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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 22, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Father Val J. Peter, Executive Director, Girls and Boys Town, Boys Town, Nebraska offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we come before You on this beautiful morning to ask Your blessing on the House this day. Give light, wisdom, and humility to all Representatives in their work today. May they seek what is best for our people. May they search for what will bring goodness to our world.

Let each this day do one blessed thing for another person. Let each this day ask pardon from another person.

Bless also all of those who are in the service of our beloved country. Keep them safe. Keep them faithful to You and their loved ones.

Finally, Lord, bless all of our children, especially those who are hurt and suffering. Send people to put joy and happiness into their hearts. We ask this in Your name. 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.

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

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

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

Mr. McNULTY. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TERRY 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 concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that all workers deserve air treatment and safe working conditions, and honoring Dolores Huerta for her commitment to the improvement of working conditions for children, women, and farm worker families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for 1 minute and then will recognize up to 10 Members from each side of the aisle for 1 minute.

EXTENDING A WARM WELCOME TO FATHER VAL J. PETER

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of extending a warm welcome to Father Val J. Peter, our guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today. I also want to thank him for his thoughtful and inspiring prayer.

Father Peter is a native Nebraskan, a Diocesan priest within the Archdiocese of Omaha, and the executive director for Girls and Boys Town USA. He is also one of the foremost advocates for youth in the world and a true friend, effective educator, and caring, surrogate father to thousands of troubled youth and teenagers.

Father Peter oversees Boys Town programs stretching from coast to coast. Last year alone, Father Peter and the Boys Town staff helped brighten the future for more than 37,000 troubled, neglected, and abused children. Father Peter has earned the gratitude of thousands of children and families with his unconditional love, boundless optimism, and unwavering devotion to God.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that we are pleased and honored to have Father Val Peter here with us today.

RESTORING MEMORIAL DAY

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

□ 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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, over the years the true meaning of Memorial Day has faded from the public consciousness. Memorial Day began after the Civil War as a solemn day of mourning, remembrance, and honor to our departed loved ones. But today, Memorial Day seems to be more about planning a 3-day weekend than remembering our fallen heroes. As a veteran of two wars, I know all too well that Memorial Day is much more than a 3-day weekend or the beginning of a summer sale.

Veteran's Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated on November 11, regardless of which day of the week it falls on. The same should be true for Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, this week I am introducing legislation restoring Memorial Day to its actual day, May 30. We owe our loved ones and friends who died in service to their country a restored Memorial Day.

JOIN THE PICTURE THEM HOME CAMPAIGN

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I will again digress this morning from my stories of Ludwig Koonz, but not our effort to return him to the United States from Italy.

As chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, I would ask that as we approach this Memorial Day that we not only pay honor to those who have given their lives to our country, but to the tens of thousands of innocent children who are still missing from their loved ones in this country. We maintain hope that the children will come home and that they will come home not only with the help of law enforcement, but with the help of the American people.

A few years back, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children instituted the Picture Them Home campaign to be observed during the month of May. I have asked my colleagues on a number of occasions to place pictures of missing children on their franked envelopes, which is allowed under the franking guidelines, and many of them have chosen to do so. This morning I ask that everyone here join me in supporting this effort and help us Picture Them Home.

Participating in this campaign only takes a few minutes of your time. First, pledge to take the time to really look at the pictures of the missing children that you see. These may be pictures on bulletin boards in your local Wal-Mart, or they may be the "Have You Seen Me?" cards that are sent out by ADVO. Second, if you are a parent, make sure that you maintain current, high-quality pictures of your children for use in case of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, we know that pictures work. All you have to do is look.

NURSING SHORTAGE PLAGUING U.S.

(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, health care experts are worried that a national nursing shortage could become widespread later in the decade, just as the aging U.S. population requires more care. Educational institutes, hospitals and Congress are working feverishly to fill this global shortage, because it is nurses who impact the lives of people in times of health, illness, pain, stress, and even death.

Nurses' talents, long hours and many sacrifices should be recognized. One of the ways in which Baptist Health South Florida appreciated nurses is by having recently hosted "Shadow a Nurse Day."

Baptist Hospital, South Miami Hospital, Homestead Hospital, Mariners Hospital, and Baptist Outpatient Services were the health care sites which participated in this event.

By helping the population to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing nurses today, these health care sites perhaps contributed to helping relieve the existing nursing shortage plaguing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Baptist Health South Florida for its commitment to the future of nursing.

END THE TRADE EMBARGO ON CUBA

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, 90 miles from America's shore is the island of Cuba, but what really separates the people of Cuba and the American people is the U.S. Government's hypocritical trade embargo restated this week by President Bush.

This failed policy towards Cuba empowers Fidel Castro, denies American businesses the freedom to trade, and prohibits the American people the freedom to travel.

Around the world, the United States has used economic engagement to promote political reform, democratic values and human rights. With Cuba, our government does the opposite. We punish the Cuban people with a trade embargo.

For a free and open Cuba, let us free American businesses to trade with Cuba, free America's farmers to sell to Cuba, and free the American people to travel to Cuba. The trade embargo has failed. The spirit of the American people and the power of our economy can achieve the freedoms we all desire for the Cuban people.

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

(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, in the coming weeks, the State Department will be releasing its annual "Trafficking in Persons report." This report will highlight the very serious problem of international sex trafficking and forced prostitution around the world in the countries that tolerate it.

Still, some of the worst offenders such as India and Thailand have made no progress in combating this sex trafficking. Worse, it is on the rise.

In India, over 2.3 million girls and women are believed to be working in the sex industry against their will. Yet there are no known convictions for sex trafficking.

In Thailand, we are up to 1 million trafficking victims. Approximately 100,000 are children, boys and girls; yet there are no known convictions for sex trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the complicity and tolerance of sex trafficking must stop. The State Department must not grant passing grades to these countries in its report until they show real improvement and begin to protect women and children in their country.

AMENDMENT ALLOWS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FREE HAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during my tenure in Congress, I have worked hard for the Federal Government to be a better partner to promote the liveability of our communities by walking the walk, by acting the way that we are asking the rest of America to behave. Yet, here today, we are going to be asking in the supplemental to exempt the Defense Department, the largest manager of infrastructure in the world, from being a good environmental citizen.

This bill contains an amendment that would relieve the Department of Defense from its responsibility for dealing with water consumption that occurs outside the control of the Secretary of Defense that is a direct result of the military installation. In particular, this is focused on the San Pedro River in Arizona, one of the richest biological reserves in all of North America. It has over 82 species of mammals, 385 species of birds, and was designated by this Congress as a National Riparian Conservation Area in 1988.

But as a result of this amendment, snuck in without debate by the substantive committee, that will not be substantively argued on this floor, we are going to basically give them a free