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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, true humility will not automatically come to us when we choose to bow our heads in prayer or when we acknowledge our sins or shortcomings. More often, we are most humbled when overwhelming circumstances far exceed our control or natural disasters or human events surprise us.

Lord, the horrific tragedy of biblical proportions in Haiti has deeply touched us all. At the same time, this island community has called forth from the contemporary world a flood of compassionate prayer and created a mighty force of coordinating resources, personal generosity and heroic action.

Grant wisdom, prudence, and fortitude to rescue workers, medical teams and caretakers who deliver aid and supplies.

Your mighty presence is known, Lord, when true poverty casts a fresh light on another's wealth, when the weakness of some brings forth greater strength from the rest. Sickness leans on the healthy. The dead are lifted up and buried to protect the living.

How noble is this great sacrifice of the living and the dead. The human proportions of such love cannot be measured. We watch and say, "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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 228. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most of the American people oppose the government plan to take over health care. It costs too much; it borrows too much; it taxes too much; it's inefficient; and it gives government bureaucrats the control of our personal medical decisions. We should just fix what's broken.

People should be able to buy health insurance across State lines to get competitive rates. Small businesses should be able to pool together to get better rates through larger risk pools. Businesses that help take care of their employees should get tax breaks rather than tax increases. People should own

their own health insurance policies—and that's real portability.

If anybody loses or leaves their jobs, they don't lose their insurance. People should not be cancelled for having pre-existing conditions, and we should figure out a way to provide for catastrophic illness, catastrophic injury and affordability.

These are things that most Members agree on. These things don't cost billions of dollars. These things help keep government out of the doctor's office. We should fix what the American people want us to fix and keep the government from destroying America's health.

And that's just the way it is.

BOBBY SALCEDO

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution decrying the shocking violence of the Mexican drug cartels, and I am urging the Mexican Government to bring to justice those responsible for the killing of Bobby Salcedo and of countless innocent bystanders.

This past New Year's Eve, Bobby Salcedo, a young elected official and rising star from my district in El Monte, California, was brutally executed in Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico. Despite having no connection to the Mexican drug trade, Mr. Salcedo's death is part of a recent and pervasive surge in violence against innocent bystanders. Bobby's death reminds us that the violence of the Mexican drug cartels is not in some faraway land but that it affects us here in the United States as well.

This violence must be stopped. Bobby's killers must be brought to justice. That is why I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution in urging the United States and Mexico to bring an

□ 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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