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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 22, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: O God, You are the source of all that exists. In You there is no falsehood. Make us realistic in our faith. Free us from illusions about ourselves and our world of importance. Help Congress, by our prayer today, to build consistent priorities for the Nation and legislate justice which will lead to peace.

Open our eyes to see the wonders of the world around us. Open our hearts to the wonders of our brothers and sisters who work with us. Together, enable us to read the signs of the times and respond with prudence according to Your wisdom and provident love, both now and forever.
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 gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AUDREY SMITH CAMPBELL

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

Mr. WEINER. My colleagues, several months ago the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Center in the West Bronx unilaterally decided to stop making payments to the health care fund for its employees. Before some of my colleagues tsk-tsk, "Well, that's just the free market at work," as the Daily News and their award-winning columnist, Errol Lewis, pointed out, this center has made \$5.2 million in profits last year, and its CEO, Helen Sieger, made \$700,000 in her salary, all of it paid for by Medicaid funds, our tax dollars.

Well, Audrey Smith Campbell and 220 of her colleagues decided they weren't going to take it, they were going to go on strike. Audrey Smith Campbell was not a union activist or an ideologue, she was, for 30 years, a certified nurse assistant caring for her parents and her grandparents, giving them dignity in their most vulnerable moments.

She knew she wasn't ever going to get paid what she's worth, but she wanted to be paid at least enough to live on. Well, Audrey Smith Campbell

is dead. She died after having a severe asthma attack because she couldn't afford to pay for her medication when she was on strike. She should be honored for the way she lived, and we should all be ashamed for the reason she died.

HONORING MARVIN BELKIN

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and celebration of the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding and pay tribute to a man who contributed greatly to the freedom and democracy enjoyed both by Israel and the United States.

Marvin Belkin enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 18 to fight in World War II, and by the age of 19 he was a bomber captain. Ultimately, he flew 51 combat missions over the South Pacific until his plane was shot down on New Year's Day in 1945, when he was subsequently taken prisoner. He was a prisoner of war until August of 1945 when the hostilities with Japan ended.

In 1947, Marvin answered the call again and volunteered to travel to Palestine to help support the formation of the State of Israel. In Palestine, Marvin worked to establish the ground school of the Israeli Air Force. He remained in Israel through the War of Independence, playing an active role in training the new Israeli Air Force pilots. Upon returning to the United States in 1949, Marvin was again called back into military service as an instructor during the Korean War.

Marvin Belkin's commitment to Israel and the United States is symbolic of the relationship shared by our two nations and his service should be commended, for without it, we may not be here today to celebrate Israel's independence.

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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To all the citizens of Israel, I wish you a great happy birthday. I look forward to the continued growth and strengthening of our relationship with you, our ally and our friend.

HONORING ROBERT RACLIN

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Robert Raclin. Bob's service to his country and his family's service to South Bend are unparalleled. His family is well known for their business leadership and philanthropy through our community.

Bob joined the Marines in 1940 and served our country during World War II. His dedication to country and community continued long after he completed his military commitment.

Bob showed leadership in all his work, serving as a director, chairman, or president with a number of organizations. Bob also served the Federal Government as Deputy Undersecretary of Health and Human Services during the Reagan administration.

Bob Raclin was a devoted husband, a loving father, and an invaluable citizen of this country. On behalf of all the citizens of the Second District of Indiana, I want to thank Bob Raclin for his many years of service to our region and our country.

It is my honor to rise and recognize Bob's achievements during his long and faithful life. May God bless Robert and all those that he loved.

NEWSWEEK: "THE COOLING WORLD"

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I am alarmed by news in Newsweek magazine. I quote: "There are ominous signs that the Earth's weather patterns have begun to change dramatically, and these changes may cause a drastic decline in food production.

"The evidence has begun to accumulate so massively that meteorologists are hard pressed to keep up with it. The changes in temperature have taken the planet a sixth of the way toward the Ice Age average."

