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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Of all our prayers that ring with fervor and intensity, our prayers for peace come from the depths of our hearts and souls. O gracious God, from whom all blessings flow, we earnestly pray for peace in our world so that people will live without threats or fear and know the gifts of security and freedom. Our prayers of thanksgiving and appreciation are with all those people who have used their abilities and responsibilities to promote safety and accord. May Your spirit, O God, encourage us to do the works of reconciliation, for Your word assures us that the peacemaker shall be called blessed. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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. 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.

REREFERRAL OF H.R. 915, AUTHORIZING COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT IN PAY OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be discharged from consideration of the bill (H.R. 915) to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges, and that the bill be rereferred to the Committee on Government Reform.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minutes on each side.

A COP KILLER FOR COMMENCEMENT

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, Evergreen State College is having a convicted cop killer, Mumia Abu-Jamal, as their commencement speaker this year. This outrage is as sad as it is maddening.

America wonders why there are shootings in schools. Well, irresponsible institutions making celebrities out of killers are part of the problem.

In our mixed-up times, heroes are often made for the wrong reasons. The real hero in this case is the police officer who was shot in the back while doing his duty. Yet the twisted radicals in the ivory tower give the spotlight to his murderer while refusing the officer's widow time to speak.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment of silence to protest this outrage to honor Officer Faulkner and to give sympathy to the real hero's wife, Maureen.

KOSOVO POLICY WORKED

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, we woke up this morning with news reports that the first Serb forces in Kosovo are finally being withdrawn. The policy is working, so let us give credit where credit is due. It was because of the perseverance and unity of all 19 democratic nations of NATO that finally got Milosevic to capitulate and stop the atrocities in Kosovo.

Let us hope we are at the dawn of a new era, of peace in the Balkans, a peace that will see the removal of Milosevic from power, true democratic reforms take place, the eventual inclusion of the Balkan countries in the European Union and perhaps even NATO someday.

A foolish speculation? An idle dream? I do not think so. Who amongst us could have predicted that within 10 short years some of the most repressive communist regimes in Central Europe would today be flourishing democracies, members of the European Union, and even members of NATO itself?

I do believe that the historical trends sweeping across Europe today are on our side in this endeavor. Now comes the difficult task of enforcing the peace. My thoughts and prayers are with our young men and women in American uniform who are being called upon once again in the 20th century to restore the peace and humanity on the Statement of Europe.

SALUTE TO MARK MARSHALL, CARSON CITY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, as Congress prepares to debate the juvenile crime legislation next week, I

□ 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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would like to highlight the extraordinary efforts of an individual in the State of Nevada.

Mark Marshall, of the Carson City Sheriff's Department, was honored this week by the Carson City International Rotary Club as Law Enforcement Officer of the year because he established a proactive campaign of gang suppression for the city and the Sheriff's Department. These results have been recognized nationwide and have greatly benefited the troubled youths in the area.

As a Vietnam veteran, he courageously served his country overseas and now serves the people back home in the State of Nevada. In an era where brainstorming runs rampant on how to curb gang violence, Mark has stepped to the forefront to take on this difficult task.

His nearly 15 years of service to the people of Carson City has earned him this prestigious award. Along with his colleagues and the public he serves, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to this fine peace officer, his wife, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah.

Mark, we are all proud of your accomplishments.

KOSOVO PEACE AGREEMENT IS FRAGILE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, I hope for the best, but this peace agreement seems very fragile. After rape, murder, and genocide, no simple piece of paper will stop the war in Yugoslavia.

Ethnic Albanians did not fight and die for autonomy or self-rule. Neither did George Washington, Congress. But, for sure, ethnic Albanians did not die for the right to live in a suburb of Belgrade.

Congress was warned in 1986 that without freedom for Kosovo, there will be no long-lasting peace in the region. I say, "Free Kosovo, protect a sovereign border, or there will be no long-lasting peace."

