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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this people's House for the leadership of our Nation.

Along with millions of men and women around the world, we join in praying for those in leadership in our world. Those You have entrusted to lead in local and national governments in this Nation and all the nations of the world, guide them, Lord, with wisdom and truth.

May they seek You in the decisions they make and in the way they live. In praying for them, we are also reminded to pray this morning for those on life's margins who are affected by extreme poverty, poor health care, polluted and diseased water, unjust societies, division and terror, and those who do not have the opportunity to receive a quality education.

Lord, the suffering of our world is all around us. Stimulate our hearts and minds so that everything we may do this day would be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE)

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE 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

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

GHIDOTTI HIGH NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William and Mary Ghidotti High School in Grass Valley for being one of the 335 schools to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School this year.

First established by President Reagan in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes excellence in K-12 public and private schools who demonstrate a commitment to closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

This award is certainly fitting for Ghidotti. As a small school in Nevada County in northern California, with an emphasis on personalized learning, students are challenged daily to excel in leadership, technology, and critical thinking, helping them prepare to be college and career ready.

To the students, teachers, and administrators: Congratulations on this distinct honor and thank you for your work in setting the standard of excellence in education for our students in northern California.

END THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in a FOX News interview yesterday, the Republican speaker-in-waiting admitted to something that we have all known all along, and that is that the real motive of the Select Committee on Benghazi was simply to politically attack and drive down the poll numbers for Hillary Clinton, spending millions of taxpayer dollars for a political mission.

And, unbelievably, the speaker-in-waiting mentioned this in response to a question as to what were the accomplishments of the Republican Congress, the accomplishments of this Congress. The number one accomplishment that he came up with was to use taxpayer dollars to create a committee for the specific purpose of affecting the Presidential campaign and driving down the polling numbers of a Democratic candidate.

Is that your job when it took until yesterday to get a budget for just 2 months to the floor of this House, but you spend millions of dollars, thousands of hours, specifically for the purposes of driving down the polling numbers of a Presidential candidate in the Democratic Party?

Give me a break. This has gone too far. Something needs to change in this House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL DAVE "CHEESE" BURG

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Colonel Dave "Cheese" Burg on his outstanding

□ 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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