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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Ronald Auch, Pastor, Prayer House Assembly of God, Kenosha, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, I thank You for this day that You have given us. We hold Your name in reverence. As we look at our world with its various needs, we realize how wonderful it would be for Your kingdom to come into the hearts of all men. We pray for Your will to be accomplished. We are a needy people. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us also as a Nation for the times we trespassed others' rights. Make us willing to forgive those who have done the same to us. Keep us from truly evil activities so that we can be a moral standard to our children, our families, our Nation and the world. I pray that You would bless each of the Members of the House of Representatives this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

THE SPEAKER. 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 New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SUNUNU 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.

REVEREND RONALD AUCH

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure of mine to be here to hear the words from Pastor Ron Auch from the Prayer House Assembly of God Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

It is a pleasure to celebrate the things that he has done on behalf of the residents of Kenosha County, and the fact that he was able to address the Nation in prayer this morning is a tribute to the sacrifices that he and his family have given to all of the folks in Kenosha.

Mr. Speaker, I know first hand the kinds of healing and gifts that he has done for constituents. He has helped friends of mine in their problems. He has brought the Savior into their lives and brought hope and spiritual healing to countless people.

Now he is building a new church, the Prayer House Assembly of God. It is 2 years old in Kenosha and up and running quite well. He has brought spiritual healing to the people of Kenosha, Wisconsin. I thank Pastor Ron for giving us a wonderful word to start our day's business today.

MARCUS BARTLETT HAS MADE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ARTS AND MUSIC CULTURE

(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. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Marcus Bartlett for his invaluable contributions to the arts and music culture in the South. Mark has been a long-time friend of Mary Plumer, a community activist in my congressional district. Involved in music and entertainment during his 50-year career, Mark has contributed to our American cultural and artistic heritage. He is viewed as a pioneer in radio, television, and cable.

Mark is the former executive vice president of Cox Broadcasting Corporation.

In 1924, young Marcus went to Atlanta and began providing piano accompaniment for choral groups and orchestras that performed each day on "The Voice of the South."

Today, still guided by genuine generosity, he continues to dedicate his time to entertain senior citizens at retirement homes, hospitals, and churches in Atlanta.

I thank Mark for truly being in tune with the community spirit, and I wish him many more years of happiness and harmony.

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Post, President Bush was quoted as saying those who disagree with his faith-based initiatives "do not understand the power of faith." He then referred "to the skeptics of faith in our society."

Mr. Speaker, I personally respect the President and his right to offer his proposals. However, I do not think it is fair to question the religious faith of decent Americans who happen to disagree with his policy proposals. Challenging people's religious faith because of public policy differences is not a way to bring Americans together; rather it is a prescription for religious divisiveness.

Numerous groups such as the Baptist Joint Committee and the American Jewish Committee differ with the President on faith-based initiatives, not because they question the power of faith, but because they want to prevent government from regulating our faith.

As we proceed in the debate on faith-based initiatives, I urge all sides to

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focus on the specific issues at hand and not to challenge the religious faith of those with differing views of conscience.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR SOLDIERS ON JUNE 6, 1944, D-DAY

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind our citizens of the sacrifices made by our soldiers on June 6, 1944, D-Day.

Mr. Speaker, on that day the war in Europe reached a dramatic turning point. The Americans and British invaded France from the air and sea. They brought with them a respect for the law, human rights, and democracy. Only through their sacrifice was France and later Europe freed from the grips of an evil tyrant.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fitting tribute on the eve of D-Day's 57th anniversary that the President signed The Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001. I was honored to have my language included from H.R. 1015 to retroactively increase the maximum benefit for SGLI coverage, and I am grateful that on this day when so many soldiers gave their lives to secure freedom for Europe, that we were able to help the families of those killed in tragic accidents.

Mr. Speaker, this would not have been possible without the critical support of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

FBI AGENT WHO KILLED VICKI WEAVER CAN BE PROSECUTED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a Federal court ruled that the FBI agent that killed Vicki Weaver can be prosecuted. Finally, a Federal court with some anatomy. Check the facts. The Department of Justice once again investigating the Justice Department once again concluded that Agent Horiuchi accidentally shot Mrs. Weaver. Accident, my BVDs. Vicki Weaver was shot stone cold right between the eyes while holding her infant child.

