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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANA DEGETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, people approach You, the infinite source of life and love, through various faith traditions. This Nation rejoices and protects the freedom of religious expression of its people as a basic human right. Such tolerance and mutual respect may well prove to be America's greatest export to the rest of the world.

Lord, in our day, as in the past, all religious traditions help individuals, societies, and cultures combat three poisons that the ancients thought would always threaten to destroy us. The three poisons are greed, anger, and ignorance.

With religious insight and righteous discipline, Lord, You empower faith-filled people to fight off such internal disease and become healthy again. Lord, help Your people in these desperate times to find and live into "a cure."

The antidote for greed is justice for all; anger is converted by compassion for others; and ignorance is overcome by knowledge of others and from others. Heal us who call upon Your holy name, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. AKIN 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3528. An act to provide authority to the Peace Corps to provide separation pay

for host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches per side.

JENA, LOUISIANA

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, Members of Congress, people of the United States of America, I stand this morning as chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus to say thank you to the thousands of people who are in Jena, Louisiana as we speak, and the tens of thousands around this country standing for liberty and justice for all.

Unfortunately, a tragic accident happened in Jena, Louisiana. A gentleman has been incarcerated since December; the appeals court has thrown out the conviction; he is still incarcerated. Six young men attacked, two days before the incident that they are in jail for, and now we ask for justice.

This is an important day in the history of our country. We rise, as we just said the Pledge of Allegiance, justice and liberty for all. Congratulations to the attorneys, to the coalition, to the families. Let's retry this in juvenile court where it ought to be and bring justice to the Jena 6. Congratulations, young men. Stand strong. We are with you. God bless.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. PASCAL SPINO

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

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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Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Pascal Spino of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, a remarkable physician.

After serving 60 years as a pediatrician, Dr. Spino is retiring after this long career. In 1954, he founded the first well baby clinic in Westmoreland County, which provides free exams and immunizations to children up to 6 years old. In 1972, Dr. Spino started the Render Any Needy Child Help program to provide medical care for abused children. He then went on to create a Level II nursery and modern pediatric department at Westmoreland Regional Hospital.

Dr. Spino has received a number of recognitions, including Dr. Spino Day in Westmoreland County, for his lifetime commitment to helping others. More than 4,000 people were in attendance, despite a downpour of rain.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Spino's career, personal sacrifice, and devotion to improving our health care system and helping children.

**ARMY STAFF SERGEANT
GREGORY RIVERA-SANTIAGO**

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today bearing the grief of our community at the loss of yet another of our sons in the Iraq war. Army Staff Sergeant Gregory Rivera-Santiago was 26 years old. He was killed when his vehicle overturned in Baghdad. An Honor Guard of the 82nd Airborne Division escorted his body home this Monday. It was his third tour; he would have returned home in November.

In the midst of our deep sadness, I also come to the well of this House with great pride in this young man. An excellent student while at the St. Croix Educational Complex, a courageous soldier, a devoted husband, son, father, and friend.

Staff Sergeant Rivera-Santiago is the seventh soldier we have lost in Iraq from our small territory. It is a tragic reminder of a war gone wrong and gone on for far too long. It is time to begin the process of bringing our men and women home.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, we are eternally grateful for Gregory's life and service, and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, his mother Mrs. Carmen Santiago, his wife Brooke, and their children. God bless them, God bless Gregory, and God bless all who are serving in our Armed Forces.

THE WALL DESECRATERS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "I do not believe that the men who served in uniform in Vietnam have been given the credit they deserve. It was a difficult war against an unorthodox enemy."

These are the words of General Westmoreland in the war where "all gave some and some gave all." But the disrespect continues. Now, despicable vandals have desecrated the sacred black granite Vietnam Wall. An oily, slimy, greasy substance was smeared over the Wall and the walkway. The Park Service is attempting to remove the damage, but the monument desecraters run free.

This monument bears the name of 56,000 warriors. They answered the call for America and they died in their youth. I grew up with friends whose names are on that wall.

The unpatriotic, cowardly, abusing criminals should be tracked down, prosecuted, and put in jail somewhere off the shores of America, maybe Guantanamo Bay.

It has been said that "Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most in America." Now America must be resolved to capture these outlaws and restore dignity to those who died for the rest of us.

And that's just the way it is.

CHIP

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. As one of the original architects of CHIP in Pennsylvania, I have seen firsthand that it is possible to bring together public and private stakeholders and expand health coverage to millions of children, children of working families who cannot afford the increasing cost of coverage.

And now, the Democratic majority is poised to ensure that 10 million uninsured children in this country get the health care they need and deserve. The Democratic majority is delivering on our promise, and I am proud of the work that we have accomplished to expand health care to working families.

The American people understand the importance of getting health care to America's children. 270 organizations representing our Nation's seniors, nurses, unions, businesses have put aside their differences to urge for CHIP reauthorization. American families want and need us to maintain and expand CHIP. Their children are counting on us.

The next step is for Congress to approve this commonsense, compromise legislation, hopefully with Republican support, and send a strong message to the President to support our efforts towards the goal of insuring every American child.

**FORTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CREATION OF THE PEACE
CORPS**

(Mr. KLINE of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 46th anniversary of the United States Peace Corps. Saturday, September 22, marks the date on which Congress approved legislation formally authorizing the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship.

Since that time, more than 187,000 Peace Corps volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from education to agricultural support and environmental preservation. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working and emerging in essential areas such as information technology and business development, and committing more than 1,000 new volunteers as part of the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief.

I am proud that Minnesota's Second District is home to Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges. Both schools, located in Northfield, Minnesota have been recognized nationally for the large number of their graduates serving in the Peace Corps. These volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities. It is an honor to stand before you to recognize the Corps and their volunteers.

**TIME FOR A REAL CHANGE AND
DIRECTION IN IRAQ**

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate to exercise the courage to begin a true new direction in Iraq.

Our brave men and women serving in our military are completing every mission they have been asked; and for that I thank them and America thanks them. But the President keeps moving the goalposts and redefining the mission.

Last week, the President announced a potential drawdown of troops from Iraq by July of 2008, leaving approximately 130,000 troops in Iraq. This is no change, and it is unacceptable.

The American people will not be fooled by these smoke-and-mirror tactics. The President said the surge was intended to provide time for the Iraqis to make political progress; yet, there has been no political progress and no improvement in the situation in Iraq. The Iraqis have only met 3 of 18 benchmarks for success, all the while they are mired in a religious civil war.

Enough is enough. It is time for real change and direction in Iraq.

**A STRONG BULGARIA-INDIA
RELATIONSHIP**

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