructure. This new Democratic Congress is not going to allow them to crumble from neglect. That is why we

are making a major investment in upgrading our national parks and our water infrastructure.

The bill also improves the quality of drinking water throughout the country by restoring funding to the Clean Water Revolving Fund Act, an important program that saw significant cuts under the previous Republican-led Congress.

This bill is further proof that Democrats are taking America in a new direction, investing in key priorities that will protect our drinking water and our national parks.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBRARIES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's local libraries. Libraries have long been the locus of learning, cultural exchange and imagination for young and old alike.

As a former librarian, I know that libraries play a crucial role in providing generation after generation with access to great books and world-changing ideas. Libraries serve our communities as a sort of guidepost along an often overwhelming path of information in the Internet age. Librarians still provide the invaluable service of helping us answer the toughest questions and directing us to the most reliable sources for research.

For many Americans, libraries are the only place they have ready access to thousands of books on almost any topic. By their very nature, libraries encourage us to branch out and pursue interests that we might not be naturally inclined to pursue.

The phenomenon that best describes libraries, contribution to local communities is a patron wandering through the stacks and simply selecting a book because it caught his or her eye. It's this ability to ignite our imaginations and spur us to learn that makes libraries a lynchpin for thousands of communities across the Nation.

VICE PRESIDENT IS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, when the Vice President met with the senior executives of big oil companies, and we wanted to know what they discussed when it came to energy policy for the country, the Vice President exerted executive privilege and said those meetings were private.

Now when we want to know what he is doing as it relates to America's national security in the lead-up to the war in Iraq and after the fact, the Vice President has declared he is a member of the legislative branch, the legislative branch.

Every 10-year-old who is studying social studies in the United States knows that the Vice President is in the executive branch. So we have decided that if the Vice President is no longer a member of the executive branch, therefore, we will no longer fund the executive branch of his office, and he can live off the funding for the Senate presidency.

We will follow the logic of this ludicrous argument that the Vice President of the United States is in the legislative branch, no longer in the executive branch. The Vice President is acting like he is unaccountable and above the law.

In fact, there is a real consequence to his decisions. His decision to avoid the historical record as it relates to America's national security has consequences. For too long he has accounted like he is above the law and not accountable, and it's time we bring him back to earth.

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VISIT WITH SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO BEAUFORT BASES

(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. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of joining Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter on tours of the Marine Corps air station at Beaufort and the Marine Corps recruit depot at Parris Island. I was honored to have the Sergeant Major of the Marines Corps, Carlton W. Kent, join us as well. The mission at Parris Island became crystal clear as we had breakfast with the dedicated drill instructors followed by a briefing led by its commanding officer, Brigadier General Paul Lefebvre. It was inspiring to see the determined recruits in action as they practiced firing the SAW M249, learned swimming, and participated in pugle sticks. Lieutenant Colonel William Ferrell welcomed the Secretary to the air station. After visiting with the Secretary and community leaders, I am more confident than ever that the air station is uniquely suited to take on F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. County Council Chairman Weston Newton, Council Military Liaison Skeet Von Harten, Beaufort Mayor Bill Rauch, Port Royal Mayor Sam Murray, along with other chamber and civic leaders expressed support for the Marine and Navy installations.

I'd like to thank the Secretary, the Sergeant Major, Lieutenant Phil MacNaughton and their staffs for making this visit so possible.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11th.

INCREASE IN CAFE STANDARDS

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