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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Calvin V. French, Pastor Emeritus, Community of Christ Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

God of our fathers and our God, who has watched over us from generation to generation, in prosperity and adversity, in peace and in war, we give Thee thanks.

As we begin this day filled with fresh challenges and high duties that confront us, we are encouraged knowing that Thy mercies and Thy grace are new every morning. As we prepare for work, we look to Thy Word and heed the counsel in Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not upon thy own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy path."

We thank Thee for our Republic where free thought and expression and diversity are honored. Help us to hear the pleas of the people, but to hear more clearly the voice of the Eternal while remembering the words of our Founding Fathers that we are one Nation under God.

When evening comes and our duty is done, may we know the deep contentment of work completed and words spoken which honor our Nation and glorify Thy name.

In His holy name we pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CONAWAY 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 THE REVEREND DR. CALVIN V. FRENCH

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to share some information about who just offered our prayer, my pastor in Washington, DC.

Dr. French is Pastor Emeritus of the Community of Christ Church located at 3526 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. He served the congregation for 25 years before retiring. Previous to his assignment in Washington, he held pastorates in Boston, Philadelphia and Des Moines. He has served as a pastor for 50 years.

Reverend French holds degrees from Grace University, Iowa University, Drake University, and Temple University. He has done graduate work at Harvard University and studied at Princeton Theological Institute.

Dr. French for the past 28 years has been a licensed clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Counselors. He has been active in this discipline and currently is licensed in the State of Maryland.

Dr. French is presently serving on the board of trustees for Graceland University. When his faith group started a theological seminary, he was asked to serve as one of the first board members. Previous to these appointments, he served for 10 years on the board of Park College in Kansas City.

Reverend French is a member of the Rotary Club of Washington, DC, having joined in 1981. He has served on the Rotary Foundation and is presently on

the governing board for Washington Rotary. He has the distinction of being the only pastor to be elected president of the Washington Club in its 84-year history. While in Washington, Reverend French has been involved in many community activities, including working with St. Luke's in establishing a neighborhood shelter for men.

Dr. French has been appointed to the following boards and commissions during his ministry in Washington: President Clinton appointed him to represent the White House on the USO governing board. In this capacity, he visited various military installations and helped to provide a support program for the Armed Forces and their families. Dr. French was appointed by the National Institutes of Health to serve as a representative of the National Conference on Health Fact Finding Board. The board was designed to research and explore the needs in minority health and education. He was selected for the Board of National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces. This board provides opportunities for all denominations who so wish to have chaplains from their faith in the various military services. They also work closely with the Chief of Chaplains in helping to provide ministry to the troops. Reverend French served on this board for 12 years. And, lastly, Dr. French was asked to be a delegate on the United States Attorney General's Commission on Pornography. This study ended with recommendations presented to Congress.

For the past 25 years, he has represented the parent church of his denomination in governmental affairs, providing liaison service to the various agencies of the government as well as to the Congress. On occasion he has been invited to offer the opening prayer for both the House and Senate.

□ 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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Dr. French is married to E. LaVon Crum French, a lawyer who served the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee for 9 years, who is sitting in the galley. The following 17 years she served in a special magisterial appointment as Special Master for the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Program for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. She retired in April of 2005. A son, Colin V. French, is a tax lawyer in Dallas, Texas. He is married to Amanda, also a lawyer, and they have two daughters, Carolyn and Kelsey. Dr. Kelsey French is a clinical psychologist and is married to Vince Bzdek, the news editor for the Washington Post. They have two children, a daughter, Zola, and a son, Xavier, and live in Washington, DC.

#### HEALTH-IT INTRODUCTION

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

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Information technology has significantly changed the way we live and do business, making it easier to communicate with others, manage our personal finances or even track a package we ship across the country. Unfortunately, the health care industry lags far behind other sectors in its utilization of information technology. The inefficiencies and redundancies that result from this lack of automation costs the industry billions of dollars a year, but, more importantly, it costs lives and reduces quality of care.

