

delved into its antecedents like the Magna Carta and the Articles of Confederation. They deal with the Civil War and the challenges to our constitutional ideals and the practicality of governance in a time of war. They pondered the struggle to give all Americans the promises embedded in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. They explored the conflict between the rule of law and its too often flawed implementation.

It was really heartwarming to be able to witness the discussion between the judges, who were all skilled professionals—professors, lawyers, judges volunteering their time—and these terrific young citizens. Indeed, some of the exchanges were riveting. I found myself reflecting on how much easier would be our job in Congress if there were more Americans who were part of this extraordinary experience.

These young people have been part of a program making a difference for a quarter century now. We've got data that show its effectiveness. These young people score a third higher than adult citizens on their knowledge of the Constitution and civic affairs. And good news for America: looking at this experience over a quarter century, they are five times more likely to run for public office.

The bad news is that thousands of young people in every State, the District of Columbia, and some of the territories will lose as a result of the inability of Congress to figure out how to finance a small portion of the participation that comes from Federal money. They are a casualty this year of the inability of Congress to figure out how to provide that support. I find that ironic because these young people could give Congress lessons about the congressional power of the purse, the separations of power, to give us a roadmap to make sure that these programs are not sacrificed.

It's particularly important because the flawed "No Child Left Behind" bill that's up for reauthorization doesn't place a premium on civic education. I see my good friend, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, a senior member of that committee, who has fought for years to redirect it.

Well, the least we can do is to restore the money lost this year as we deal with the budget for the next year. Any Member of Congress who takes the time to meet with the outstanding young men and women from their State who are in our Nation's Capital today in the aftermath of that contest would be hard-pressed to explain to them why they wouldn't and, indeed, should be inspired to do all they could to make sure this outstanding program continues.

POST-BIN LADEN: A MOMENT TO RE-THINK OUR NATIONAL SECURITY APPROACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Yes, indeed, just to follow up on the gentleman from Oregon, we are, in our efforts to reauthorize elementary and secondary education, expanding to the whole child, we hope, including civics and art and music.

Mr. Speaker, my first thought when watching the news last Sunday night was about the many people, the many people, who have a hole in their hearts and in their homes because of the senseless, brutal violence perpetrated by Osama bin Laden. There was 9/11, of course, but also the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the Embassy bombings in East Africa, the attack on the USS *Cole*. Bin Laden is responsible for so much evil, and I hope that the families of his victims can now find some measure of peace and hopefully some closure.

He is dead, but the terrorism threat he represents remains alive and well. The network he created continues to thrive. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, that al Qaeda will remain strong as long as we, the United States of America, continue our policy of aggressive militarism in the Middle East.

□ 1040

The war in Afghanistan remains an epic failure that is bankrupting us morally and fiscally. Our nearly 10-year occupation has emboldened those who hate America instead of defeating them. It has created more terrorists than it has killed. It is undermining our national security interests, not advancing them. It is making us less safe, not more.

None of that changes with the news of Osama bin Laden's death. Just last week, a retired Army lieutenant colonel from my district just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, James McLaughlin, Jr., of Santa Rosa, California, was killed while working as a contractor training military pilots in Afghanistan. He died along with eight others when an Afghan pilot turned on his allies and went on a shooting spree during a meeting at the Kabul airport. Bin Laden's death won't bring Jim McLaughlin back, nor will it bring back the 1,500-plus Americans who have lost their lives in Afghanistan. The horror of this war continues unabated.

So with Osama bin Laden's death, I believe that it is past time for somber reflection—reflection about the policies of the last 10 years and about where we might go from here. It is time to rethink our entire approach to national security.

We can save so much in lives, in money, in global credibility, and in moral authority with a smart security platform that puts diplomacy and development aid before guns and tanks: a platform that uses American power for humanitarian ends, a platform that empowers and invests in the people of Afghanistan instead of invading and occupying their country.

We have a chance now to change course. The trauma of 9/11 was profound, but it also led to some disastrous choices, from the war in Iraq, to roving wiretaps, to waterboarding, to the surge in Afghanistan. Now that the 9/11 mastermind is gone, it is time to turn a new page.

It has to begin with a swift move toward military redeployment out of Afghanistan. We cannot continue down this road of permanent warfare. The costs are too great. I've never ever felt more strongly, Mr. Speaker, that it is time to bring our troops home.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Alan Kieran, Office of the U.S. Senate Chaplain, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Most Holy God, Creator and sustainer of the universe, we come to this Chamber today with humility and expectation.

In humility because we know that You have appointed our elected Members and Capitol Hill staff for such a time as this.

In expectation because faith in You brings untold blessings to hearts, homes, and nations.

You say, O God, that from those to whom You have given much, much is expected.

Endow our leaders with good health. Strengthen them in body, mind, and soul for the busy days ahead. Grant them Your wisdom, peace, and joy in this season of fruitful labor.

And may we all reap a harvest of righteousness as we serve You and our Nation's citizens.

I pray in Your everlasting Name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.