

Affairs Committee, effective today. At a time when our country has troops deployed in the field fighting against those who would perpetrate harm against our people, it was an honor to return, although briefly, to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs where these critical issues of national security are considered.

Sincere regards,

ROY BLUNT,
Republican Whip.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4, rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Friday, January 4, 2008:

H.R. 2640, to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2768, SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-508) on the resolution (H. Res. 918) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

H-2B VISAS

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to call upon my leadership to address an urgent need in my district that is affecting other areas across the country as well.

Two weeks ago, the cap on H-2B immigration visas for seasonal workers was reached. Consequently, many family-owned businesses that depend on such employees will be without the workforce they need to stay in business.

I support raising the cap on H-2B visas permanently and incorporating this change into broader immigration reform. Regrettably, partisanship blocked reform in the Senate last year. We must resolve to enact these smaller scale remedies we can agree upon today to alleviate the burden our broken immigration system imposes upon businesses as we continue to address economic and security challenges required to enact broader reform.

In the absence of such a consensus, and although I would prefer a vote on broader reform, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act and

related measures that would relieve business owners of the immediate threat caused by the freeze on H-2B visas. We cannot leave small businesses that want to do the right thing with the unacceptable choice of going out of business or hiring illegal workers.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF REV. ROGER BAKER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful pastor who served a growing and vibrant church for 32 years. Rev. Roger Baker, who is retiring from ministry at Calvary Baptist Church in King, North Carolina, has given his life to ministry in the church and the surrounding community.

When my friend Rev. Baker first began pastoring at Calvary Baptist 32 years ago, it was a congregation of about 75. Today, the church has grown to nearly 900 under his astute leadership and pastoral care.

During Rev. Baker's tenure, the church started a local Christian school, Calvary Christian School; and he also founded a seminary to educate the next generation of church leadership.

As president of Calvary Baptist Bible College, Rev. Baker has helped to equip many for the role of pastoral teaching and care. He will continue to serve as a teaching professor at the seminary after his retirement.

Men like Rev. Baker do not often come along. His faithful witness in the community and sterling Christian testimony have touched countless lives as he strives to spread the good news. This man is not only a great pastor; he is a faithful Christian.

I congratulate Rev. Baker on his 32 years of service and wish him the very best in his kingdom work during retirement. The people of Calvary Baptist have been fortunate to call him their own.

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IT IS TIME FOR AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE TO HELP HOMEOWNERS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Today, Madam Speaker, we have the honor of celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. I am reminded of the 40th year of his death and what he was committed to, that is, the equality of all people, the economic equality. And that is why in 1968 he was bringing to Washington poor people from around America.

It is time for an economic stimulus package, and the United States Congress must respond to the pain of the American people who are losing their

homes. An immediate moratorium on those who are being foreclosed on, an infusion of capital to help them save their homes, and a freeze on the adjustable rates of these individuals who are suffering, who have invested in their homes, paid for their homes, and are the victims of scandalous and unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them.

Let us keep the dream alive and fight for those who have invested in the American Dream. Let us put forward an economic stimulus package that will save the American people and their homes and really say that America is going toward the promised land.

Happy birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King. Thank you so very much for all that you have done for all America.

“MY RELIGION MADE ME DO IT”

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, murder in the name of religion has struck again. This time it happened in Dallas, Texas.

On New Year's Day law enforcement officials found the bullet-riddled bodies of two teenage sisters, 17-year-old Sarah Said and 18-year-old Amina Said. They were found in the back seat of their father's taxicab.

Now their father, Yaser Said, a Muslim and an Egyptian-born immigrant, is on the run. Authorities believe he murdered the girls after he found out they had American boyfriends.

Family members say the murder was motivated by a Muslim tradition known as “honor killing.” According to this tradition, religious extremists justify homicide in the name of religion in order to correct the “shame” that a family member has brought on the family.

Well, in the United States it is absolutely never acceptable, let alone honorable, to murder your own kids. This criminal needs to be tried and sent to prison. We live in a Nation that values life and liberty. And no father has a right to kill his daughters and try to claim the defense, “My religion made me do it.”

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMPHIS LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CENTER

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Monday morning five libraries and five museums throughout the country were honored with medals at a ceremony that was presided over by Mrs. Laura Bush.

The Memphis Library and Information Center was one of the five libraries and the only big city library to be honored. I was honored to have nominated them for that recognition and honored to be there with them when the library was so recognized.