

safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

□ 1215

THANK YOU, PRESIDENT BUSH

(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, yesterday we witnessed an achievement of democracy, the peaceful transfer of power and welcoming our new President, Barack Obama. I want to congratulate President Obama and wish him well.

I wish to thank President George W. Bush for his service to this Nation and, most importantly, his support of our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, along with their intelligence services and first responders. As a veteran and father of four military sons, I believe President Bush should always be appreciated for defeating terrorism overseas to protect American families at home. The Bush success is clear today. We have not been attacked in the last 7 years.

Today I look forward to working with President Obama as we have a respectful debate on the future of our Nation. We must work together for prosperity and security for all Americans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th. My deepest sympathy to the family of the late Camilla Knotts Williams, 100 years of age, of Orangeburg, South Carolina.

TRUTH LIES SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE

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

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, I come to Congress as a career prosecutor, someone whose job it has been to sort through facts in search of the truth. In my career, I have found that usually the truth lies somewhere in the middle. Running for Congress gave me the opportunity to meet with people with divergent opinions.

But what I found was that as differing as their opinions may have been, more often than not they shared the same goals for their families and communities. Most wanted more financial stability. They wanted to send their children to college, and they wanted a government that didn't interfere with their small business, but provided incentive and opportunity to grow. People agreed that a clean and healthy Chesapeake was vital to our region, whether they valued the bay for sport, commerce or tourism, and they wanted a Congress that applied oversight to every penny they appropriated.

The long and short was that my constituents there were just as different, they shared the same goals. In my first

days as a Member of Congress, I found the same to be true of my colleagues. I pledged to my constituents that I would work with both sides of the aisle in order to help accomplish these common goals, and that is the same promise I make to my colleagues. No party has a monopoly on good ideas, and, as always, if we work in a bipartisan manner, we will find that the truth is somewhere in the middle.

PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

(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. Madam Speaker, yesterday we once again witnessed the greatest of American traditions, the peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected President and leader of our Nation to another.

Whether in times of peace or prosperity or war and economic difficulty, this great Nation has never wavered from its commitment to democracy and to the power of the American people to choose our leaders. This model of how a free people govern themselves is truly America's greatest gift to the world.

At a time of great challenges facing our Nation, our new President was met with a sense of hope and an outpouring of support from the ever optimistic American people. And whether you consider yourself a Republican or a Democrat, Barack Obama today is a President for every American.

It is now time for us, in this Congress, to work together to help our new President govern through these troubled times. Throughout our Nation's history, Madam Speaker, we have proven that united we can overcome any hardship and defeat any foe.

I extend best wishes to our new President and my colleagues as we work together to do our best on behalf of the American people.

HONORING HOUSTON METRO POLICE OFFICER ELIOT SWAINSON

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday the theme "One America" rose to the highest mountain tops as we celebrated the inauguration of President Barack Obama and Vice President BIDEN. There were many great heroes yesterday, those in the audience and those working for us.

I rise today to congratulate one of my own, Houston Metro Police Officer Eliot Swainson, who, with his quick reaction, saved a 68-year-old woman who fell on a train station. With his attention to detail, seeing the Red Line train coming very fast, he directed the woman to get under a cove area and remain there because they could not pull her up in time.

Officer Swainson exhibited quick service, a quick attitude and a great deal of hope, and I am grateful that there were many from my community who were here to observe and congratulate Officer Eliot Swainson, a 15-year Houston Metro Police veteran. They were Rev. Samuel Smith, Rev. Harvey Clements, Bishop James Dixon, Rev. Lightfoot, Rev. Marcus Crosby, Rev. Kirby John Caldwell, Rev. Edwin Davis and many others who are so very proud of the idea that we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

Thank you, Houston Metro Police Officer Eliot Swainson. We wish you well, and we wish you the continued attitude that in America we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

MEDIA'S DOUBLE STANDARD ON INAUGURATION COSTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday we witnessed the hallmark of democracy of the peaceful transfer of power. And, like President Obama, we all wish our country a prosperous future.

Although the national media strongly criticized President Bush for the cost of his inauguration in 2005, such criticism has been predictably scarce for President Obama, even though his inauguration was more than twice as expensive as President Bush's. For example, a New York Times editorial in 2005 suggested that the war in Iraq should dictate restraint for President Bush's inauguration.

We now face two wars and serious economic challenges, yet the Times offered no similar criticism of yesterday's event. Expensive inaugurations are nothing new, and I am sure many who faced traffic congestion and long lines yesterday wished even more had been spent on this year's celebration.

But we need the media to be evenhanded in its treatment of Republican and Democratic inaugurations, not guilty of a double standard.

