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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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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

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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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accomplishments today. His professionalism and work ethic are a great example of the extraordinary men and women of Rhode Island's First Congressional District.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOE LANDERS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the service of Joe Landers, chief of police in Lowell, Arkansas, who died Friday morning, May 4, as a result of injuries suffered in a hit-and-run, drunk driver accident while on vacation in Florida on April 27.

Chief Landers was a dedicated public servant—everything you could want in a leader. He loved his job, his community, those under his command, and the people he served. It was evident in the way he carried out his duties.

He began his law enforcement career with the Benton County Sheriff's Office before joining the Lowell Police Department in 1995. In 1997, he was promoted to chief, and in the last 15 years, led his organization during a period of unprecedented growth. He was responsible for the development of the Lowell motorcycle patrol, dispatch center, K-9 unit, and the Special Response Team. In 2005, Chief Landers performed international duty as a law enforcement adviser in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, our State and Nation has lost a valued member of the law enforcement community. Tomorrow will be a sad day when we say our final good-byes. I speak for Arkansas' Third Congressional District in expressing our deepest sympathy to his family, to the city of Lowell, and to the great State of Arkansas.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we honor American teachers nationwide this week, who, day in and day out, work to make a future brighter for America.

We all have had at least one or more teachers who has shaped our lives and who have believed in us. Mine was Mrs. Myrna Collins, who taught me in both the fourth and seventh grades back at Kearney Elementary School. This nonsense woman with a Texas drawl was determined that, despite the fact that I could be a handful, I was going to behave and learn—and learn I did.

A few years back, I made an effort to have lunch with Mrs. Collins, and she made the comment that she knew that I could be successful if I only applied myself, and she was right. Her guidance back then showed me how much could be accomplished with hard work and focus.

In the San Joaquin Valley and nationwide, teachers of America meet the

challenges in the classroom with grace and grit every day. As we recognize these teachers throughout our country, we thank you for what you do every week of the school year.

God bless you, Mrs. Collins, for all the students whose lives you've touched. Thank you.

SAVING THE GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOTS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and personal privilege to represent Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the home of the 107th Fighter Squadron, also known as the Michigan Red Devils.

The 107th flies the A-10, and they just recently returned from a redeployment to Afghanistan, where they performed so magnificently, so bravely, and made us all proud.

The 107th was one of the units scheduled to be eliminated under the President's proposed budget; but, fortunately, the House Armed Services Committee will present a Defense reauthorization bill, scheduled for a floor vote here next week, which reverses that and saves the 107th along with protecting the Air National Guard across the entire country.

Instead, the Air Force will be required to do a cost analysis of the National Guard cuts, which is very good because the Air National Guard performs 35 percent of the flying missions for just 6 percent of the budget. That is the best bang for the taxpayers' buck in these very restrained budgetary times.

This House, Mr. Speaker, is going to do the right thing for the great American patriots of the Air National Guard, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

□ 0910

PROTECT THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, in Congress, it's our job to help protect the American Dream. We have to remain the land of opportunity where anyone willing to work hard and stay focused can secure a brighter future. If Congress fails to act, 7 million college students across the country will see their student loan interest rates double to 6.8 percent.

I met some of these students last week at Palm Beach State College. Whether it's the young man who works 85 hours a week while carrying 12 credit hours—the first in his family to go to college—or the young man who described in passion the 14-year path he has embarked upon to serve out his

dream by becoming a surgeon, their pursuing higher education is a path of opportunity.

If we want to protect the American Dream here in Congress, then we should give legislation that keeps interest rates low a fair shot. After all, that's all America's students are asking for—a fair shot at the American Dream.

WORKING FOR JOBS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for almost 40 months, unemployment has been at or above 8 percent. That's too high for too long.

Right now, over 88 million people are not even considered in the workforce. These are people who have given up on searching for a job. It's time to restore economic freedom to America and put Americans back to work. This will happen when Washington stops being an obstacle to job creation through its overtaxing, overspending, overregulating practices, and starts promoting an economic environment where our job creators can do what they do best: create jobs.

Americans are ready to go to work. Just this past week, I sponsored a job fair in East Liverpool, Ohio, where hundreds of Ohioans showed up for a chance to enter the workforce. In fact, many job seekers actually left the job fair with renewed self-confidence, hope in the fact that they had a job to go to the next day, and a belief that the American Dream still might exist for them. We need to see more of this, Mr. Speaker.

BARBARISM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I have watched saddened as this House led by the Republican majority has fought to gut those things that made and that will make this country great.

I'm reading a history of the U.S. House of Representatives right now, and early in that history, this body—when this Nation was barely yet born—pulled together the resources to build the Erie Canal, coming together to do great things that benefited the Nation. The list of those things goes on and on: the Louisiana Purchase, public education, land grant colleges, the GI Bill. I could go on for a very long time.

Today, the Republican majority says to transportation and infrastructure, which are key to our businesses, they say kill it; to medical research, kill it; to education, kill it. Mr. Speaker, that instinct is utterly inconsistent with who we have always been as a country and why we are great and powerful and ultimately economically prosperous. It