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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 3, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY BERKLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, source of eternal light, on this new day we offer not only our prayer but all the work of Congress as a living sacrifice of praise. Born of human effort, the fruit of experience and right judgment, pressed by negotiations and compromise, with the result of common concern for Your people, the decisions of this Congress are raised up before the people of this democracy to realize their best intuitions, inspire their hopes for the future, and foster their goodness.

At the same time, this work is raised up before You as the sovereign ruler of all times and nations and the compassionate defender of Your people, 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INTRODUCING THE ARMED FORCES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AWARENESS ACT AND THE VETERANS AND SURVIVORS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AWARENESS ACT

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, a couple weeks ago our Nation celebrated Memorial Day, a day to give tribute to the men and women who have given their lives for our country. But I think it's important for those of us who serve in the Congress to realize that we, on a regular basis, have to do everything we can to protect and defend those who protect and defend us.

Later today I will be introducing the Armed Forces Behavioral Health Awareness Act as well as the Veterans and Survivors Behavioral Health Awareness Act with Congressman AKIN. These bills represent a strong bipartisan commitment to expanding and protecting access to mental health treatment and services for our active duty and retired military. These bills will provide all servicemembers with

equal access to readjustment counseling and mental health services at Vet Centers. We will provide dedicated funding for nonprofits supporting military families and create a program for proactive mental health outreach to soldiers. We will also provide a program for Vet Centers aimed at growing the number of mental health trainers as well as providers.

These bills will dramatically expand our ability to provide mental health coverage to our warriors who are doing so much for all of us both here at home and abroad.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in moving these bills toward swift passage.

TIANANMEN ANNIVERSARY

(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, 20 years ago today the brutal massacre of peaceful student demonstrators occurred in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China, by the People's Liberation Army. Hundreds, perhaps thousands were shot, killed or wounded, including being run over by tanks. The extraordinary image of a man standing unarmed in front of a row of Chinese tanks has become one of the most famous photos of the 21st century and will forever be ingrained in our memories. That man represents thousands of others thirsting for freedom, thousands who were arrested and detained. Some of those are still in labor camps today.

This week we pause to remember the lives of those who were tragically lost in the massacre and imprisoned in the gulag. We honor their courage and their stand for freedom. China has made significant progress towards economic reform, but political reform is still needed to ensure the fundamental rights of the people, such as freedom of religion, expression and assembly.

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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The Chinese Government continues to intimidate reporters, block Web sites, jam broadcasts and censor the Internet. We look forward to a day when the people of China are truly free. That day will surely come.

INTRODUCTION OF CLEAN ENERGY PROMOTION ACT

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Energy Promotion Act. This bill will help create thousands of clean energy jobs across America and help end our dependence on foreign oil. Today some 200 solar energy projects, 25 wind energy projects and 200 wind energy production test sites are on hold because the Bureau of Land Management doesn't have the resources to evaluate their applications. Madam Speaker, bureaucratic bottlenecks should not stand in the way of thousands of clean energy jobs. My bill will help eliminate these bottlenecks by creating a dedicated funding stream so that the BLM can remove the current backlog in applications and facilitate future projects. This is a long-term, common-sense investment in America's energy leadership. Not only will we jump-start clean energy job creation today, we'll also be laying the foundation for America's clean energy prosperity tomorrow.

I urge your support.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE PRINTS MONEY AS CHINA IS RELUCTANT TO LEND MORE

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, we are running out of other people's money. We borrowed \$1 trillion from China, and their leaders are reluctant to lend more. In response, the Federal Reserve has begun electronically printing dollars to cover new debts. Chinese leaders told me that this was unconventional and troubling. They worry that America will try to repay her debts with newly printed dollars. The Fed so far this year has printed \$130 billion that it does not have. Rating agencies have already cut Britain's AAA credit rating and warned we are next.

