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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 of salvation, Father of all, may the good news of Baghdad spread throughout the region of Iraq. Bind the wounds of a war-torn people as You lift the cloud of oppression and ignite the promise of a new day.

When the Iraqi people gather in their mosques and churches tomorrow and this weekend, may they find new reasons to offer You praise and thanks so that peace may descend upon their land and their families.

Lord, continue to protect and guide the coalition forces, that they may be transformed by Your power for building security and becoming witnesses to true freedom under the law.

Grant them perseverance and patience until their task is completed and they safely return home.

May all prisoners of war and all those still missing be found and be brought to light and reliable care.

To You, our God and Savior, do the Members of Congress and the Nation give the glory, 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 New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire 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 without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 273. An act to provide for the eradication and control of nutria in Maryland and Louisiana.

The message was announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing the outrage of Congress at the treatment of certain American prisoners of war by the Government of Iraq.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. There will be 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(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, since March of last year, a shroud has covered a plaque on the front of the Chester County Courthouse in my District. By court order, a work crew placed a piece of sheet metal over the plaque which has hung on the wall of the courthouse for nearly a century. This week, the Federal 3rd Circuit Court heard arguments about the future of this plaque.

Mr. Speaker, something is very wrong with our courts in this country. They say that child pornography is perfectly legal as long as real kids were not hurt making it, but the Ten Commandments are so offensive we have to cover them up. I am not exaggerating.

Mr. Speaker, something is very, very wrong with America's court system when child pornography is protected, but the Ten Commandments have to be covered up.

The 3rd Circuit Court should do the right thing. They should allow the plaque to stay right where it is.

IN GRATITUDE FOR THE SACRIFICE OF EDWARD SMITH

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Edward Smith spent his adult life protecting his fellow citizens, first as a Marine and then as a reserve SWAT police officer in the Anaheim Police Department.

In January, he submitted his application to retire from the Marine Corps to become a full-time policeman in Anaheim when the Secretary of the Navy froze all retirements for Marines for 12 months. On January 31, he and his unit, the 2nd Tank Battalion of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Unit set off for the Iraqi theater.

Edward Smith and his company of 200 Marines were involved in a fierce firefight in Basra where he was killed in the line of duty.

I am sure my colleagues all join me in paying tribute to Smitty, as he was known by his friends and comrades-in-arms, and to express our condolences and our gratitude to his wife, Sandy, and his children, Nathan, Ryan and Shelby.

BAGHDAD FALLS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate General Tommy Franks, Chief of Military Operations, and our brave military forces. Of course, I also congratulate Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, General Myers, and

□ 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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of course, President Bush and the administration.

I think everyone will remember where he or she was when the statue of Saddam Hussein came tumbling down. His atrocious regime is over, done.

And Mr. Speaker, there are many others I wish to congratulate today, but I want to remind everyone in the House that we should also congratulate everyone in this House of Representatives who voted for the Iraq resolution. It was the right thing to do.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN'S AND MAGEN DAVID YESHIVA

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, this has been a great time for student athletes from Brooklyn and Queens.

Earlier this month, St. John's won its record sixth National Invitation Tournament with a 70-67 comeback victory over Big East rival Georgetown. One cannot help but wonder what they would have been able to do if they had been given the bid to the NCAA Tournament that they deserved.

While St. John's has won many titles in its history, I also wanted to congratulate a school that just won its first, Magen David Yeshiva. This past month, the Warriors won their first championship in school history, defeating Ramaz of Manhattan 64 to 48 to claim the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League crown.

