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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rev. Grzegorz "Greg" Brozonowicz, St. Mary's, Mother of the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church, Groton, Connecticut, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, the men and women assembled here to serve the American people ask You for a blessing.

We pray that, through Your grace, they gain the vision to see clearly, the courage to act rightly, the humility to consider all sides of issues, the love to accept disagreement, and the faith to persevere through discouragement and adversity.

May they have the wisdom to see America's destiny as linked to Your will.

We thank You, Lord, for the opportunity to serve and to grow in that service.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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.

WELCOMING REV. GRZEGORZ "GREG" BROZONOWICZ

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to introduce this morning Father Grzegorz Brozonowicz, otherwise known as "Father Greg," at St. Mary's, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, in Groton, Connecticut, who delivered a beautiful prayer this morning, and he has a wonderful story in his life.

He was born in Poland, was educated in Poland, came to the U.S. in 1990, went through the seminary in our country, was ordained as a parish priest by the Archdiocese of Norwich in 1996, and is now a leader at his church in Groton, Connecticut.

He does appear to have a humble demeanor, but I would just say, Madam Speaker, that he is a very dynamic priest. He has a growing parish. He has many programs reaching out to young people, having them involved in the community, helping the disadvantaged. He is setting up a twinning parish program in Haiti to try and reach out, again, to deal with the huge challenges that that impoverished country faces.

He became an American citizen a few days before Christmas, this past Christmas of 2008, and like many Roman Catholic churches throughout our country, there clearly is a pipeline from Poland now that is populating our parishes and keeping a vibrant church alive and well in the U.S.

I want to thank him for his great service and for his great words this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minutes on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Autism Awareness Month.

Each April, Americans have a special opportunity to learn more about autism. In south Florida, we have a vibrant community of activists and families fighting every day to raise awareness and funds for scientific research on the causes of and cures for autism. Two of the strongest voices in our community belong to Suzanne and Bob Wright, the founders of Autism Speaks.

In just 4 years, this extraordinary organization has committed an unprecedented \$128 million in new research funding to uncover causes, treatments and cures for autism. In addition to supporting scientific research, Autism Speaks builds community among families with autism, and it raises awareness in south Florida, around the country and around the world.

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, I commend Susan and Bob Wright and Autism Speaks, as well as all of the families in our community facing autism.

HONORING THE WOMEN AIR FORCE SERVICE PILOTS OF WWII

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2014, a bill that Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS and I have introduced, which honors the Women Air Force Service Pilots of World War II.

WASP, or Women Air Force Service Pilots, were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between the years 1942-1944, these courageous women volunteered to fly non-combat missions so that every available male pilot could be deployed in combat.

□ 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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By the time the war ended, 38 women pilots had lost their lives while flying for our country.

These valiant women have never received the full recognition that they deserve for their wartime military service to America. Their example paved the way for women who today fly every type of aircraft.

My daughter-in-law, Lindsay, flies F/A-18 fighter jets for the Marine Corps thanks to these courageous women. Of the 1,102 WASPs trained during World War II, only 300 of these women pioneers are still alive today.

Madam Speaker, the time is now for us to honor these women with this body's highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal. As such, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill, and I urge its prompt consideration.

HONORING FORMER STATE SENATOR CONSTANCE WILLIAMS

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

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the fortitude, forbearance and intelligence of former State Senator Constance Williams, who brilliantly represented the 149th Legislative District of Pennsylvania from 1997 until 2001. She then was victorious in a special election and was elevated to Pennsylvania senator, serving with distinction the 17th Senatorial District of Pennsylvania from 2001-2008.

Connie, a leader who chose to devote her energies to political life in support of her district's citizens, served in that post until she retired at the peak of her powers and abilities just last year.

Throughout her career in public life, Connie always led by example and never lost sight of the fact that political leaders are, first and foremost, public servants. She was a tireless and revered champion of so many issues, from women's rights and equality to strong public schools, and her embrace of the principles of honest, good governance earned her respect and admiration throughout the community and across the political spectrum.