Later this week I will ask the Fed to stop printing money to buy U.S. debt. Unless we stop, the enemy of the middle class and seniors—inflation—will come back to hurt our recovery.

THE D-DAY MEMORIAL IN BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. I rise in honor of the lives sacrificed by our brave men in

uniform on the beaches of Normandy 65 years ago. This Saturday, let us remember the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, and the bravery of those involved. In the town of Bedford, Virginia, 19 of the 34 servicemen who landed on the beaches gave their lives for freedom. Bedford suffered the largest per capita death toll of any American community during the invasion. These were the famous Bedford Boys, and we mourn the recent loss of the last of the survivors. Our Nation should not forget their sacrifices, which is why this Chamber recognized the D-day Memorial in Bedford as the National D-day Memorial. Sadly, that memorial faces financial difficulties in these grim economic times. Because of this and the sacrifice these men made, I am introducing legislation to ensure this memorial in the memory of the servicemen does not fade. The men we lost were local heroes, but the freedom and security bought with their sacrifice is a national treasure. So too is our D-day memorial, and I urge my colleagues to join me in making this a permanent part of our Nation's life.

THE NECESSITY FOR A BILATERAL INCIDENTS AT SEA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, as a former enlisted soldier and Army officer, the lives and safety of our servicemen and -women has always been one of my top priorities. Chairman CONYERS and I are, therefore, calling for the prompt negotiation of a bilateral naval agreement between the United States and Iran.

In January of 2008, Iranian Revolutionary Guards naval speedboats engaged in provocative actions against three U.S. naval vessels, showed little to no regard for maritime safety, and the event very nearly escalated into an armed conflict between the United States and Iranian vessels.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most crowded shipping lanes in the world. A conflict in the strait would have dire consequences for the world's oil supply and the international economy. An average of 15 tankers carrying between 16 and 17 million barrels of crude oil pass through the strait each day, making these waters one of the most strategically important oil choke points. The Department of Defense has stressed the importance of preventing future naval interactions in the region from escalating. The U.S. has a significant long-standing naval presence in the Persian Gulf, protecting our soldiers and marines in theater and international shipping lanes critical to global commerce. A military-to-military negotiation of bilateral "Incidents at Sea" agreement between the U.S. and Iran would codify vessel-to-vessel

communications and improve safety, similar to the agreement during the Cold War.

I ask you to join Chairman CONYERS and me in support of this agreement.

CALLING FOR A BILATERAL INCIDENTS AT SEA AGREEMENT

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

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I, along with GEOFF DAVIS and others—BOB FILNER, GENE TAYLOR, WALTER JONES—are putting forward House Concurrent Resolution 94 so that we can avoid the incidents of the sea that could happen in the Straits of Hormuz because of the incredible number of commercial ships that traffic that area. Eight Navy ships, 250 oil tankers and naval craft of a dozen other nations pass through the strait. These negotiations have been done before. We did it with the Soviet Union a generation ago. It's very pragmatic. It avoids any incidents which could start a war, and could change our relationship with the oil cartels.

I urge Members to give it consideration.

RECOGNIZING RICK BARRENTINE

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Barrentine, a talented constituent from my district, the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia. Rick Barrentine and his family will be in Washington this week as he joins a unique group of Americans, an elite circle whose artistic work is displayed upon a United States postage stamp.

On June 5, the U.S. Postal Service will unveil a new stamp; and on the face of this stamp is a photograph taken by Mr. Barrentine, showing a close-up view of an American flag draped upon itself. This same flag was displayed outside of his home until it was retired recently with the respect that it deserves. Though Mr. Barrentine didn't seek this honor, this recognition is a testament to his talents. Looking at this now timeless image, one can easily grasp Mr. Barrentine's appreciation for the sacrifice and dedication of all those individuals, including in his own family, who carried the Star-Spangled Banner in the service of our Nation.

This Congress commends him for his patriotism and for his artistic achievement. Freedom is inspiring.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, the Clean Energy Jobs plan, which recently