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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 13, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MORAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, 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 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of heaven and Earth, may Your people, especially children, dream great dreams and never become cynical. May faith be their foundation and hope the dynamic of their lives.

Give government leaders wisdom to accomplish great tasks on behalf of Your people. May they provide a peaceful and stable environment so that family life may flourish in this Nation. Let their good deeds and works of justice give You glory, both 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SABLÁN 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.

WE NEED REFORMS THAT DO NOT HURT SMALL BUSINESSES AND FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the Senate Finance Com-

mittee votes on their version of the health care takeover, the American people see business as usual in Washington—more spending, more government, and more taxes.

The American people are more and more shocked with these big government schemes. They understand that we need a set of reforms that will not hurt small businesses or families through tax penalties and unintelligible government mandates. We do not need thousands of more pages of regulations controlled by a health czar, the most powerful and all-wise person on Earth.

Republicans continue to offer solutions that promote potential of our proven free market system. We can help families and small businesses secure affordable health care regardless of preexisting conditions and ensure choice. We must protect the doctor-patient relationship for senior citizens and protect jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CONGRATULATING MR. MATTHEW SAFERITE ON ARKANSAS SECONDARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Matthew Saferite for being named Arkansas Secondary Principal of the Year.

Mr. Saferite, the principal of Ramay Junior High School in Fayetteville, Arkansas, demonstrates extraordinary leadership and commitment to his students and his staff on a daily basis. He works to identify and seek opportunities for all who enter the halls of his school.

His hard work has made him a model of success for students as well as fellow

□ 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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educators. True to form, he shares this honor with his staff and students at Ramay, acknowledging the team effort that is always on display at the school.

I commend Mr. Saferite for his passion for educating our youth and his dedication to all in the community. I wish him success in all future endeavors, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an educator whose accomplishments and devotion to the Third District of Arkansas has not gone unnoticed.

CHANGING A LIGHT BULB IS A STIMULUS JOB

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they tell us, sir, that the stimulus bill is working and creating jobs. Well, let's see.

In Houston, some houses are getting taxpayer funded home makeovers. Wayne Dolcefino of KTRK Channel 13 Undercover in Houston reports that the city is getting \$327 million in stimulus money to weatherize homes. Under the stimulus boondoggle bonanza, taxpayers are on the hook for \$6,500 per house. Of course, not everyone is getting a home makeover. Most Houstonians aren't going to get the brand new ceiling fans installed. They're not going to get the brand new insulation and the weather stripping or the brand new refrigerators. And most won't even get the new curly light bulbs that contain mercury. They'll just get stuck with the bill.

How does greening homes for a selected group of handpicked people create jobs? Well, it doesn't. Paying people to change out the light bulbs is what the taxacrats call a green job. No wonder Americans are just shaking their heads in contempt of government. So the stimulus scam continues.

And that's just the way it is.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION BOARD OF ADVISORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors:

Ms. Lillie Coney, Washington, D.C.

DEMOCRAT AMNESTY PLAN HAS NO PRAYER

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, this afternoon, several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle

intend to unveil their outline of a plan to give amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. I don't expect it to hold many surprises. It is more likely to lay out the same proposal for amnesty that President Obama and the Democrats have promised all along to the illegal immigrant lobby.

They should know that the bill doesn't have a prayer because the American people oppose rewarding lawbreakers, which then encourages more illegal immigration. Allowing millions of illegal immigrants to stay and take jobs away from citizens is like giving a burglar a key to the house.

Illegal immigrants should play by the rules, return home and wait their turn just like millions of legal immigrants do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXTENDING AUTHORITY TO BUILD VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3689) to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3689

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR VIETNAM MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.

Section 6(b) of Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) any reference in section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, to the expiration at the end of or extension beyond a seven-year period shall be considered to be a reference to an expiration on or extension beyond November 17, 2014."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3689, sponsored by the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. NICK RAHALL, and the committee's ranking member, the gentleman from Washington State, Mr. DOC HASTINGS, will extend the time during which the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is authorized to establish a visitors center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here in Washington, D.C.

Better known as the Vietnam Wall, the memorial is among the most visited sights in Washington and is an international symbol of reflection and healing. Establishing a visitors center for the memorial is critical and more time is needed to complete the extensive planning, design, and approval processes required for such a sensitive project. This bipartisan legislation extends the authorization through 2014.

Chairman RAHALL has been intimately involved with the development of this visitors center, and I join him, along with Representative DOC HASTINGS, in urging our colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing Alaska, the greatest State in the Union, the largest State in the Union, with the one congressman that does the whole job of the State of the Union. Thank you. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill was introduced by Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member HASTINGS to allow additional time for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to raise private funds for the construction of the underground visitors center on The Mall.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this great piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, but I would like to inquire of the minority if he has any additional speakers.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no other additional speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3689.

The question was taken.