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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, ever-attentive to our deepest needs, answer the prayers of the Members of Congress and bring them closer and closer to You.

Lord, once you draw souls close to You, people desire to hold on to Your presence, and so they pray. Then to give flesh and blood to prayerful sentiments and words they enter into the realm of self-denial. Finally, personal sacrifice, Lord, never seems worthwhile until it benefits another. So there are these three practices: prayer, fasting and acts of charity. The three are really one, giving life to each other as they bring us closer to You, O Lord.

When we deny ourselves food, drink and any portion of daily life, we gain an inner reminder of being poor and in need. To sincerely petition You, Lord, one needs to first have listened to the pleas of another. Once in the simplicity of heart a person can admit the little they have and still deny self just a portion, then that person has something to offer another from the heart, be that time or a cup of water.

Transform hearts, O Lord, by the Spirit of freedom and peace, then we will have something to offer the world, now and forever. 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 Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT 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 agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 217

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Howard W. Cannon, formerly a Senator from the State of Nevada.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced, that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 305. Concurrent Resolution permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 85-874, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, appoints the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, vice the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT)

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 68-541, as amended by Public Law 102-246, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, reappoints Bernard Rapoport of Texas as a member of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a term

of five years, upon the expiration of his current term on March 10, 2002.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIAMI DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(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 a special educational center located in my congressional district, Miami Dade Community College, which confers more degrees than any other college in the country. Run by Dr. Eduardo Padron, the college includes the much-acclaimed School of Aviation and Visitor Services.

The School of Aviation and Visitor Services provides three Associate in Science degrees: professional pilot technology, aviation administration, and aviation maintenance management. The school's programs provides workforce development, education, and training for South Florida's number one industry, travel and tourism.

The program is growing under the leadership of Harry Hoffman, the interim campus president; Dr. Joyce Crawford-Martinez, academic and student dean; Mario Guerrier, school director; and Marjan Mazza, the chairperson of the Eig-Watson School of Aviation.

Please join me in recognizing Miami Dade Community College's School of Aviation and Visitor Services, and especially Lois and Harvey Watson for their generous donation to the school, and Dr. Eduardo Padron for his unwavering dedication to academic excellence.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mr. ROSS 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. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to read in Wednesday's New York Times that my Republican colleagues are working on a prescription drug benefit that will encourage the use of generic drugs.

In January, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and I introduced a bipartisan bill in the House that would create a voluntary, but guaranteed, Medicare prescription drug benefit for all seniors. We call it Medicare Part D.

Under our plan, seniors would pay an affordable monthly premium, an annual \$250 deductible, and a 20 percent co-pay on the cost of their medicine. This 20 percent co-pay will truly promote the use of lower-cost generic drugs and provide real savings for our seniors.

Our bill gives seniors the freedom to choose their pharmacy and their medicines.

Madam Speaker, the Emerson-Ross bill is a comprehensive, common-sense plan. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan legislation that will truly modernize Medicare to include medicine for all seniors.

TRIBUTE TO NEVADAN SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two Nevada heroes, heroes who recently lost their lives in our Nation's war to defend freedom and defeat terrorism.

Private First Class Matthew Commons is one of the most recent casualties in our war against terrorism. A graduate of Boulder City High School, Pfc. Commons was killed Monday in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Last month, our State mourned the loss of Army Specialist Jason Disney. A resident of Fallon, Nevada, and a graduate of Churchill County High School, Specialist Disney was the 20th American to die in the conflict of these young heroes.

Our sympathies and condolences go out to the families of these young men. Please know that Pfc. Commons and Specialist Disney will be missed, but that their courage, valor, and patriotism will never be forgotten.

May God bless these heroes and God bless all of our fellow Americans fighting for freedom and against terror.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight Lifetime television's campaign to Stop Violence Against

Women. This violence crosses all economic, cultural, racial, religious and educational lines. It is a multi-faceted problem with no easy solution. But prevention through education and awareness is key to ending the cycle of abuse perpetuated against nearly one-third of American women.

I will soon introduce legislation to dramatically increase the scale of intervention by urging every health care provider to screen women, age 18 and older, for domestic violence. My bill would also provide health care professionals with the training needed to assess women for signs of abuse.

In the confidential environment of a doctor's office or clinic, health care professionals would serve as a bridge to the criminal justice system. Routine screening for domestic violence would unlock options a woman may not otherwise pursue and allow her to see that shelter and advocacy services may be useful to her.

Madam Speaker, I commend all who have worked unwaveringly to bring the issue of violence against women to the forefront.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR BURMA

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, for years the people of Burma have suffered horrifying brutality, torture, rape, forced labor and destruction of homes and villages. Entire communities are forced to live in hiding in the jungles without access to medical care or education for their children because the military dictatorship of Burma continues to attack villagers who refuse to allow drug production on their land or who will not bow to the illegitimate authority of the SPDC.

Approximately 300,000 Burmese are now refugees in Thailand, Bangladesh, and India. When Rev. David Eubank visited with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League of Democracy in 1997, she suggested inviting churches from around the world to pray for the people of Burma.

Since then, people from all faith backgrounds around the world now join each March to pray for peace for the people of Burma.

Madam Speaker, I urge the American people and this body to join me in praying for freedom and peace for the people of Burma.

MOURNING ARI HALBERSTAM

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

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, today is the twenty-third of Adar, 5762 on the Jewish calendar, the Yahrzeit, or anniversary, of the passing of Ari Halberstam. It was 8 years ago today that he died as a result of wounds suf-

fered in a terrorist attack on the Brooklyn Bridge March 1, 1994.

America awakened to terrorism on September 11, but for years there were Imams in mosques in the United States, who were inciting hatred and glorifying terrorism. For years, there were voices trying to bring this to our attention, one of the loudest of which was Deborah Halberstam, the mother of Ari. When she was told that her son's death was a result of simple road rage, she refused to let the authorities whitewash history. It was not just because of her son, it was because she realized back then what so many of us did not realize until September 11, that terrorism can happen in the United States and that, unless we are willing to confront terrorism, we are doomed to see it happen again.

On December 5, 2000, the FBI finally classified Ari's death as a terrorist incident. While it was heartening to see that they had abandoned their dogmatic view, this was a hollow victory. For 6 years, the FBI did not admit what it truly was. So today, as the candles burn in honor of Ari Halberstam, let us pause to remember the boy who was taken from us and let us stop to think of the lessons we should learn and let us pray that we have the wisdom to prevent attacks such as these from happening again.

CONGRESS PRAYS FOR MARTIN AND GRACIA BURNHAM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, today marks day 285 that Martin and Gracia Burnham have been held captive by Muslim terrorists in the Philippines.

Yesterday, in a video made by the Abu Sayyaf group, the Muslim terrorists, they confirmed their direct connection to the al Qaeda. Martin Burnham was forced to read a statement of grievances by the Muslims. The terrorists, through Martin, said they were targeting Americans and Europeans.

Martin and Gracia are innocent Americans, God-fearing people who are simply trying to make the world a better place. In a recent letter from Paul and Oreta Burnham, Martin's parents, they wrote, "We pray that we will soon be able to pass on to you good news of Martin and Gracia's release, but until then continue praying and believing God will see their release and being reunited again with their family."

At a time when the Nation is directly confronting terrorists in Afghanistan, contending with recession and unemployment and quietly fearing an additional attack, it would be easy to lose faith. I encourage our citizens to look at the strength exhibited by the Burnham family. Their plight is grave, but their enduring optimism and faith in God is a beacon of hope for us all.