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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, our salvation and our hope, when Jeremiah heard You calling him, he tried to evade a response. Jeremiah did not make excuses as we often do. He simply did not remain focused on You. He looked to himself instead and saw himself inadequate for the task You placed before him. As Your word once shook Jeremiah from his self-centeredness, so now call the Members of Congress to look beyond self-interest and be prophetic leaders of this Nation who will do what needs to be done and say what needs to be said.

Strengthen them by Your commission: "Go to whatever people I send You and say whatever I tell You to say. Fear none of them for I am with You and will keep You safe. This is the very word of the Lord."

May all of us be responsive 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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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. 380. An act to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to reform the funding of benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System for employees of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-696, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 100-696, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

The Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), vice the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN).

The Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), vice the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announces the appointment of Alan C. Lowe, of Tennessee, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of Stephen Van Buren, of South Dakota, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, vice Elizabeth Scott, of South Dakota.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

HONORING VETERANS

(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 Iraq today heroes are being made and freedoms won. Our soldiers in Iraq are joining a proud group of veterans who have fought to defend freedom and our country in the past.

This morning I would like to share a few words of Father Denis Edward O'Brien, chaplain of the United States Marine Corps, that honor our Nation's veterans. He said, "It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag."

There is a time to fight for freedom. Today our Nation's veterans are defending freedom and this Nation in Iraq. Two little words that would mean a lot to them are "thank you."

THE FEDERAL DEBT AND TAX CUTS

(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, today the House of Representatives will vote to borrow \$75 billion adding to our \$6 trillion mountain of Federal debt. Maybe we would not have to borrow that money if we asked the wealthy people if we could cancel, ask them to contribute a little bit to this crisis, but we will not do that here. What are we going to spend the \$75 billion on? \$10 billion of foreign aid including \$1 billion for Turkey, and remember how

□ 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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helpful they have been, \$1 billion for Turkey which their ambassador says is a unilateral act on the part of the United States of America. They have not asked for it and they do not want it, but we are going to give them that billion. We are going to borrow it, and give it to them.

Billions to rebuild Iraq including 6,000 schools. Universal health care is going to be implemented in Iraq. We already have a request for a proposal online from the United States Government to provide that.

What about here at home? What about our schools? What about the 44 million Americans that do not have health care? Not a penny of emergency spending in this bill for them. And then finally we have of course port security, first responders. Where are the funds we need to defend our country and where is the money the airline workers have been waiting for? For 18 months we promised them they would get money next week, 18 months ago.

“PORKER OF THE WEEK” AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Boston's Big Dig and Virginia's Mixing Bowl are characterized by cost overruns and boggled timelines. The Big Dig in Boston has turned into one of our biggest boondoggles. The project which already costs more than twice as much as it did to build the Panama Canal was estimated in 1985 to cost \$2.6 billion. Eighteen years later the project still is not completed and the costs are more than \$14 billion and are expected to go to \$18 billion. So also the cost projections for the Mixing Bowl have tripled with the latest estimate approaching \$1 billion. Lax oversight and consistently low estimates of cost and money have also hampered the completion date which was slated for 2007. That slipped.

These projects represent huge investments by State, local, and the Federal governments, and Americans have the right to expect Federal projects to be well managed and completed on time and on budget. Because the Federal Highway Administration has done little to stem the runaway spending on these two projects, it gets my “porker of the week” award.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN L. ROBINSON

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very good friend of mine and Costa Mesa's mayor, Karen L. Robinson. Mayor Robinson was recently appointed as a judge of the Orange County Superior Court, making her the first black woman appointed to our county bench.

Robinson currently supervises five attorneys as the litigation counsel coordinator for the California State University System, and she also serves as a judge pro tempore, presiding over small-claims cases for the county's municipal and superior courts.

Robinson's appointment as a judge is not the first time that she has made history. In 2000 she was named to the Costa Mesa City Council and in 2002 was named mayor. Both are firsts for an African American in that city in Orange County.

I would like to congratulate Robinson on her outstanding achievements and all of her contributions to our community, and I know that she will have even more successes in her career, and I wish her the best.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NAVAL RESERVE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, seven carriers and air wings are deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I want to focus on a Carrier Reserve Squadron being assigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight aboard the USS *Roosevelt*. The Squadron is Strike Fighter 201, VFA-201, flying the F-18 Hornet. They are part of the 11th Carrier Air Wing, Carrier Air Wing Reserve 20, headquartered in Atlanta.

This is the first naval reserve F-18 squadron ever mobilized aboard a carrier with an active duty wing, and 201's combat record demonstrates the capability of our reserve air crews. Since October VFA-201 mobilized over 100 Reservists transitioning to the F/A-18 Alpha Plus and deployed aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* in January.

Every aviator has crews and combat experience of over 1,000 flight hours, many logging more than 2,000 hours in type. Reservists of 201 provide leadership to the wing in strike planning, flight execution, and carrier operations. Their experience in operations around the world and in adversary tactics aid Air Wing readiness. This reserve squadron's boarding rate and landing grades exceeded all other active duty Air Wing Eight squadrons.

Early in the morning of March 23, the “hunters” of VFA-201 made history carrying out our initial strikes and destroyed a communications complex south of Baghdad. The pilots, sailors, and jets are performing magnificently. Morale is high and they are continuing to operate Air Wing Eight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Naval Reserve TACAIR is alive, underbudget, and on target. This success story is what our Naval Air Reserve squadrons bring to the table in time of war: experience, peacetime active duty support, and surge capability. The Reservists are our best and brightest. They form the backbone of a low-cost military insurance policy America needs.

ADDRESSING HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership today is bringing up a spending bill primarily to pay for the war, and I certainly understand it and will support it; but they have precluded the Democrats from adding and actually addressing in a better way the issue of homeland security. We know that after 9-11 we have to do a lot more to protect problems at home, whether it be water utilities or railroad opportunities or our ports and cargo coming into ports. And what the Democrats have been saying over and over again is that this bill that comes up today, and basically the Republican leadership in general are not doing enough to look at the problem of homeland security.

We were told that we could not bring up an amendment that would have added money to pay for these various functions here at home. They should have allowed us here to do this. It is not fair to not let the Democrats who are a minority, but not a minority by much, to have the opportunity to debate and bring up a bill that would put more money to address these problems whether it is tunnels, whether it is your local water supply, whether it is helping with grants for local firefighters or police so that they can better respond and understand what to do in case of a biological or chemical attack. This is what my constituents are telling me that they are very concerned about. Of course they are concerned about the war, and we have to finance the war operations against Iraq. But we also have to be concerned about what happens here. I saw what happened in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center. We are not prepared. Let the Democrats bring up that amendment and address the problem of homeland security more effectively.

FISCAL YEAR 2003 SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I have come before the American people today to express my deep concern over the situation affecting our domestic airlines. Today we will be voting to appropriate a supplemental budget. Within this budget there will be much needed, in fact, critical funding for our troops who are currently engaged in combat with Iraq. This funding bill will also include payments to our domestic airlines to help fund security measures in response to the September 11 attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I support both components of this supplemental spending