Mr. Speaker, the FBI is beginning to look more and more like the KGB. I yield back the fact that if the FBI and Justice Department were not guilty at Ruby Ridge, why did they pay Randy Weaver \$3 million and his wounded friend, Kevin Harris, \$400,000 to shut them up? Think about it.

EVERY TAXPAYER WILL GET A REFUND IN THE MAIL

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, for months now pundits have been talking about whether America has been teetering on the brink of a recession. Gross domestic product has fallen from a whopping 7.3 percent in the last quarter of 1999 to just 1.3 percent in the first quarter of this year. The current quarter is a mystery. We do not know if GDP grew or contracted for the second quarter until it is over.

But through all of this, the President has told us if his tax cut package was passed into law, it would provide a much-needed stimulus to the economy. Now it is going to happen. Tomorrow the President signs the bill into law. Every taxpayer will get a refund in the mail and see more take-home pay in their paychecks.

David Wyss of Standard & Poors says, "Roughly half the population is struggling and living paycheck to paycheck. Those folks will use the rebate almost immediately."

Mr. Speaker, this President promised and this President delivered. This Congress promised and this Congress delivered. This should help stimulate our economy; and this, my friends, is good government.

TAX RELIEF IS VICTORY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, tax relief for American families has been one of my top priorities; so when George Bush ran for President, he made the promise to bring relief to families, and that was like a breath of fresh air.

This year, President Bush laid out specific proposals for tax relief. Some scoffed at the idea of tax relief. Many actively worked to keep Americans from keeping more of their hard-earned tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, we have now passed tax relief for American families, and later this summer every American who pays taxes will actually get a tax rebate check. These checks come as a promise kept to the American people and are only the first installment of a long-term tax reduction.

When this tax plan is fully implemented, a typical family of four will see their taxes nearly cut in half. Soon American taxpayers will be keeping more of what they earn. This truly is a victory for American families.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN SHOULD BE PUT IN MOTHBALLS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to take a brief moment

and address some of the concerns of shipping and storing nuclear waste.

Recently, a former DOE official publicly announced that plans for a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain should be abandoned. Mr. W. Kenneth Davis, Energy Undersecretary from 1981 to 1983, had supported the Yucca Mountain repository site under the Reagan administration. But now, Mr. Davis maintains that shipping deadly nuclear waste across the country to Yucca Mountain should not occur. He said, "Yucca Mountain, which is unlikely to be licensed, is unreasonable in view of the shipping required, if nothing else, and in my opinion should be put in mothballs."

Mr. Speaker, shipping nuclear waste across America to Yucca Mountain endangers the lives of every American. Let us heed Mr. Davis' advice, and put the plan for Yucca Mountain in mothballs, where it belongs. There is not enough time in 1 minute to name all of the dangers of shipping nuclear waste across America or to list all of the dangerous plans of storing nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain. This will be addressed as we further debate this issue.

MILITARY MANEUVERS BY PRC AND PLA APPEAR TO THREATEN TAIWAN

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well of the House today to call my colleagues' attention to the recent military maneuvers by the People's Republic of China and the People's Liberation Army that appear to threaten Taiwan.

The PLA's response to nearly every political development seems to be to increase its military posture. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, what is the People's Republic of China afraid of. To my knowledge during the modern era, there has never been a credible threat to the security of mainland China. The amphibious military training maneuvers currently underway are similar to 1996 exercises that resulted in a missile launch aimed at the Taiwan Straits. You may recall that the U.S. responded to that launch by deploying an aircraft carrier to the region. Now, as then, the United States is committed to stability in the region.

The threatening nature of these recent maneuvers and their proximity to Taiwan challenges the territorial stability of the island and long-term peace of the region. It is written that it is for freedom that He set us free. Let China hear that in this Congress we will stand with those who will stand for liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in monitoring the conduct of the Chinese military in the coming weeks.