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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Ronald S. Escalante, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and ever-living God, You have revealed Your glory to all nations. Through You authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment is decreed.

Let the light of Your divine power and wisdom guide the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government. They seek to preserve peace, promote national happiness, and continue to bring us the blessings of liberty and equality.

We likewise commend to Your unbounded mercy all the citizens of the United States, that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Your holy law. And after enjoying the blessings of this life, may we be admitted to those which are eternal.

We pray to You, who are Lord and God, forever and ever. 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.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1533. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and strengthen the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps, and to establish the Healthy Communities Access Program, which will help coordinate services for the uninsured and underinsured, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING REVEREND RONALD S. ESCALANTE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR, GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just say a word about the priest who gave our invocation today. Father Escalante was born in the Philippines. He has his Masters in Divinity from Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary in Maryland. He has been the

Associate Pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Church for the last 4 years.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Mount Vernon, Virginia, has been particularly affected by the events of 9/11. Three of their families lost loved ones, as well as most recently Corporal Matthew Commons was killed in a firefight in Afghanistan while on a mission to rescue a Navy Seal. So that parish has been particularly determined to bring an end to hostility around the world through God's word.

Father Escalante has played an important role in uniting that parish and helping them to get over their grief. We thank him for delivering our invocation this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

COMMENDING WAL-MART FOR PROVIDING AID TO THOSE AFFECTED BY SEPTEMBER 11 TRAGEDY

(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 congratulate Wal-Mart for its participation in Vital Voices, an organization which assists Afghan women and children. Wal-Mart is supporting Vital Voices' efforts to provide aid to enable Afghan women to return to work and Afghan girls to return to school.

Wal-Mart's donation is part of a larger company effort to provide aid to those who are affected by the September 11 tragedy. Since September 11, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club associates

□ 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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and customers have raised and contributed nearly \$16 million in support of relief agencies and victims' families, including a \$1 million donation to UNICEF to help Afghani children.

Please join me in congratulating and recognizing the wonderful contributions of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club associates and customers.

RESPONDING TO SUPREME COURT RULING ON PORNOGRAPHY

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, child pornography was a worldwide industry that was all but eradicated in the 1980s. Unfortunately, it has resurfaced with a vengeance, thanks to computer technology. The explosive growth of computer technology via e-mail, chat rooms and news groups have created a bigger demand for pornographic pictures of our children on the Information Superhighway.

Congress must step up to the plate and take some action to stem the growing tide of child exploitation on the Internet and in other forms. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court struck down the Child Pornography Protection Act. Today the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus will hold a briefing for members of the caucus on legislation that is being developed in response to the Supreme Court's decision.

We must continue to protect our children from exploitation and pornography. The Supreme Court sent the wrong message to pornographers all over the world. Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to send the right message, and we will, just as we will in returning Ludwig Koons to the United States. It is not right that Ludwig's pornographer mother illegally removed him to Italy against the order of the United States courts. She is a criminal. We need to bring Ludwig home and all of our children home.

FOSTERING FAMILY INDEPENDENCE THROUGH WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1996 this House passed historic welfare reform legislation that fostered family independence by moving people into the workforce. Welfare reform is an issue of monumental proportion. Six years ago we had a positive effect on the lives of millions of needy Americans. Today we have another chance to improve the lives of many more.

Since 1996, statistics have shown that welfare families have begun to achieve independence. While we celebrate the progress of 1996, we must charter a plan that guarantees future success. This

Congress must move forward to reauthorize welfare reform and assist those Americans that have not yet achieved their goals.

Welfare reform works. But we must continually improve the system today for tomorrow. By reaching out to Americans in need, we will change not only lives, but put a smile on the face of our society.

We are making progress, Mr. Speaker, but it is time we turn the corner. Let us strengthen the path towards independence by empowering people to support themselves. I encourage my colleagues to support reauthorized welfare reform.

PROTECTING SACRED NATIVE AMERICAN SITES

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday we had a hearing in the Committee on Resources dealing with a parcel of land belonging to the Pechanga Band of Mission Indians in Riverside County, California. The Tribe is trying to protect the land because it contains several sites sacred to the tribe, including the largest living oak tree in the United States.

This magnificent tree is over 1,500 years old and has been the site of tribal ceremonies for generations. Believe it or not, this tree is in danger of being felled by an order to construct transmission lines.

We are often faced with the perception that Native American sacred sites are not worthy of protection somehow because they generally are a part of nature and not brick and mortar buildings with a large bell towers. One look at this tree, however, and the majesty of it comes across to even the most cynical.

While I believe we will be able to preserve this particular Native American site through the hard work of the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), Senator BOXER and Senator FEINSTEIN, dozens of other similar areas are threatened with desecration. The Glamis Mine in California and the Valley of the Chiefs in Montana are in danger of being lost forever by the presence of gold mining and the sights and sounds of oil drilling.

The time has come for us to stop running around trying to cherry-pick certain Native American sacred sites to save. We need to act and have one strong policy and procedure, backed up by the laws of this country.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL IN ITS WAR WITH TERRORISM

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the terrorist attacks

upon the people of Israel. On the basis of our shared principles and democratic values, we have an obligation to stand squarely with our democratic ally. We will support those who stand for freedom.

On Monday, tens of thousands of Americans assembled in Washington, D.C., to stand in solidarity with the people of Israel and to support her right to defend herself. We must not and we will not allow the lone light of democracy in the entire Middle East to be extinguished by the Palestinian wave of hatred.

Yasser Arafat has impeded peace and perpetuated his charade for far too long. The Palestinian Authority must not be allowed to breed its violence and hatred, and the international community, led by the United States, must make it absolutely clear that terrorism will not be tolerated.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue their unyielding support for the people of Israel as they wage their own war on terrorism.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and the Republicans in Congress proclaim that today's vote to make permanent last year's \$2 trillion tax cut is merely to correct a quirk in the law that sunset the entire tax cut December 31, 2010.

That was no quirk. The Republicans controlled the House, the Senate and the White House. They wrote it into the law because they wanted to hide the implications of these massive tax cuts; the fact that they were going to put us back in deficit, that they were going to take money from the Social Security lock box, which they just voted for seven times, and they just wanted to pretend.

Well, now the pretension is over. They are revealing their true side. Make these cuts permanent. If they are successful in doing that, another \$400 billion of deficit in the next 10 years, every penny of it coming out of the Social Security trust fund, money raised with a regressive flat tax which is going to fund estate tax relief for people with estates over \$5 million and people who earn over \$373,000 a year.

That is what this vote is all about, plain and simple. No quirk; it is highway robbery.

FIGHTING FOR THE RELEASE OF HOUA LY

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a tragic anniversary. Three years ago tomorrow,