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House of Representatives

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: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You so that, with Your Spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

During this week of special recognition, we ask Your blessing on America's teachers, who give of their lives and talents to empower young Americans with the tools to mold creative and productive lives. Bless also the millions of foster parents, who have generously provided homes for young people in need of safe and secure shelter. May they be assured of the appreciation of a grateful Nation.

May all that is done this day 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.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado 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 on each side of the aisle.

REDUCING AMERICA'S MILITARY FOOTPRINT AND SPENDING IN EUROPE

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am announcing my intention to offer an amendment on the Defense authorization bill to reduce our military footprint and spending in Europe.

In January, the Pentagon announced that two U.S. Army combat brigade teams would be withdrawn from Europe. I don't think that goes far enough. The current proposal is only a step in the right direction. We should retain only the headquarters and support infrastructure necessary for expe-

ditionary capabilities, and we should withdraw all four combat brigades from Europe.

In order for the U.S. military to modernize and move forward towards a more agile strategy, we must close bases in Europe. There is no longer a strategic reason to maintain nearly 80,000 troops in Europe.

Additionally, only four of our 28 NATO allies are spending more than 2 percent of their GDP on defense. The reason they can get away with spending so little on defense is that they are relying on the United States to provide it for them. We currently spend 4.7 percent of GDP on defense, but we should have higher priorities for our defense dollars these days than for the defense of Europe.

USIS INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tim Earnshaw, who was recently named Investigator of the Year by the United States Investigations Services, which is the largest commercial provider of background investigations for the Federal Government.

Mr. Earnshaw was chosen out of a group of nearly 2,300 full-time employees from all across the country based on his exceptional performance shown through production and quality metrics, mentoring others, initiative leadership, and community leadership.

Mr. Earnshaw, who has worked for USIS for the past 7½ years, lives with his wife, Colleen, in my district of North Providence, Rhode Island, where they are active in several charitable and nonprofit organizations.

I was honored to welcome Mr. Earnshaw to my office recently and to congratulate him on winning this award. We all take great pride in his

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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