In the championship game, Charles Chehear led the way with 24 points on 10 for 16 shooting, including 18 points in the second half. Not surprisingly, he was the game's MVP. Team captain Maurice Levy added 13 points, making 63 percent of his shots in the second half, and Ralph Cohen also made it into double figures, netting 13 points. Of course many other players contributed to this unprecedented victory, and I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize these young men—Robert Abadi, Jack Beyda, Albert Braha, Albert Dayan, Eddie Dayan, Steven Fallas, Steven Gindi, Ralph Hasbani, Joseph Kameo, Isaac Kassin, Isaac Mizrahi, Steven Orfali, Irving Sassoon, Ovadia Setti.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Morris Dweck and Assistant Coach Danny Mizrahi, this was a particularly emotional win, since the team dedicated the game to the memory of Leo Chalom, a 2001 Magen David graduate who passed away less than a week before the championship game. A crowd of 1,500 recited a chapter of Psalms in his memory before the game, and I am heartened to know that the Warriors' victory was able to bring some solace and happiness to the members of the Magen David community who are working their way through trying times.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and all of the people of the city of New York, I offer my hearty congratulations to the Red Storm of

St. John's and the Warriors of Magen David Yeshiva on their tremendous accomplishments.

BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, a recent broadband technology decision by the Federal Communications Commission presents serious issues for rural America and the agricultural industry as a whole.

Perhaps no small- to mid-sized business sector has been more affected by technology than agriculture, where computer systems monitor crop production, satellites relay soil moisture information and cell phones coordinate efforts.

However, last year, when the House passed the Tauzin-Dingell bill, which would remove outmoded restrictions on local phone companies in exchange for aggressive system modernization and network build-out requirements, by adopting the business-as-usual stance, the FCC refused an opportunity to move in the direction that American agriculture and rural America has by adopting new technology, and instead attempted to require some companies to give deep discounts to their competition. Capital investment by these companies will suffer greatly in central Florida and throughout rural America.

Mr. Speaker, if local phone companies have little interest and no real incentive to invest heavily in urban and wealthy suburban areas, rural and small-town Americans will once again get the short end of the stick.

I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) in strongly urging the FCC to reconsider their position. Rural America needs the technological progress regulatory reform could bring.

TRIBUTE TO IRA SPRING

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, every State has citizens who do something special, and the State of Washington has a gentleman named Ira Spring. Ira Spring is a great outdoor photographer who, along with Harvey Manning, published the famous 100 Hikes in Washington, a series of guidebooks which ignited the movement to protect the environment of our State because it introduced thousands of people to the outdoors and the tremendous forests in the State of Washington.

Ira has also mentored some of our best mountain climbers, including Jim and Lou Whittaker of climbing fame.

Ira's gone on now to establish a foundation to help introduce young people

to the outdoors and encourage trail maintenance, and he is a fellow who we have tremendous respect for in the environmental community. And I just want to quote something Ira said the other day. He said, "I feel you need a lot of people to become aware of their surroundings," and he is certainly right on about that, because he has dedicated his life to doing that.

We are protecting our forests and wildlands and using them to great enjoyment in the State of Washington. I say thanks to Ira.

RECOGNIZING ERIN COLLINS

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize Erin Collins, a very dedicated and enthusiastic member of my Washington, D.C., congressional staff.

Erin has served my office and other congressional offices for nearly 5 years as an intern, legislative correspondent, legislative assistant, scheduler and office manager. She has established a passion for working on the Hill. Erin holds dear the people she has worked with in her many roles as a Hill member.

I, and others, greatly appreciate Erin's hard work and commitment. Constituents have grown to know her attention to detail, her knowledge of so many issues and her personal touch that should not go unrecognized.

It is unfortunate for many that Erin will be leaving the Hill because she has left her unique stamp on so many people. However, her ultimate dedication to her soon-to-be husband and his duty of serving our country show great devotion and courage. We wish both of them nothing but the best.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in commending Erin Collins for many important contributions to myself, my staff and those she has worked with and those she has served. She will be missed by many.

CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS ACT

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

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the Caribbean National Forest Wilderness Act. This legislation is simple. It recognizes the vital importance and need for the conservation of the Caribbean national forests, the only tropical rainforest in the national forest system, and will designate approximately 10,000 acres of this forest as the El Toro Wilderness Area.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Caribbean National Forest, and I can think of no better tribute than protecting the primitive nature of this forest for our future generations.