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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2012, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012

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 of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

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

As the Members disperse to their various districts and our Nation enters a week which ends with the Memorial Day, may we all retreat from the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self and, for so many, of life, would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls 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 Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COURTNEY 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 from each side of the aisle.

THE PHOTO ID

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you need a photo ID to rent a car, open a bank account, get admitted to a hospital, get out of the country, get into the country, buy a gun, check into a hotel, rent a U-Haul, use a credit card, buy a lottery ticket, serve on a jury, get a fishing license, pick up a package at the post office, rent an apartment, visit a public school, and sell scrap metal at a junkyard or hear the Attorney General speak. You even need a photo ID to vote—in Mexico, but not the U.S.

Yesterday, it was reported that 53,000 dead people and thousands of noncitizens may be illegally registered to vote in Florida. Sixty-four percent of U.S.

voters think that voter fraud is a problem.

Even though the Supreme Court has ruled voter ID laws are constitutional, the Attorney General is fighting against those legal laws. Why? It seems the people who would be disenfranchised by voter ID laws would be unlawful voters.

And that's just the way it is.

PREPARE FOR PEACE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, if you want peace, you prepare for peace. If you want war, you prepare for war.

The NDAA prepares for war against Iran. It calls for pre-positioning planes, bombs, ships, munitions, and for naval maneuvers in the Strait of Hormuz. This is not about defense; this is about offense.

I was a third-string quarterback on a not-very-good varsity football team, and I knew the difference and know the difference between defense and offense.

We're preparing to go on offense against Iran, which does not have nuclear weapons and has no intention or real capability to attack the United States. We're about to make the same disastrous mistake we made against Iraq.

This bill does not explicitly authorize war, perhaps, but that's beside the point. It's licensing it. It sets the stage for it in an election year.

Wake up, Congress.

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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