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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. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 16, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our most kind and gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You for this day and the privilege to approach Your throne. We are grateful that one of our forefathers, Ben Franklin, had the foresight to request that Congress begin each meeting by imploring the assistance of heaven.

Lord God, I lift up everyone here today to You in prayer, realizing that we often refer to them as politicians, but in Your Holy Book, you refer to them as ministers. And they are responsible to those they represent but ultimately to You.

I pray Your wisdom, direction, and guidance upon them and their families. I especially ask You to be with President Bush; lead him as he leads our Nation. I ask You to be with our soldiers, no matter where they are serving; protect them, and bring them home safe.

Lord, we still believe what George Washington stated more than 200 years ago: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

May we always be keenly aware of what made this Nation great and may we return to You.

I pray all this, in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, until You come, we pray.

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. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS 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. 1474. An act to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1474) "An Act to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic

form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3229. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the Congressional Record, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVEREND DR. BENNY TATE

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the Reverend Dr. Benny Tate from Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church in Milner, Georgia. June and I are regular visitors to Dr. Tate's church.

Dr. Tate reminds me of a quote from Alexis de Tocqueville who came to America in 1831 to study democracy. And he wrote, and I quote, "I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her fertile fields and her boundless forests, and it was not there; in her rich mines and her vast world of commerce, and it was not there; in our democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, America then will cease to be great."

Fourteen years ago Dr. Tate relocated to Georgia to pastor the Congregation of the Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church. Under his tenure, the average Sunday morning

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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attendance has grown from 30 to 750. To accommodate this growth, the church is in a building program at this time to build and construct a 1,100-seat sanctuary. Their motto is if God builds it, they will come.

Dr. Tate is the author of two books, *Happy Wife, Happy Life*, and *One More Night with the Frogs*. He also hosts a popular weekly radio program, *Apples of Gold*. He and his wife Barbara and their daughter Savannah reside in Griffin, Georgia.

Dr. Tate is a pastor that I love, a pastor that I enjoy, and a pastor with a message that if God builds it, they will come because his message is one of righteousness.

I am proud to introduce, Dr. Benny Tate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH BIRTHDAY OF LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Lexington, North Carolina, is celebrating its 175th birthday this year. Lexington is a furniture and textile center, known for its famous Lexington-style barbecue and its annual Barbecue Festival which draws 100,000 people each October.

There are numerous Lexingtons in our country, from sea to sea, border to border, across the fruited plain, but none dispenses barbecue that is as delectable and tasty as Lexington barbecue. Go visit the old girl on her 175th. While there, tell her you want to order a chopped tray, laced with hush puppies and slaw. You will come back.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) and I, wish Lexington, North Carolina, a happy 175th birthday with wishes for many more to come.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH BIRTHDAY OF LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

(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 Lexington, North Carolina, part of which is located in my congressional district as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of their city.

Lexington was incorporated on December 28, 1827, and the first town commissioners were elected February 7, 1828. They are celebrating their anniversary throughout 2003.

Today Lexington has around 20,000 residents and is a thriving part of

North Carolina's Triad. Lexington is the county seat of Davidson County and is world famous for their Lexington-style barbecue, which many regard as the world's best. Lexington is also renowned for its furniture and is the home of artist Bob Timberlake.

I wish all the best to Lexington residents and Mayor Richard Thomas as they celebrate "Lexington's 175th Years: Past, Present and Future." I thank my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) for joining me in honoring this city that we both are proud to represent.

THE MIRACLE ON MOTOR STREET

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about the miracle on Motor Street in Texas. There is a natural tension between competing constituencies in the arena of vying for Federal dollars.

Funding for research for health care may at times intersect sharply with those dollars required for engineering research. But sometimes it all coalesces and condenses around a single event that serves to demonstrate the importance of collaboration.

And we witnessed just such an event this weekend in north Texas with the apparent hugely successful separation of Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim.

The intersection of mechanical engineering, bioengineering, pharmacology medicine, and surgery quietly and completely joined together to give these two otherwise healthy boys their best chance at a normal life.

I have a new job now, one which deals more with policy than surgical skill. So how nice it was to stand with one foot in the political world, but one not too far removed from the medical world, and to vicariously savor the moment of triumph for, yes, our medical professionals and also for everyone who devotes a life to making things better for those around them.

And everyone was involved at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, from the theoretical and practical professionals who developed the specialized OR table, monitors, and medicines.

We are reminded of how sometimes, when we focus on the very big and noble causes, we are rewarded many times over.

BRINGING JUSTICE TO THE FAMILIES IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before you to tell you about a very moving experience I had this weekend. I traveled to the city of Ciudad Juarez in Mexico on a fact-finding mission with three other Members of Congress.

Over 300 young women between the ages of 15 and 20 years of age were either sexually assaulted, raped, tortured and brutally murdered in the Ciudad Juarez in the past 10 years.

I met with heartbroken families who were suffering from their losses. The families I met with wore pink hats and T-shirts with pictures of their loved ones that were missing, asking for justice, for "Justicia."

They are rightfully looking for justice and closure to these awful murders. Many of these women and girls were abducted on their way to work or returning home from work or school.

I wish all Members could see where some of these women live, in great miserable conditions where neighborhoods have no paved roads, no electricity, and no street lighting.

So women have to travel by walking several blocks in the evening. Once they come home from work, many of them work there along the border.

On Tuesday, the day that I returned from our trip from Ciudad Juarez, the body of a woman was found battered to death and then wrapped in a plastic bag. The fact is that this continues to happen, does not make it acceptable or tolerable.

In August, the Mexican Government established a commission that we hope will work and collaborate with our government, the FBI, and also other entities and the State Department to come to some conclusion.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Washington Waste Watchers, I want to highlight, once again, the waste in the Federal Government.

Over the last 4 years the Department of Agriculture spent over \$5 billion in food stamp improper payments. This could have paid for over a year of food stamps for over 3 million low-income Americans.

Improper payments alone last year could have paid for a year of food stamps for close to 800,000 low-income Americans, Mr. Speaker. And yet our friends the Democrats still want to raise your taxes to pay for more of this?

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are worried about spending more money to protect our troops and to provide for America's long-term security, but they have no problem in spending money to give benefits to ineligible recipients. We have to get our priorities right, Mr. Speaker.

Let us fight waste, fraud, and abuse. We ask our friends in the other party to help us in our long term security and not do anything to not fund our troops abroad.