SALUTE TO CUBAN PATRIOTS

(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, this past Monday scores of Cuban dissidents began a hunger strike in Havana to protest the 40 years of oppression that their countrymen have been subjected to under the tyrannical rule of Fidel Castro.

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, one of the organizers of this public protest has said that the goal of the hunger strikers is to draw attention to the numerous violations of human rights in Cuba and to ask for freedom for all of the political prisoners.

Their courageous defiance of the Cuban tyrant is heroic, and once again attracts worldwide attention to Castro's deplorable human rights record.

Because we pride ourselves in being the land of the free and the home of the brave, we must applaud the efforts of these patriots who are peacefully trying to bring liberty to their enslaved homeland.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to send the opposition inside of Cuba the clear message that we stand in solidarity with them and that we will do our part to help bring freedom and democracy to the 11 million presently shackled in the island nation.

SUCCESSFUL TEST FOR THAAD

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

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, at 7:20 a.m. this morning THAAD intercepted a Hera target at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Like a bullet hitting a bullet, the THAAD missile had a direct hit on the target.

Although there have been difficulties along the way for this program, the THAAD team has accomplished one of the most technologically challenging feats ever attempted. Significantly, this morning's test is the first time that THAAD has been able to make it to the end game, and I want to stress that it worked, the technology works.

Previous tests were plagued with low-tech failures that did not allow the THAAD missile to reach the end game to attempt the intercept. In conjunction with the PAC III that hit on March 15, this proves that hit-to-kill technology can work.

We must remain mindful, however, that THAAD and other missile defense systems are still at the R&D stage. There still could be more failures. But we must remain supportive of these systems.

I want to congratulate the United States Army, especially the soldiers at Fort Bliss in White Sands, and all of the employees at White Sands Missile Range. I also want to congratulate the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and THAAD contractors for this great success.

Madam Speaker, this is an important and momentous day for national missile defense but, ultimately, for the defense of our troops in deployed areas throughout the world.

SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF CUBAN INTERNAL OPPOSITION

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, a message to Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, Dr. Leonel Morejon Almagro, William Herrera Diaz, Marco Lazaro Torres, and Rolando Munoz, and the scores of

others who have joined throughout the island of Cuba 3 days ago in protest to reject the violation of human rights and demand democracy for the Cuban people:

We are with you. We will continue with you. You have our support, our solidarity, like all of the heroic political prisoners in Cuba; such as Vladimiro Roca, Marta Beatriz Roque, Feliz Bonne, Rene Gomez Manzano, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, Maritza Lugo, Rafael Ybarra Roque, and the thousands of others.

And, Madam Speaker, I am still waiting to see the first time when someone in this body who advocates trade and tourism for Castro comes down here and advocates freedom for the thousands of Cuban political prisoners.

CONGRATULATIONS ON VICTORY IN KOSOVO

(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. Madam Speaker, God bless our United States troops and God bless them for the victory that we have obtained in the conflict in Kosovo.

When I went to the Macedonian refugee camps just a couple of weeks ago, every man, woman and child, every elderly person pleaded with me, let us go back home.

And although we must be cautious now that Serbian troops are on their way out, now we will have, with our NATO allies, peacekeeping troops. Congratulations Mr. Clinton. There is no shame in acknowledging when the United States is unified we can do good for the world.

Congratulations to Sandy Berger. It is time now for us to stand united in an effort to make sure that peace maintains and the Kosovo refugees go back.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I will introduce today the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999, because we have 350,000 refugees in the United States who have not been able to apply for their citizenship; people from all over the world, taxpaying people who have been able to provide for this Nation. It is a shame and a travesty. I hope my colleagues will vote for the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999.

CHILD SURVIVAL

(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, around the world today there are daughters and sons of many nations whose lives are at stake. Why? In large part because our Nation has sought to impose our own population control ideas on other countries whose most pressing needs are for basic nutrition and health care.