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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. DREIER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 11, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID DREIER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, a new day of promise has dawned. Bless the important work of Congress which they need to finish before spring recess. May its laws and resolutions make this Nation stronger and its future brighter, especially for the next generation. May the seeds planted today be our contentment and the promise of new life flourish beyond our imagining.

We pray also for the future of Iraq. Put an end to the killing and civil strife. May Your divine Providence guide the cooperation of many diverse peoples to create a new day of freedom built upon truth and justice for all the Iraqi people.

Lord, fulfill in our own day the future vision of the prophet Jeremiah. The man of tears once stood in the rubble of the city he loved and cried aloud for future generations to hear: "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with my people. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts. No longer will they need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the Lord. I will forgive their evil doing and remember their sin no more."

May the renewal of this covenant as celebrated in Passover and Easter bring a new understanding and purpose as America prays for the Iraqi people and peace. 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 Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STENHOLM 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. 1505. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2127 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Jim Richardson Post Office."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 538. an Act to amend the Public Health service Act to establish a program to assist family caregivers in accessing affordable and high-quality respite care, and for other purposes.

S. 783. An act to expedite the granting of posthumous citizenship to members of the United States Armed Forces.

S. 870. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to extend the availability of funds to carry out the fruit and vegetable pilot program.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 151) "An Act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the sexual exploitation of children".

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 Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, vice the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 5 one-minutes on each side.

COMMEMORATION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the introduction of H. Res. 193, legislation that enjoys the support of over 64 bipartisan original cosponsors and commemorates the 15th anniversary of the United States implementation of the Genocide Convention.

The month of April marks the commemoration of one of the saddest chapters in world history, the Armenian genocide. We join with Armenian Americans across the Nation to mourn the loss of so many innocent lives. This important human rights legislation

□ 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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will put Members of Congress on record as recognizing the Armenian genocide. Silence either out of indifference or as the result of political pressure only serves to encourage others who would again use ethnic cleansing as a tool of government.

As the anniversary of the horrific genocide in Armenia approaches, I wish the people of Armenia success in their effort to bring about the lasting peace and prosperity that they deserve, and I ask for Members' support in commemorating the Armenian genocide by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA ON ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Rowan County, North Carolina, part of which is located in my congressional district, as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of their county. Rowan County was founded in 1753, more than 20 years before the American Revolution. Today Rowan County has around 135,000 residents and is a thriving part of North Carolina's Piedmont. Salisbury, the county seat, is known as the hometown of the Food Lion grocery store chain, Cheerwine soft drinks and my new colleague in the Senate, Senator ELIZABETH DOLE. I always look forward to visiting Rowan County and was planning to ride in their parade this afternoon had the House schedule allowed that to happen.

I wish all the best to the Rowan County residents as they gather this weekend to celebrate the Rowan 250 Fest, with the theme of "History's Crossroads"—looking back at Rowan County's rich history and looking forward to a bright future.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, since its founding in 1946, members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America have visited public forums ranging from the halls of Congress to high schools and scout troops to relate their personal experiences and raise the public's awareness of their cause. In sum, the PVA's efforts ever remind us human suffering is the horror of war and no one more intensely experienced this horror more than our citizen-soldiers who uniquely endure its pains. Thus we, who are free because of these brave citizen-soldiers' sacrifices, must do everything in our power to alleviate and accommodate the pain they bore, and bear, for us.

Mr. Speaker, members of the PVA like my constituent Michael Harris

have been grievously wounded during their armed service for our country, yet still they nobly continue their altruistic service to our country. They are a source of pride and inspiration to our entire Nation. Let us, therefore, join with my home State of Michigan and the PVA and commemorate the week of April 13-19 as Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week. They deserve much more but certainly no less.

HONORING HARDIN SIMMONS UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hardin Simmons University women's basketball team from Abilene, Texas, who have achieved an incredible record including their first undefeated regular season in school history, a fifth straight American Southwest Conference tournament title, and a strong finish in the NCAA Division III tournament. The university community knew this team had a winning chemistry when the Cowgirls won all 24 of their regular season games and their fifth straight ASC tournament title which earned them a spot in the coveted NCAA Division III basketball championship and a number-one ranking in the Nation of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

None of these victories could have been achieved without the incredible teamwork that these 15 young women have demonstrated. One player in particular, Kendra Anderson, has been named the Division III national player of the year, the American Southwest Conference most valuable player for the third straight year, the tournament most valuable player for the fourth straight year and the first-team all-American and all-South Region for the third year. Coach Briggs brings out the best from her players, sharpens their strengths and improves their weaknesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituents from Hardin Simmons University.

THE FACTS ON ETHANOL

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, during last night's debate, there was a great deal said about renewable fuels and particularly about ethanol. Much of this was uninformed and inaccurate. I think some of it was due to the fact that it was based on old research.

One of the comments that was made was that ethanol is not energy efficient, that it takes a lot more energy to produce than what it actually yields. Actually for every Btu of fossil

fuel used, ethanol yields 1.4 Btus of energy. Gasoline for every Btu of energy used yields .8 Btu. MTBE yields about .7 Btu. It is the most energy efficient fuel that we have going at the present time.

Also, ethanol reduces farm payments by \$5.9 billion over 10 years and it adds \$51 billion to the farm economy. It reduces the trade deficit by \$34 billion over 10 years which certainly helps the economy as well, and in 2002 removed 4 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air.

MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF SINKING OF THE "SULTANA", AMERICA'S GREATEST MARITIME DISASTER

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, during our Easter recess, we will pass the anniversary of a tragic historic event in America. We are all familiar with the sinking of the *Titanic* and its loss of 1,522 lives. In fact the greatest American maritime disaster, April 27, 1865, was the sinking of the *Sultana* in a photograph here shown loaded with former POWs on the Mississippi River. One of the boilers on the *Sultana* blew, it sank and lost probably 1,800 mostly Union soldiers that had been released from prisoner of war camps deep in the South.

This tragedy was combined with illegality. This ship was supposed to hold less than 400 people. It was overloaded in violation of law. It pushed out of the Mississippi River at 2 a.m., a boiler blew, it caught on fire as shown in this drawing, and experienced tremendous winds shortly thereafter. Here we can see the thing flips around and the fire pushes people off the other end of the boat. These men were all emaciated former POWs. It was with great, great loss of life. There are two books on the subject, "Disaster on the Mississippi" and "The *Sultana* Tragedy."

Its anniversary was April 27, 1865.

HONORING SERGEANT GEORGE E. BUGGS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant George E. Buggs. This young man grew up in the South Carolina town of Barnwell. After graduating from his local high school in 1990, he decided to become part of something larger than himself by joining the U.S. Army to defend our Nation.

On Saturday, the Pentagon announced that Sergeant Buggs made the ultimate sacrifice for his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His body was discovered during the rescue of Private Jessica Lynch along with eight