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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 25, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN 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: Let us rejoice in the Lord.

In His beauty, we trace our creation. In His compassion and mercy, we claim our salvation.

In profound humility, we offer our works of justice and our public service on behalf of others, and so we find fulfillment.

To the Lord, we commend this Nation, its people, its resources and its leadership.

May all give You, Lord God, glory, praise, honor, and thanksgiving, today 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS)

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

Mr. SHIMKUS 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.

NORMALIZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLICS OF ARMENIA AND TURKEY

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

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to recent encouraging developments concerning discussions between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Armenia.

On August 31, 2009, Turkey and Armenia, along with Switzerland, which acted as broker for the talks, announced two protocols and a timetable for normalizing relationships between Armenia and Turkey. These protocols have been initialed by both foreign ministries.

While many have seen the longstanding disputes between Turkey and Armenia as intractable, the recent announcement gives hope that these two countries have taken the first tangible steps on the road to reconciliation. The Protocol for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey reinforces the willingness of these two governments to open their shared border and to advance bilateral relations, including trade and economic cooperation.

Although this process still faces a number of hurdles, including ratification by the two countries' respective parliaments, I am encouraged by and applaud the initial important steps Turkey and Armenia have taken to strengthen their relations by beginning an open dialogue on some of the major issues that divide them. I commend Switzerland for its important role.

My four little boys—Penn, Aubrey, Wyatt, and Sullivan—and all of the children of the world, whether Turkish, Armenian or American, benefit when diplomacy succeeds.

BIG GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE SOLUTION

(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, American families are concerned that the failed solutions they see coming out of Washington all have the same themes: more government, more taxes, more borrowing, and more spending.

At a time when our government is heavily in debt and when our economy is losing jobs, more spending and more taxes are not strategies that will produce jobs or that will protect the value of our currency.

With health insurance reform, we need solutions that are built on strengthening individual choice and on protecting the doctor-patient relationship. We need to expand competition in the health insurance market by letting individuals shop for plans across State lines. Rather than a plan that empowers the government, we can empower individuals and small businesses to band together to secure affordable health care.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 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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