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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McKEON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 17, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O Lord of the universe, during Ramadan both Christians and Jews have prayed with our Islamic brothers and sisters during their holy fast. Together we hunger and thirst for justice.

May the emptiness that comes from fasting create within us a greater dependence upon You, Almighty God and Divine Provider for us all. May our prayers bring us strength during our struggles; wisdom in our negotiations; and comfort in our seeking peace.

In our father Abraham, You call all of us, Jew, Christian, and Muslim, to be children of one faith and one God.

Deepen in our hearts our holy traditions, O Lord, that we may find new levels of understanding and build multiple dialogues of peace.

By Your holy covenant and commandments make us Your people of promise for the world, 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. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monohan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence

of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2657. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to redesignate the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as the Family Court of the Superior Court, to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges to serve in the Family Court, to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges to the Family Court and in the consideration of actions and proceedings in the Family Court, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate as passed bills and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1762. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers, to extend current law with respect to special allowances for lenders, and for other purposes.

S. 1793. An act to provide the Secretary of Education with specific waiver authority to respond to conditions in the national emergency declared by the President on September 14, 2001.

S. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that women from all ethnic groups in Afghanistan should participate in the economic and political reconstruction of Afghanistan.

S. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of the 365th anniversary of its historic beginning with the founding of the militia of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

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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