SEIZE THIS MOMENT IN TIME

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, some among us believe that government holds the keys to our prosperous future. Some have argued that only government can solve our challenges.

I beg to differ. Our freedom, our liberty, indeed, our ability to live as free people and thrive is directly proportionate to the limiting of government in our lives and in our pocketbooks.

We established a Constitution to "secure the Blessings of Liberty." Our country was founded on the principle of limited government.

Let us not mistake the need for a more promising economic future as an

excuse to allow further encroachment of government in our lives. Let us seize this moment in time to secure our liberties by limiting our government. More government, more taxes, more spending of the people's money will not solve our challenges. Securing liberty will.

The United States of America is the greatest country on the face of the planet, but liberty, not bigger government, will allow us to prosper.

TAXPAYER DOLLARS MUST BE SPENT WITH ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, taxpayer dollars must be spent with accountability and transparency. To date, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, commonly known as TARP, has failed to meet the commonsense standard of fiscal responsibility.

TARP was established last fall as an emergency plan to prop up the ailing financial markets, but, today, we have far more questions than answers. Taxpayers have already lost \$64 billion on the first round of investments made through TARP. The new administration has asked this Congress to double down on TARP and rubber stamp another \$350 billion without credible assurance of future results.

With a \$1.2 trillion deficit on the books and a nearly \$1 trillion stimulus package looming, these are resources we cannot afford to spend without responsible oversight.

Western New York's economy is in a perilous state. What we need right now is swift bipartisan action that creates jobs and spurs future economic growth, not another bloated Washington program that overpromises and underdelivers.

I hope my colleagues will reject any attempt to rubber stamp the TARP Program and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, not wastefully.

CONGRATULATING OUR NATION'S 44TH PRESIDENT, BARACK OBAMA

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in congratulating our Nation's 44th President, Barack Obama, on his inauguration. This is truly a historic moment for our Nation.

We are all Americans first and, as Republicans, stand ready and willing to work with the President in restoring economic growth, creating jobs, restoring physical integrity and protecting our Nation's security.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will surely have honest differences on what the best direction is for us as a country.

But all of us start this Congress with tremendous hope for President

Obama's success. Madam Speaker, some of us grew up at a time of segregation and division in our Nation. But with President Obama's election and inauguration as President, all of us better understand what Dr. King told us when he said, "Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart."

WILLING AND READY TO WORK TOGETHER

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, yesterday was an absolutely glorious day. We watched the peaceful transfer of power from one President to the next. Standing there, I had the great honor of looking out at millions of my fellow countrymen and women who came together to stand there beside our great memorials to watch this event.

Everything went so beautifully that I felt that I wanted to thank those who were involved in making the process happen. I would like to thank all of the security that came and the men and women here who work every single day as our guards and our fire department and others who committed themselves to such a day.

So it was a day to celebrate and, certainly, we have turned a page in history. And we are willing and ready to work together to move this Nation forward.

DESIGNEE FOR SECRETARY OF TREASURY POSES PROBLEM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, as Members of the House of Representatives, we don't get a vote on confirmation of Cabinet appointments. But at the same time, that does not absolve us of the responsibility to speak out when we see a problem and, currently, the designee for the Secretary of the Treasury poses an enormous problem for this House and for the Senate.

Now, Madam Speaker, my constituents have trouble with taxes, just as all of our constituents have trouble with taxes, and sometimes they get into real difficulty. But it doesn't, it doesn't absolve them of their obligation to pay their taxes and their interest and their fines because, of course, we have many thousands of people who paid their taxes honestly. I speak to you about that as someone who ran their own business and had to pay payroll taxes.

Whether this was a mistake or an evasion, yesterday, when President Obama spoke about a call to service but also underscored a call to com-

petence, mistake or evasion, it certainly doesn't underscore either.

HONORING DR. DAVID LAND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. David Land, a gracious contributor to the Third District of Arkansas, who passed away earlier this year.

Dr. Land was the superintendent of Omaha schools for more than 22 years, but he wasn't just an administrator. He was a mentor and a friend to the staff and students who knew him as "Doc." Doc spent his life as an educator and showed that actions do speak louder than words. He fixed tiles in the cafeteria, jump-started students' cars, drove the bus to field trips and wrote grants for the small school district. These actions weren't out of the ordinary for this extraordinary man.

He was named the Arkansas Rural Association's 2005 Northwest Arkansas Superintendent of the Year. Doc spent his life as an administrator, but it wasn't just a job, it was something that he loved.

When a friend talked to him and asked about retirement, Doc said, "What else would I do? This is my life."

Madam Speaker, Doc will certainly be missed. I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to honor and celebrate the life of this wonderful man.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1230

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 73) observing the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 73

Whereas Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, was born January 15, 1929;