That's right, Mr. Speaker, this article from April 1975 predicts the next ice age. It even suggests melting the polar cap and stockpiling food.

I believed these scientists and thought we were going to all freeze in the dark. Now meteorologists are claiming we're all doomed because of global warming. These meteorologists can't even predict tomorrow's weather, but claim to know as fact about global warming in the future.

The climate is changing, but is it man's fault? Is it getting too cold or too hot? Can we control the weather? Scientists even today disagree.

Before Congress continues to practice the religion of global warming and passing expensive legislation that takes away our personal liberty, we'd better come back to Earth and deal with the truth.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING BESS MITSAKOS

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to congratulate a teacher in my district who has been recognized for her excellence in teaching. Bess Mitsakos from the Wallace School in Hoboken, New Jersey, received the International Technology Educators Association Program Excellence Award for elementary schools in New Jersey on February 22, 2008.

Ms. Mitsakos began her teaching career 9 years ago and has spent the last 7 years as a kindergarten through fifth grade science teacher. In that short time, she has become a highly decorated teacher, with a number of awards to her name.

Ms. Mitsakos is committed to increasing student interest, engagement, and learning through the use of computer-based educational tools as well as engineering and technological design activities.

I have no doubt that her students will have a strong science, math and engineering foundation that will help them succeed in life. I am proud to recognize her and her accomplishments, and I wish her continued success.

LET'S USE AMERICA'S OWN RESOURCES

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Well, last week the House and Senate adopted a policy that admits that supply does matter. We voted to stop putting 70,000 barrels of oil each day in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the world's consumption of oil. Then Iran announced it was going to slow down production.

In the meantime, the U.S. has massive supplies of oil that we're saying "no" to, and Congress continues to say we're not going to drill. Well, "no" is not an energy policy. Begging the Saudis for oil is not an energy policy. Just yelling in cathartic sessions at oil executives is not an energy policy.

America's families know, America's truckers know, let's drill for our own oil. Let's use America's own resources. Let's lower the price of gasoline and make this affordable.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

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

Mr. CHILDERS. This month marks the 75th anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

On May 18, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into the law the TVA Act as part of his New Deal to help lift this Nation out of the Great Depression. Soon thereafter, the city of Tupelo, Mississippi, which is part of the First Congressional District that I now am proud to represent, became the first city to receive power service under the initial TVA wholesale power contract. Furthermore, Tupelo, Mississippi also serves as the home of the Honorable Glen McCullough, the only TVA chairman ever from Mississippi.

In 1933, the Tennessee River Valley faced many challenges and lagged behind this country in almost every indicator, including schools, health and jobs. From the beginning, TVA addressed problems in the valley through providing necessary employment and aspirations of hope to the citizens of Mississippi. TVA has a long and proud history of serving north Mississippi, providing reliable, affordable electricity, supporting a thriving river system, and stimulating economic growth.

I am proud to be the newest serving Member of Congress to represent the First District of Mississippi and our fellow members of the Tennessee Valley.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ED AND JAN SLEVIN

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, my colleague KEN CALVERT and I want to express our love and admiration for Jan and Ed Slevin.

The congressional schedule may not allow our attendance at their 50th anniversary, a celebration that is taking place on June 20.

Both KEN and I want our colleagues to know much more about this outstanding couple and their decades of public service. So together, we are asking consent to include remarks in the RECORD reflecting their lives together and their contribution to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING AMERICAN IDOL WINNER DAVID COOK

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate a fellow Missourian, David Cook, winner of American Idol: Season 7.

Here are some pertinent facts: Native of Blue Springs, Missouri; While attending Blue Springs High School performed in The Music Man, West Side Story, and Singin' in the Rain;

Cook formed the band, Axium, his junior year of high school, for which he was the lead singer and guitarist. In 2004, Axium, was chosen the best band in Kansas City and was