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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. SHAW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 10, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Kathryn A. Towne, President, Life in Faith and Truth Ministries, Lakewood, Colorado, offered the following prayer:

Let us bow our hearts before the Lord.

Our Lord God, the Sovereign over this great and wonderful Nation in which we live, we come to You humbly today. Thank You for the opportunity to lead the people of the United States of America. Be present, O God of Wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable United States House of Representatives. Give insight, understanding, and discernment to each Member so they can exercise their duties for the betterment of their districts and this Nation.

May we all be reminded that righteousness exalts a nation. As these dedicated legislators meet in this Chamber or elsewhere, may their every decision, their every judgment, and their every action be said and done in righteousness. Their job is great; but You, the Almighty, give grace and direction as we ask for help.

Be pleased to grant strength and comfort to these leaders and their families. We ask in Your name. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California 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. 1668. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 101 North Fifth Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the "Ed Edmondson United States Courthouse".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

RESOLVE TO SEE IT THROUGH

(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, hours before President Bush's speech Sunday night, the top U.S. commander in Iraq

summed up in a single sentence the importance of creating a free and democratic Iraq. Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez said, "The only way we will fail in this country is if we decide to walk away in Iraq and fight the next battle in the war on terrorism in the United States of America." That is a stark assessment.

The President said the United Nations not only has an opportunity but a responsibility to assume a broader role in assuring that Iraq becomes a free and democratic nation. Nations that enjoy the richness of freedom have a moral obligation, when possible, to share their political and spiritual assets with countries that suffer from the poverty of totalitarianism.

Mr. Speaker, that has been the creed of this country. The American people must have the resolve to see this through.

U.S. STRETCHED TOO THIN

(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 express my great concern over the direction the Bush administration is leading our country. Simply put, we are spread too thin on every front. As a whole, our military is dangerously overextended. Just yesterday, our National Guard and Reservists were informed that their tours in Iraq have now been extended to 1 year, months longer than many initially anticipated.

Deficits are at a record high, homeland security spending is grossly inadequate, and the true cost of our military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan is becoming more apparent every day. Just this past week, President Bush requested an additional \$87 billion from Congress, an emergency spending request not seen since the early months of World War II.

□ 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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On top of all this, on top of all this, President Bush is still demanding that Congress make his expiring tax cuts permanent, a measure that will cost over \$1.1 trillion through 2013. Mr. President, where are we going to get this money from?

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CLAUDE
"A.C." BARGER

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they say you make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give. By that measure, A.C. Barger of Centreville, Texas, lived a very rich life. He was a Korean War veteran and a successful businessperson. I knew him when I first ran for the State legislature. And, honestly, without his help and his leadership, I would not be serving in Congress today.

More than that, he gave back to his community every day of his life. He served on the Trinity River Authority, was a member of the Silver Haired Legislature, was director of the Leon County Crime Stoppers, and he founded and was commander of the local VFW post. He loved children, and so he was Santa on the Square for 17 years and for the senior citizens. He started the Leon County Career Day and founded the Leon County Drill Team. He was selected man of the year. He just gave and gave and gave.

A.C. recently passed away. I know his wife, Darlene, daughters and family, and all will miss him. Our Nation, our State of Texas, our community, is better for A.C.'s life. He is a national treasure and will be missed.

THANK YOU TO GENERAL
SHINSEKI AND LARRY LINDSEY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, well over 6 months ago, Secretary of the Army, General Shinseki, was asked his opinion about how many soldiers we would need in Iraq. He said a couple hundred thousand. Today, we have about 180,000 troops in Iraq and Kuwait. The President's economic adviser, Larry Lindsey, was asked what he thought the cost of the war would be. He said around \$200 billion. Today, we are nearing \$160 billion.

When those two gentlemen were asked their professional judgment, they were run out of town, ridiculed, their careers were run down for what they did. Today, as we look at what they said 6 months ago, they were right on both accounts.

We do not do this enough in this town. So to General Shinseki and to Larry Lindsey, I want to thank you for your patriotism and I want to thank you for your honesty. Had we listened

to you a long time ago, or at least had the willingness to have an honest debate, we would have known that we would have 187,000 troops in the Iraq theatre of war. And to Larry Lindsey, who predicted it would cost us about \$200 billion of hard-earned taxpayer money, if we had listened to you rather than run you down, we would be honest and be able to handle this \$87 billion that the President has requested.

So, again, thank you for your patriotism and thank you for your honesty.

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Sunday night President Bush addressed the Nation for the first time since the end of major combat in Iraq. He showed the world once again, as ever, his determination, his tenacity to see this war through to its just conclusion, to bring peace and independence and security and freedom to the people of Iraq.

The President also called on this Congress in the next month to appropriate nearly \$90 billion in supplemental spending for military and reconstruction efforts, and so we should address that astonishing number thoughtfully and carefully, as we are charged to do under the Constitution.

But I would offer two humble principles. Number one, our troops have every penny they need to get the job done and come home safe. But it is time on the subject of reconstruction, Mr. Speaker, that we begin to ask our partners in the Coalition of the Willing to contribute their resources along with the American people to rebuilding Iraq.

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on a bipartisan bill, H.R. 2433, the Health Care for Veterans of Project 112. Project 112 was a series of military tests that were conducted during the Cold War in the 1960s. Many of these tests happened at sea and some on land.

The Department of Defense has admitted that they have no evidence that test participants were ever told about the tests, so we are extremely concerned about that in some cases. It is impossible to believe that the military exposed its own troops to such potent gases such as VX nerve gas and sarin. Veterans are naturally concerned about what has transpired and the information that we have received.

We have filed legislation and this will give us the opportunity to begin to examine these troops. We anticipate close to 6,000 troops might have been impacted by these tests. The VA has

also requested this legislation to allow them to be able to do this test, and I am extremely pleased it is a bipartisan piece of legislation. So I ask for my colleagues' support of H.R. 2433.

HONORING THE M&N AUGUSTINE
FOUNDATION

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Merlin Augustine and the M&N Augustine Foundation for a decade of service to the third district of Arkansas. The M&N Augustine Foundation embodies the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. Their mission is to help individuals who, through no fault of their own, are down on their luck. They have accomplished great things to this end, including finding housing for the homeless, moving moms off welfare into paying jobs, providing funeral expenses for those without life insurance, and making holidays like Halloween and Christmas more enjoyable for underprivileged children.

I personally had a chance to help some of the foundation's 800-plus volunteers provide over 20,000 home-cooked meals to senior citizens, homeless individuals, and unemployed persons during their annual Easter Feed Program. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Augustine's contributions to our community are invaluable. He and the hundreds of volunteers of his foundation exemplify the spirit of charitable giving that President Bush so often speaks of, and I appreciate the opportunity to commend them here today.

THE AMERICAN PARITY ACT

(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, the President gave quite a speech Sunday night. More of the same failing policy with a new face and a new breath-taking price tag, \$87 billion he wants to borrow now. And he wants to borrow \$20.5 billion from the American people to rebuild the roads, bridges, ports, water and electric systems in Iraq.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, what about here at home? We have to say maybe we could use some investment here in the United States on our bridges, roads, ports, water and electric systems.

So the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) and I have introduced the American Parity Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it. The President would have to match dollar for dollar every dollar that he borrows from the American people to invest in Iraq, he has to invest a dollar here for the same purposes here in the United States of America. \$20.5 billion for infrastructure in the United States could put a million people to work in this country and