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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. Latta).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT E. Latta to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

END THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Jones) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, DENNIS KUCINICH, RON PAUL, and I, along with other colleagues, held a press conference to announce House Concurrent Resolution 28, which would require the President to withdraw all United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2011.

Last month's USA Today/Gallup poll, 72 percent of Americans favor congressional action this year to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

This week the Rasmussen Report finds that 52 percent of voters want our troops home from Afghanistan this year. To quote this poll, "A majority of voters, for the first time, support an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Afghanistan or the creation of a timetable to bring them all home within a year."

Fourteen months ago, I asked a retired military general to advise me on Afghanistan. I have asked him for his thoughts, and I will read some of them to you. Back in November, I emailed this general and I said, What do you think about the possibility of being in Afghanistan for 4 more years?

Mr. Speaker, he replied, "I do not believe that 40 more years would guarantee 'victory,' whatever that is; so 4 will do nothing. The war is costing money and lives, all in short supply."

Mr. Speaker, there is a retired lieutenant colonel in Jacksonville, North Carolina, which is in my district, who served in the United States Marine Corps for 31 years. His name is Dennis Adams. He wrote me a letter, and the last paragraph of the letter I would like to read to the House.

"I urge you to make contact with all the current and newly elected men and women to Congress and ask them to end this war and bring our young men and women home. If any of my comments will assist you in this effort, you are welcome to use them and my name."

Mr. Speaker, I want to show the faces. I want to show the faces of war and the faces of pain.

This is a young man whose name is Phillip Jordan. At the time of his father's death—his father was a gunnery sergeant—he was 6 years of age. I wish the people could see the eyes of this young boy, 6 years of age, with a folded flag under his arm and the coffin that is following right behind him. This is war. Children feel war as adults feel war.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to show a poster from the honor guard at Dover walking a transfer case, which most people know is a coffin. It's the remains of an American hero off the plane. This again is war and the pain of war.

Mr. Speaker, this is a beautiful, handsome couple. It's a young marine, his wife, and his child. This young marine had been deployed so much that he developed PTSD. A year ago, on the main drag at Camp Lejeune known as McHugh Boulevard, he committed suicide. He stepped out of the car, he put a gun to his head, and he committed suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress would join Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAUL, and others in this House and let's have a debate, and let's vote. Let's meet our constitutional responsibility, and let's bring our troops home before we break the military. It is time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, as I always do, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to love the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, and I ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we would do what is right in the eyes of God. I ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God.

And three times I will ask, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

DIRTY AIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Cohen) for 1 minute.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to Chairman UPTON's dirty air act.

□ 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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