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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 13, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM McCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. As America prepares for the holiday season and the new year, it is important to pause to reflect on our good fortune and, on this season of goodwill, what we can do for others. I hope that Congress will give the gift of life, hope, and economic prosperity to people around the world, a gift most Americans take for granted: safe water.

Almost a billion people around the globe lack access to safe drinking

water, and over 2½ billion don't have access to adequate sanitation. This is why the number one health challenge is water-related disease.

Half the people who are sick today anywhere on this planet are sick unnecessarily from waterborne diseases that are particularly brutal on their impact on children. Ninety percent of the deaths caused are children under 5. The 1.8 million lives that are lost are more than AIDS, TB, and malaria combined.

It's also a major cause of the struggle for economic security. For example, in India, the estimate is over \$50 billion a year, more than 6 percent of its economy, is lost due to inadequate water and sanitation. How does this happen? Children cannot attend school if they are sick from unsafe drinking water. People with illnesses overwhelm the few hospitals and clinics and they can't go to work. Hours spent looking for and carrying clean water, usually by girls and women, means that they're not adding either to education or the economic well-being of their families.

Historically, water's been a source of conflict, and with over 260 river basins that cross country borders, managing this very finite resource without conflict will be one of the world's greatest security problems.

In this season of good tidings, there is good news about water. The solutions are cheap and easy. We're not required to search for a cure. Helping people understand the need to wash their hands or providing them with simple, commonsense technology is key.

Churches, parishes, and synagogues have already taken up this challenge, and hundreds of thousands of people have benefited. It's time for Congress to act.

In 2005, the bipartisan Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act helped us get our act together. Now we have new legislation, Water for the World, which

will be introduced tomorrow with my colleague and friend, Congressman TED POE from Texas, the chief Republican cosponsor. It builds on current United States efforts—not by increasing funds. Make no mistake, I hope some day we do increase the investment around the globe. But right now, this legislation will increase aid effectiveness, transparency, and accountability. Given the strains on Federal resources and the depth of the need, it is essential that we target our efforts as efficiently as possible.

The Water for the World Act gives the State Department and USAID tools to leverage investments. It helps elevate positions within the agency to coordinate diplomatic policy and implement country-specific water strategies.

The House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, under the leadership of KAY GRANGER and NITA LOWEY, has done the best it can in this difficult budget climate with resources for poor people with water around the world. Now Congress needs to step up to make sure these precious resources are used as effectively as possible.

I sincerely hope my colleagues will join Congressman POE and me in cosponsoring the Water for the World Act and then work to enact it as soon as possible.

LUKE'S WINGS IS HELPING WOUNDED WARRIORS BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Those who serve in our military deserve our constant thanks. Those who become injured while serving deserve all that we can do for them.

Mr. Speaker, I recently learned about a wonderful American organization that is serving wounded servicemembers and their families around the

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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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country. The organization is called Luke's Wings, and it has a simple mission: to bring wounded warriors and their families together.

For many families of those wounded in combat, traveling to where their wounded spouse or parent or sibling is can be difficult and cost prohibitive. Luke's Wings was established to help families of these servicemembers travel to be with their loved one during his or her hospitalization or rehabilitation.

Luke's Wings aids families of wounded servicemembers by purchasing airline tickets so that they can help support and care for their family member while they are receiving treatment.

Not only does the assistance that Luke's Wings provides to families of wounded warriors bring these families together, it also helps boost the spirits of and provide additional motivation to recovering servicemembers while their families are at their sides.

Especially during this holiday season as we approach Christmas, the work that Luke's Wings is doing is priceless. Not only does it help families visit recovering troops, but they're also helping these same wounded warriors get home for Christmas. For just the price of a plane ticket, Luke's Wings is able to make this holiday season one that many combat-wounded servicemembers will not soon forget.

It's always inspiring to see the different ways that Americans from so many walks of life find to support our men and women in uniform. Luke's Wings is a volunteer organization that is taking its place in the ranks of compassionate and patriotic groups that are dedicated to giving our troops the best.

During this season of joy and thankfulness when many brave men and women are deployed and apart from their families, Luke's Wings reminds us that we must not forget those who serve, and particularly those who have been injured in that service. Luke's Wings reminds us that even something such as bringing family and servicemembers together will make a tremendous impact for them.

May God continue to bless those who serve and especially those who have suffered physically and mentally, and may God bless the efforts of Luke's Wings, particularly in this season.

