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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Very Reverend Ernesto Medina, Provost, Cathedral Center of St. Paul, Los Angeles, California, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, in Your word You have given us a vision of that holy city to which the nations of the world bring their glory. Behold and visit, we pray, the communities on this Earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity.

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious and whose law is truth: We pray You so to guide and bless our Representatives in Congress assembled, that they may enact such laws as shall please You, to the glory of Your name and the welfare of this people; in Your holy name we pray. 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 California (Mr. BECERRA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BECERRA 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 with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1588. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1588) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. PRYOR, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

S. 1047. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1048. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 1049. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for defense activities of

the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

### WELCOMING THE VERY REVEREND ERNESTO MEDINA

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to introduce our guest chaplain, the Very Reverend Ernesto R. Medina of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Los Angeles, California. Reverend Medina is an ordained minister and a graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific as well as the University of California at San Diego.

Reverend Medina is more than just the pastor of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul. He is neighbor, friend, and indispensable spiritual leader in the community of Echo Park in Los Angeles. He is the first Latino to be appointed as a provost within the Episcopalian Church in this country. Reverend Medina has demonstrated a leadership style that has endeared him not only to the members of his congregation and the community of Echo Park but also to those throughout the community of Los Angeles who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

Not long ago, there was a collapse of an apartment building not far from the Cathedral Center where, were it not for the efforts of Reverend Medina, several families would have been left homeless. But quickly, Reverend Medina and the parishioners of the Cathedral Center came forward and offered families with small children a place to stay and a place to eat. Today the parish of Cathedral Center is much blessed by the work that has been done by Reverend Medina. His compassion not only for the residents of Echo Park but for all of Los Angeles has exemplified the type of work that is done by the Episcopalian Church. I am very proud to

□ 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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say that today, the first day perhaps in more than 2 weeks when we see the sun out in Washington, D.C., that Reverend Medina has come forward.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BECERRA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to join my friend in welcoming Reverend Medina, who has just informed me that he is a constituent of mine. We are very appreciative of the prayer and the very kind words.

Mr. BECERRA. I join with my colleague from California (Mr. DREIER) in recognizing that not only is he an able reverend but he is also a very important constituent. I thank the Speaker for this opportunity to express some thoughts for this 1 minute. I thank the reverend for making the trip to Washington, D.C., and bringing the sunshine with him.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, June 4, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Ms. Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, State of Texas, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held June 3, 2003, the Honorable Randy Neugebauer was elected Representative in Congress for the Nineteenth Congressional District, State of Texas.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

Attachment.

ELECTIONS DIVISION,  
Austin, Texas, June 4, 2003.

Hon. JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk, House of Representatives, The Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. TRANDAHL: This to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Runoff Election held on Tuesday, June 3, 2003, for Representative in Congress from the Nineteenth Congressional District of Texas show that Randy Neugebauer won the runoff election.

The Governor will canvass the election returns no later than June 10, 2003 and will issue certificate of election to Congressman-elect Neugebauer.

I am enclosing a copy of the unofficial election results. As soon as the results are official, I will forward them to you along with the certificate of election.

Your truly,

ANN MCGEEHAN,  
Director of Elections.

Enc.

	Vote total	% of vote	Early voting	% of early vote
Mike Conaway—Rep .....	27,959	49.48	14,582	50.90
Randy Neugebauer—Rep .....	28,546	50.52	14,067	49.10
Vote total .....	56,505	100.00	28,649	100.00

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RANDY NEUGEBAUER OF TEXAS AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived; but there is no contest, and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Texas delegation present themselves in the well.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 108th Congress.

INTRODUCING THE HONORABLE RANDY NEUGEBAUER AS NEWEST MEMBER OF 108TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to introduce to the House of Representatives the fourth member to represent the 19th Congressional District of Texas, the 236th Texan to serve in the House, and 9,833rd U.S. citizen to serve as a member of the House of Representatives, the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER, born on December 24, Christmas Eve, 1949, graduate of Texas Tech University, High Plains citizen, small businessman, banker, home developer, and the winner of a historic vote, I believe, by 700 votes. He will say that there were more people in Lubbock that wanted to vote than wanted to vote in Midland, Texas. He now represents both the Permian Basin and the High Plains. We are absolutely delighted to have you. You join such former Texans, Presidents like Lyndon Johnson and George W. Bush, Speakers like Jim Wright and Sam Rayburn, majority leaders like TOM DELAY and Dick Armey in this august body.

We are delighted to have you. Welcome to the United States House of Representatives.

MAIDEN SPEECH OF THE HONORABLE RANDY NEUGEBAUER AS NEWEST MEMBER OF 108TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Only the people sitting on this floor understand what I am feeling right now. It is a privilege and an honor to be a part of history and to be with this body today.

I want to recognize my wife and my partner of 33 years who is up in the balcony there and my family. There is a scripture in Corinthians that says, "I am what I am by the grace of God." I am here today because of the grace of God. I understand that, and I look forward to working with you.

I have one regret. I would have really liked to have been here yesterday and voted on the partial-birth abortion. I would have voted an affirmative banning the partial-birth abortion. I am glad to see that you did that. It is a pleasure to be here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to working with you. I am the new kid on the block. I am the 435th ranking Member of the House of Representatives. I bumped some people up today, and I know they are glad of that. We certainly appreciate the Texas delegation and other Members being here today. We look forward to doing good work for the American people.

Thank you and God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will take 10 one-minutes on each side.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO ARGIZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY

(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, today I stand in recognition of the wonderful contributions of a friend of the South Florida community, Mr. Antonio Argiz. Tony bravely journeyed to the United States from Cuba, without his parents, at the age of 8, thanks to Operation Peter Pan.

Determined to live the American dream, Tony attended Florida International University, where he earned his accounting degree. Recognized as an expert in forensic accounting, he was the first Cuban American appointed by the Governor to chair Florida's board of accountancy.

□ 1015

Tony's passion for business is matched by his dedication to our community in South Florida. Tony serves as the cochair of the United Way of Miami-Dade and has served on the