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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. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Kent Williams, Sunnybrook Christian Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, I thank You for this great country, for President Bush and for these Members of Congress who are dedicated public servants divinely appointed by You. Lord, build a spiritual wall of protection around all of our leaders, our armed forces, and our citizens. "Contend with those who contend with us." You are faithful from everlasting to everlasting.

We seek Your guidance and wisdom as we strive to discern and accomplish Your plan and purpose. We commit ourselves to upholding Your absolute law, standards and precepts. Give us strength and courage, both in policy and personal example, to be people of character and integrity, and may "In God We Trust" be expressed in our lives, not just stamped on our coins. Continue to work in us and through us, that we would be people with pure hearts and clean hands.

As Abraham Lincoln anticipated, "that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom," may we acknowledge that freedom comes from

great sacrifice, just as spiritual freedom and new birth come from the blood of Your Son shed at Calvary. In His Name we pray. 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. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma 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.

INTRODUCING PASTOR KENT WILLIAMS, GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I have the great pleasure of welcoming our guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today, Pastor Kent Williams. I thank him for the most appropriate and inspiring prayer he has offered up on our behalf as we seek divine guidance for the task that lies before us today.

Pastor Williams graduated with a degree in theology from Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri. For 25 years he has been serving as pastor in churches in Missouri, Oregon, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Pastor Williams now serves as senior pastor at Sunnybrook Christian

Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, my hometown. He provides ministerial support to Oklahoma State University's personnel and athletic programs and to most of my family. He is also a board member of Marriage Partners, an organization that strives to reduce the divorce rate and strengthen marriages and families in Oklahoma.

Pastor Williams has served as Chaplain of the Week at the Oklahoma State House of Representatives and has been a featured writer for national publications. He has been a keynote speaker and seminar leader for many Christian colleges and conventions, both nationally and throughout the great State of Oklahoma. He has worked across denominational lines to promote unity amidst diversity.

Pastor Williams and his wife, Kay, have two sons, Gabe and Joel. Also with them on the trip to Washington has been their nephew, Clinton Renken.

Pastor Williams is deeply committed to the service of his community, his church, his family and the Lord. Today I join with my colleagues in thanking Pastor Williams for honoring us with his presence, his message, and his prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by the Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

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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Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, June 5, 2002, and clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 10:50 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 1050

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE JOHN HOWARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Richard Wilson, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the Honorable John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE);

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort the Honorable John Howard, the Prime Minister of Australia, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE);

The Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Honorable Jesse Bibiano Marchalau, Ambassador of Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Prime Minister of Australia, the Honorable John Howard.

The Prime Minister of Australia, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you the Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE JOHN HOWARD, PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister HOWARD. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President of the Senate, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Congress of the United States, may I say how very touched I am by the warmth and generosity of your welcome. I appreciate very deeply the honor that you have extended to me today, but more importantly, the honor you have extended to my country, Australia.

I, on behalf of the 90 million freedom-loving Australians, convey to you their deep affection and warm greetings and their sense of solidarity and friendship.

The bonds between Americans and Australians are as strong as they are genuine; and that is, of course, because we share so many values in common: A belief that the individual is more important than the state; a belief that strong families are a nation's greatest resource; a belief that competitive capitalism is the real key to national wealth; and a belief that decency and hard work define a person's worth, not class or race or social background.

My friends, let me say to you today that America has no better friend anywhere in the world than Australia. Australians and Americans enjoy each other's company. We share a love of sport, and in some of them we are fierce competitors, and we even from time to time share the Academy Awards.

When I last came to this great Chamber of democracy on the 12th of September last year, the smoke still hung in the air over New York and Washington. Brave and courageous policemen and firemen, with no regard for their own safety, searched in the hope of finding survivors. The scale of loss and destruction was yet to be fully calculated. In seeking justice and not revenge, in choosing calm consideration over blind fury, in turning to friends before turning on enemies, the United States of recent months has led a great reaffirmation of all of those great values and principles on which both of our societies are based.

America fought back magnificently, and in the process has won the admiration of the world. You demonstrated to the world that where fundamental freedoms flourish, evil men can do their worst, cause death and devastation, but in the end, they will never win.

In his inaugural address, George Washington spoke of the destiny of the American people to preserve the sacred fire of liberty. That promise has been kept for more than two centuries, but never more so than since the appalling events of September last year. Through these times, Australians have shared your shock and anger, and have been partners in your resolve. We have taken our place beside you in the fight against terrorism because what happened last year in the United States was as much an attack upon our nation and the values that we hold dear as it was upon yours.

And as we meet, Australian and American troops are fighting side by side in Afghanistan. It is our constant prayer that they all return safely home to their loved ones.

In these past months, President Bush has displayed the tenacity, the strength, and the depth of character of a very great leader. And he is also applying those great qualities to the tensions in the Indian subcontinent between India and Pakistan, and in the intractable situation in the Middle East.

It is a special privilege for me to return to this historic place to address the representatives of a great Nation of whose people we hold in such high regard, and for whom we feel great warmth and affection toward.

Like you, Australia enters the new century strong and prosperous. Over the past decade, the productivity and growth of our economy has been ahead of most other developed nations.

Our pioneer past, so similar to your own, has produced a spirit that can overcome adversity and pursue great dreams; where pursued, a society of opportunity, fairness and hope, leaving as