

appoints the following Members of the House to the committee to notify the President:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

—————

AUTHORIZING CHAIR AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF EACH STANDING COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE TO EXTEND REMARKS IN RECORD

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the chair and ranking minority member of each standing committee and each subcommittee be permitted to extend their remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, up to and including the Record's last publication, and to include a summary of the work of that committee or subcommittee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

—————

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO REVISE AND EXTEND REMARKS IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD UNTIL LAST EDITION IS PUBLISHED

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have until publication of the last edition of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD authorized for the Second Session of the 111th Congress by the Joint Committee on Printing to revise and extend their remarks and to include brief, related extraneous material on any matter occurring before the adjournment of the Second Session sine die.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

—————

APPOINTMENT—BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 205(a) of the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-554), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation:

Upon the recommendation of the majority leader:

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, California.

—————

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, your committee appointed to inform the President that the House is ready to adjourn and to ask him if he has any further communications to make to the House has performed that duty and

advises me that the President has directed them to say that he has no further communications to make to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

—————

THIS IS NO WAY TO RUN A GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this bill that's just passed has been indicative of how things have gone here in this last 2 years. People didn't have a chance to read the bill. People didn't have a chance to make amendments to the bill.

There is no question the heroes from 9/11 deserved our full attention. They deserved to have proper moneys raised in proper ways in order to fund their proper treatment. That should have been done, but it wasn't. No, we come rushing in here at the last minute, and in fact, there were 176 Democrats that voted. It took 42 Republicans voting to give a quorum to get enough people so the vote would count. We had to wait over an hour for people to fly in from different places.

Is that any way to run a government? Is that any way to handle the business regarding heroes? And by the way, we're told, well, this will be paid for. One of the ways we're going to get a bunch of money to pay for that is our troops are in the Middle East, and we have to buy things from vendors over there, and we're going to slap a 2 percent tax on everything they sell to us. Our servicemembers will pay for it.

This is no way to run a government.

—————

THE AFGHANISTAN REVIEW:  
THAT'S IT?

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, after more than 9 years of the war in Afghanistan and a troop surge that supposedly was going to turn the tide, all we have are modest gains that are fragile and reversible. For the price of \$377 billion, the lives of 1,400 brave Americans, that's it?

We need to hear more than "the challenges are tough and there are difficult days ahead." We need to hear more than "stay the course" platitudes that do little to eliminate the situation for the American people who are footing the bill.

Columnist Eugene Robinson assessed the review this way: "The good news is that President Obama's strategy in Afghanistan is 'on track.' The bad news is that the track runs in a circle."

Round and round on that track we go, Madam Speaker. More of our finest young people thrown into harm's way, more dollars flying out of the Treasury, more of our global credibility destroyed.

And because the track runs in a circle, we always seem to wind up in the same place—no closer to defeating the terrorists, no progress made on key national security objectives.

Here are some unvarnished facts you didn't hear emphasized in the Afghanistan review:

Casualties are rising to record-setting levels. The Taliban remains not just viable but robust, while Afghan governance remains ineffective at best, corrupt at worst.

Hamid Karzai remains an unreliable loose cannon, lashing out—according to one report—that he'd choose the Taliban over the United States and the international community.

The security situation continues to deteriorate, with violence so great that the Red Cross says it's nearly impossible for them to do their humanitarian work.

An article in the Washington Post several days ago put it best: "Afghanistan still remains a violent chaotic nation with as many signs of American defeat as of victory."

With that context, what do we make of Secretary Gates saying that progress in Afghanistan has "exceeded my expectations"? I shudder to think at just how low his expectations were.

The American people, however, have high expectations. That's why 60 percent of them, according to a recent poll, believe that this war isn't worth fighting.

Sixty percent, Madam Speaker! My friends on the other side of the aisle are claiming a ringing mandate with less public support than that.

And the Afghan people are no more enthusiastic. Not even one-third of them rate the work of the work of the U.S. in their country as excellent or good.

And despite all this, the response appears to be not an accelerated drawdown, but an escalation of violence.

There are reports that the United States is considering expanding the war across the border in an unprecedented way, with risky and dangerous Special Operations ground raids into Pakistan.

We can't take much more, Madam Speaker. This occupation has been given every chance to succeed. The time for patience has long since passed. It's time to bring the troops home.

—————

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, we've had a long, tough Congress, and we come to the end of it, and I'm sorry that my good friend from Texas implied the vote was held open for some nefarious reasons.

We passed the bill for our first responders a long time ago, and they finally got around to it over in the Senate. Those people were important, and it was important that we wait and make sure it gets over here and we get it passed into law.

Unfortunately, one of our Members had gone home to visit her grandmother, who is near the end of her life, and the plane was coming in and trying to drive in the traffic of the rush hour