When asked about her life in politics, Connie had the best and, perhaps, the only appropriate response: "I love working with and for people," she said.

Senator Constance Williams remains a vibrant figure in Pennsylvania politics today, and is a deserving example of future leaders to embrace.

THE RELEASING OF INTERROGA- TION MEMOS HAS MADE US LESS SAFE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the selective release of memos on the enhanced interrogation methods of the previous administration has made us less safe.

Four former CIA Directors, as well as the current Director, advised against releasing these memos.

As ex-CIA Director Michael Hayden recently said, "If you look at these documents that have been made public, it says 'Top Secret' at the top. The definition of 'Top Secret' is information which, if revealed, would cause grave harm to the United States' security." Furthermore, General Hayden said that the use of these interrogation techniques against these terrorists made us safe.

The release of the top secret memos were motivated by politics, pure and simple. They were designed to embarrass, not to protect. So much for President Obama's promise to look forward, not backward. These memos never should have been released.

As another former CIA Director, Porter Goss, recently wrote, "We can't have a secret intelligence service if we keep giving away all the secrets."

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF TROOP B, 1-98TH CAVALRY REGIMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the Mississippi National Guard.

These soldiers of Company B, based in Booneville, Mississippi, were deployed in January of 2005 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After extensive training, Company B has loyally served our Nation in the past, and will leave soon to once again protect freedoms abroad.

I would like to call attention to the very nature of the Mississippi National Guard and of their fellow units in Mississippi as well as in other States. These weekend warriors are prepared not only to serve abroad but to assist in domestic situations when called upon, all the while working everyday jobs and supporting their families.

I thank my colleagues for keeping Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the Mississippi National Guard in their thoughts and prayers as these heroic men and women redeploy to the Middle East. Please join me in honoring Troop B 1-98th for their continuing service to America.

□ 1015

DEBT DAY

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Debt Day is the day on which the government runs out of money in a given year and all of the government spending for the rest of the year is borrowed money.

For 2009, Debt Day fell on April 26, this past Sunday. This is an astonishingly early day in the year to run out of money. Last year, it was August 5. So in 4 months, this Congress and this administration has shattered all previous records for debt levels, moving Debt Day up in the calendar over 3 months from last year. President Obama and this Congress make the Bush deficit look trivial.

Friends, this is the most valuable and expensive credit card in history, a Member of Congress voting card. This Congress has taken out their credit cards and saddled our children and grandchildren with debt, mortgaging their future.

Since the first of the year we've spent \$350 billion in TARP, billions in auto bailouts, \$787 billion in stimulus, \$410 billion in omnibus, \$3.5 trillion in the budget—mostly borrowed money—all of this debt dumped on future generations.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, President Obama reaffirmed his commitment for comprehensive immigration reform in an interview on Univision. The President believes "that it is in the interest of everybody, and in the interest of the U.S. economy over time, for us to resolve this issue in a comprehensive way."

The immigration crisis is not a problem to be left to solve tomorrow or sometime in the future. I support President Obama as he reiterates that we need to "resolve the issue in a comprehensive way that provides a pathway to legalization but also deals more effectively with our borders." He has created hope and the change that this country really believes in.

We cannot ignore the 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants working beside the rest of us every day. Thousands of young children who are U.S. citizens are being left stranded to fend for themselves as an immigration system is tearing them from their parents.

I urge my colleagues and House leadership to work with the CHC and President Obama to support a comprehensive immigration reform that respects all families.

STOP THIS SPENDING

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, Mr. President, I think it's time to listen to the American people. I recently received a letter from one of my constituents. They said, "I have a job, a family, a mortgage and, yes, I have indulged in the credit card mess, but my husband and I have been working diligently over the last 13 months to reduce our debt. My husband took on a