ANTI-MUSLIM BIGOTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, last week the giant home improvement chain Lowe's decided to pull their ads from a new show on The Learning Channel called "All-American Muslim."

Now, this show depicts five Muslim American families of Lebanese descent from Dearborn, Michigan, and highlights how their faith affects their lives and their families.

The show is aptly titled because it shows Muslim families to be exactly what they are in this situation, and millions like them around the Nation. They're Americans. They face problems just like the rest of us. The only difference is that they worship at a different church.

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Lowe's pulled these ads because one right-wing anti-Muslim group in Florida said that the show hides the "true agenda" of Islam, which, according to this group, is to destroy America.

Now, this kind of anti-Muslim bigotry isn't new. It seems like every month we're being warned by a new radical group about the creep of sharia law or that a peaceful mosque is being run out of a community or that a radical pastor is burning the Koran on television. It's one thing when a fringe group or a radical, unhinged pastor is doing it; but it's quite another when a Fortune 100 company is endorsing this nonsense.

Lowe's defends itself by saying it's pulling these ads because some of their customers had "strong political and social views on this topic." Well, congratulations to Lowe's for acknowledging that there are some really bigoted people in the world, but that doesn't mean that Lowe's or any other company should acquiesce to this kind of behavior. For instance, there are, unfortunately, a lot of people out there who still hold racist views about African Americans, but I don't think that that means Lowe's is going to be pulling its ads from television shows featuring African Americans.

Lowe's also says it's sorry for walking into a "hotly contested debate." Well, what debate are they talking about? Yes, we face threats from a fringe sect of radical, anti-American Islamists; but there is no debate that the millions of patriotic, peace-loving Muslims who live in this country have no connection to that movement and do nothing except strengthen the fabric of our Nation.

Now, maybe you think this is just a minor sideshow and that Congress shouldn't be talking about it on this floor. I submit to you that you're dead wrong. This is a major American company that is rubber-stamping basic, foundational bigotry against a major American religious group. This Nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom, and this body should never remain silent when a group of people is marginalized just because it worships a different God.

Though we've certainly got more important things to worry about, like fixing the economy, it has traditionally been during bad economic times that this kind of social marginalization has been at its worst because people don't speak up against it. Further, this kind of bias endangers our national security. Denis McDonough, the President's deputy National Security Adviser, recently said that al Qaeda's core re-

cruiting argument is that the West is at war with Islam. With this action, extremists can say, Look, we're already being run out of their neighborhoods. Now we're being run off of their television sets.

This kind of anti-Muslim sentiment doesn't just endanger our Nation's soul; it endangers our national security. So here is my message for the folks at Lowe's who made the decision and, frankly, for anybody out there of sound mind who has considered getting behind this growing anti-Muslim bias:

You're better than this. You know that the history of this country and of this world never, ever looks kindly on this kind of marginalization that you've endorsed with your actions. Whether it is against Irish Americans or Jewish Americans or African Americans, the history books make sure that this kind of exclusionary politics becomes a stain on the reputation of anyone who takes part in it.

Today, I'm leading a group of Member of Congress, calling on Lowe's to reconsider its decision. Listen, we do have a lot to fear when it comes to Islamic groups that seek to do harm to America; but we have nothing to fear from a TV program called "All-American Muslim," and we have nothing to fear from the tens of millions of peace-loving, patriotic Muslim Americans who are just like those who are portrayed in that show.

This is America. While we have never been perfect at living up to our founding ideals, we've gotten pretty good at calling out bigotry when we see it and at stamping it out before its mark becomes indelible. This can be one of those moments.

ARIZONA VS. THE FEDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is at war with the States over illegal entry. There is a real problem in this country: millions of people are living here illegally, and more illegally cross into America every day.

Schools, hospitals, and the justice system are burdened with the cost of supporting illegals, who do not contribute to our system. They reap the benefits and services off the backs of American citizens and legal immigrants. Twenty-seven percent of the people in U.S. prisons are illegals. In the border counties in Texas, according to the border sheriffs, over 30 percent of the people in those jails are foreign nationals.

All of this costs money. The safety of our citizens is also at risk, but the Federal Government chooses not to adequately enforce the law. The Federal Government is focused more on finding reasons why the law of the land should not be enforced. Case in point: the 20-point memo released this summer by ICE listed the criteria for illegal migrants who have been detained but