

missions work over in Mexico or Alaska, he desired to be a servant for the Lord. As a member of the Harley Davidson Owners group in Gastonia, he spent that opportunity as well in service to the Lord. Baker was attending the University of Nations in Kona, Hawaii, where he was training for missions work in Africa, and in order to attend school he sold his most prized possession, which was his Harley.

Unfortunately, before he left for Africa, he was diagnosed with leukemia. Even in sickness he was a light and an inspiration to all who knew him and came around him during that time. He was always smiling and always faithful, and he was a witness of God's love even in very difficult circumstances. A very special person, we will always remember him.

#### PROTECTING AIR QUALITY

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to inform colleagues that North Carolina has become the first southern State to impose tough new pollution standards on aging coal-fired power plants.

This bipartisan legislation is an initiative of Governor Mike Easley, with the collaboration of industry and of environmental and public health advocates. It requires plants to reduce their sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 74 and 78 percent, respectively. These standards will improve the quality of life for North Carolinians, and they will save lives by reducing the incidence and severity of respiratory illness.

Ironically, as North Carolina takes steps to improve air quality, the Bush administration has proposed a major step backward, actually weakening the Clean Air Act. The EPA's proposed loosening of "new source review" regulations would allow thousands of the country's biggest polluters to avoid installing pollution-control equipment as they update and modernize their plants. So even though North Carolina will be doing its part to reduce pollution that causes ozone and acid rain, our State will continue to be stricken by pollution from other States.

North Carolina has taken a significant step, Mr. Speaker. I am hopeful that this will stiffen EPA's spine, to give all Americans the protection they need.

#### THE CALIFORNIA JUDICIARY

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that yesterday the Ninth Circuit ruled in complete and total disregard for the wishes of the people of California. I heard earlier speakers address

the House and talk of the vacancies, and there are five on the Ninth Circuit, specifically because of the inaction of the Senate; and I would like to associate myself with those who have called for the Senate to take appropriate action.

But more importantly here today as a Californian, I want to make it very clear that when we are called the "left coast," they are only speaking about our courts; they are only speaking about the insane actions that often come from our judiciary. They are not speaking about the people of California up and down the State who embrace America's core values, including one Nation under God, indivisible.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair would again remind all Members that it is not appropriate during debate to urge action by the other body.

#### OUTRAGE OVER PRESCRIPTION DRUG RULE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are one Nation under God, but God please help this House of Representatives. For the outrageous procedure that the Committee on Rules did this morning, we need God's blessing. For years and years seniors in our country have needed a prescription drug benefit, and yet early this morning Medicare was styled as a Soviet-style health care plan in the Committee on Rules, Medicare that was passed and had provided health care for seniors for over 35 years called Soviet care.

Well, the Soviet concern is what the procedure is today in the House of Representatives, not allowing an option except on the Republican prescription drug bill that is so filled with holes, it leaks so bad, no senior will be able to get any prescription drugs. They will not have these lifesaving pharmaceuticals. Now they are not turning on their electricity, they are taking half prescriptions, and yet the Republicans today are giving them a sieve to be able to sift through.

#### SHOCKED AND APPALLED BY NINTH CIRCUIT'S DECISION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, like most Americans I believe in this country, I believe in God, and I believe in the power and importance of allegiance to our flag. As such, like millions of Americans, I was shocked and appalled by the Ninth Circuit's pledge decision.

Mr. Speaker, we open this House in prayer to God. The walls of this temple of democracy bear His name, but it is unconstitutional for our children to name God as they acknowledge their fealty to that very same Nation? Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this decision is part of a 35-year effort by radical secularists who would twist the freedom of religion into a freedom from religion.

We must reject this course of judiciary decisions. I pledge myself to fight every decision by the judiciary that seeks to drive expressions of faith, the Ten Commandments and voluntary prayer from schools, out of every corner of American life, so help me God.

#### MEDICARE WITHERING ON THE VINE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Republican candidate for President several years ago proudly voted against Medicare. The former Speaker, Mr. Gingrich, said that he hoped that Medicare would wither on the vine. Many of us wondered what he really meant.

Today, in the Committee on Rules, we found out the truth. A gentleman from Georgia on the Committee on Rules said that there are two proposals before us today, the Republican proposal and a Soviet-style program. When pressed, he said we all know Medicare is a Soviet-style program.

There is where we are. The Republican plan is a plan to privatize Medicare, first by doing the drug benefit and then extending it into the rest. It is a Trojan horse designed to get rid of Medicare, and everybody who votes for that bill today will be setting that in motion.

My mother, my colleagues' mothers, their grandfathers, their fathers, they do not want Medicare to wither on the vine; but this House is prepared to prevent us from giving even an alternative to the American people. That is what Soviets do.

#### RECOGNIZING GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION AND MICHAEL-ANN RUSSEL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Michael-Ann Russel Jewish Community Center to commend them for their efforts on the Interfaith Solidarity with Israel rally which recently took place in my home district of Miami.

I want to especially thank Rachel Sapoznik, international division chairwoman from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Fanny Hanono and Avy