As Congress considers health care reform proposals, focus should be given to system changes providing patients with more choices, more convenience and control over their health care records. That is why today I will be introducing the Independent Health RECORD Trust Act. I will introduce this with Congressman PAUL RYAN from Wisconsin, and we have over 30 original cosponsors, to establish a market-driven approach to building a national health information network through the establishment of federally certified organizations called Independent Health Record Trusts. Individuals would have the option to sign up for an account to be managed by a health record trust similar to the way banks offer and maintain credit card accounts. Patients will have ownership of their electronic records and can create multiple health entries so their dermatologist will not see their mental health history. We will be introducing this today. We hope for speedy passage through the Congress.

#### OUR FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLIES

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, most credible estimates of future energy supplies for this country indicate that, by 2025, we will still be importing mil-

lions of barrels of crude oil and refined products every single day. That scenario is not positive for America. We should begin today looking at policies that decrease our dependence on foreign crude oil, policies that increase domestic production of crude oil, policies that increase the private investment in domestic production of all energy sources, including crude oil and natural gas, policies which will help stabilize prices to consumers both for gasoline and electricity.

Any policy that we look at that does the opposite, that increases our dependence on foreign crude oil, reduces domestic production, reduces private investment in sources of energy, and arbitrarily increases prices to consumers must be challenged and opposed. These are important. They do not wear party jerseys. They are simply the right answer for America. It is our job to get those policies in place.

#### REPEAL THE TIAHRT AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the repeal of the Tiahrt amendment which is up for a vote in the Appropriations Committee tomorrow.

The Tiahrt amendment restricts the use of firearm tracing data. Tracing data lets our police departments locate the gun dealers who sell guns used in crimes. One percent of gun dealers sell 57 percent of the guns used in the crimes across the country. That is a staggering statistic. If we can crack down on that 1 percent, we can make our streets and our police officers safer.

The collection of tracing data does not prevent anyone from not buying a firearm; it simply gives law enforcement officials the tools they need to do their job. Let's make our streets safer and help law enforcement by repealing the dangerous Tiahrt amendment.

With that, I hope the American people start calling their Congresspeople. This is important for all communities and all cities around this country.

#### NINE NEW ENTITLEMENTS, DECREASED COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

(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, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2669 and in support of the McKeon alternative. As the father of three college graduates and a college sophomore, I understand the financial burden higher education poses on families and students. That is why I am proud of Republican efforts, particularly those of Representatives BUCK MCKEON and RIC KELLER to expand college access and increase affordability.

As lawmakers, our number one education priority should be to ensure that college is affordable for any student. Unfortunately, H.R. 2669 pits the Federal Family Education Loan program against the Direct Loan Program and creates an imbalance in the student loan industry. Instead of helping students, the Democrat entitlement bill would require student borrowers to pay thousands more for a college education. H.R. 2669 creates nine new entitlement programs, placing the interests of colleges and universities above the needs of low-income students, and does nothing to expand college access and affordability for middle-class families.

Congress should not be playing politics with college educations. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the McKeon alternative.

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

□ 1015

#### ADMINISTRATION'S BENCHMARKS ON IRAQ

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday the President will issue an interim report on the Iraqi government's success or failure meeting the benchmarks. But prior to taking a look at that report, we have another set of benchmarks to look at; that is, the benchmarks for President Bush's administration and what they've done on the Iraqi policy.

When the war began, The White House said that Americans would be greeted as liberators. That's not happening.

Next we were told oil revenues would finance the reconstruction of the Iraqi society. Not happening.

Then we were told that the insurgency was in its last throes. Not happening.

Then we were told that we were planting a democracy in the heart of the Mideast. Not happening.

At every turn, the administration's benchmarks for the Iraqi strategy have failed to meet their own measure of success. And the American people have been asked to pay for this failure.

Two years ago, we were spending \$5 billion a month in Iraq. It is now reported that we're up to \$10 billion a month in resources, not counting the amount of lives we lose on a monthly basis.

Mr. Speaker, we've waited long enough. The President's strategy of more troops, more time, more money and more of the same has run its course. It's time for a new direction.

#### DON'T CALL THEM RADICAL ISLAMIC TERRORISTS

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