

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

At this time of the year from across the world arises Handel's Song of Isaiah's text. Today the same vigorous words are laid tenderly, like the music, upon this House of Representatives:

"Comfort my people. Give comfort to my people, says your God. Cry out to the nation that her warfare is accomplished; that her iniquity is pardoned. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Lord, may this seasonal song strengthen Your people in their desire for lasting peace, and may justice and right judgment in this Chamber be a comfort to Your people now and forever. 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 Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLINE 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 amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4012. An act to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize for 5 additional years the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 29, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 24, 2004 at 6:10 p.m.:

That the Senate Concurs in House Amendments to Senate Amendment to H. Con. Res. 529.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, November 29, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 24, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 115.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker Pro Tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled joint resolution on Monday, November 29, 2004:

H.J. Res. 115, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF OLSEN ON OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS MINNESOTA COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Jeff Olsen, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jeff Olsen was appointed Commissioner of Veterans Affairs by Governor Ventura in January 2001 and has continued to serve the veterans community proudly. Throughout the past 4 years, Jeff has been a tireless advocate and representative for Minnesota's 450,000 veterans. By working closely with groups such as the Veterans Service Organizations of Minnesota and the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Jeff has remained constantly in touch with the issues of concern to the men and women he represents.

No stranger to those issues himself, Jeff began his career as a member of the United States Army, attached to the United States Armed Forces Courier Service, a joint services mission responsible for the preparation and transportation of top-secret materials

throughout the world. This experience has continued to inspire Jeff and motivate him to serve his fellow veterans with honor and respect.

Jeff's dedication to the veterans community will continue to shine through the legacy of his accomplishments. Thank you, Jeff, for the example you have set. Your fellow veterans will miss you. We wish you the best in your next chapter of life.

HOUSE MUST PASS 9/11 LEGISLATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House today and tomorrow has one, one, simply one chance to do what is right, and that is to pass the 9/11 Commission report legislation. It is not a question of whether this is a bad bill; it is a question of whether or not we can put aside special interests and do our jobs.

Frankly, the issues that are standing in the way now are issues that can be addressed very well in the 109th Congress. In fact, I look forward to comprehensive immigration reform. I am delighted we are working through the issues concerning our military. And in fact, we have been informed by those in charge of the military in the Pentagon that these issues are resolved.

It is a shame when we hear the former, or soon-to-be former, Secretary of Health and Human Services tell us that our food supply may be in jeopardy. Human intelligence is vital. The 9/11 Commission legislation will address that.

With homeland security as the backdrop of our work, we need more work with the Transportation Security Administration, more training and testing of cargo on airplanes. There is so much work to be done. We must pass the 9/11 Commission legislation now. Only then can we begin the work of securing the homeland seriously.

MR. DENTON GOES TO SENATE

(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, with the conclusion of a session, there is a normal shuffling of staff positions, and for the office of the Second District of South Carolina we will miss Wesley Denton, who has served for 3 years as communications director.

I have mixed feelings, personally, about this move; but I am thrilled Wesley has been selected to serve with Senator-elect JIM DEMINT of South Carolina. Congressman DEMINT is a person of high integrity and competence, which is reflected by his choosing Wesley.

Wesley will be a part of history, in that South Carolina has not had two

Republican U.S. Senators since 1877. Beginning in January, we will have the achievement of U.S. Senators LINDSEY GRAHAM and JIM DEMINT. With Wesley's congressional experience, his training with Ed Meese at the Heritage Foundation, and his work with the House Committee on Armed Services, Wesley will assist the Senator to best represent the people of South Carolina.

Wesley Denton, one of five sons of Cassy and Dan Denton of Beaufort, South Carolina, and the newlywed husband of the former Kari Brooks, is a credit to the people of South Carolina, and I wish him Godspeed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

BIPARTISAN INTELLIGENCE REFORM BILL

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask for the opportunity to vote on the 9/11 intelligence reform bill, supported both by Republicans and Democrats. Smart, effective intelligence reform, such as this piece of legislation before Congress, will help to strengthen our intelligence agencies and better protect Americans against terrorism.

Unfortunately, extreme conservatives are playing politics with America's security. They have prevented us from making America safer for our families because they continue to insist that the House-passed controversial immigration provisions need to be included. The 9/11 Commission has stated, and I quote, "We believe strongly that this bill is not the right occasion for tackling controversial immigration and law enforcement issues."

I believe with the 9/11 Commission. The legislation before us has the support of the President, the support of congressional leaders in both the House and the Senate, and it is the will of the 9/11 families that Congress pass this legislation.

Let us make America safer and pass this bipartisan compromise.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT

(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, we come up on the 1-year anniversary of the President signing the Medicare Modernization Act. This is truly an accomplishment of which this Congress can be proud. We begin the process of the transformation of Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, with the advances in medical science, and those that are to come in fields such as genomics and proteomics, we are going to see improved longevity and improved health outcomes. Medicare, for the first time,

will pay for wellness instead of compensating for disease.

In our bill, we allowed the expansion of health savings accounts. Health savings accounts will change the way the next generation approaches paying for health insurance, giving them far greater power over their own health decisions. Mr. Speaker, today's seniors, next year, will have the missing piece of Medicare when coverage for prescription drugs begins.

Mr. Speaker, this was indeed landmark legislation that passed this House a year ago, and I salute those on the committees of jurisdiction that had a hand in getting this legislation passed. Every Member of this Congress and their staffs can be proud of their accomplishment.

ADMINISTRATION MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR UNJUST WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, nearly 1,300 brave American men and women have sacrificed their lives in Iraq. Yet the central reasons for the U.S. invasion have fallen apart: Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11, Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, there is no proof that Iraq was instrumental with al Qaeda's role in 9/11, and Iraq was not trying to get nuclear materials from Najir.

This administration misled the Congress, misled the American people, violated international law, directed the bombings of populated areas causing the disruption of water, sewer, and electrical service, ordered house-to-house fighting, and now, the civilian toll, by one account, is over 100,000 Iraqi civilians perished. Why?

Freedom, if it is to be obtained anywhere, must be advanced under the standard of truth. The Iraqis will not be handed freedom based on lies, nor will our own Nation preserve our freedoms if we continue to accept the basis for our occupation of Iraq.

This administration must be held accountable under international law for the disaster it visited upon Iraq. Only the truth can clean the stain on our Nation's conscience.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF OF HONORABLE ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Debra Musgrove Zimmerman, District Chief of Staff of the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
November 24, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules

of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the Circuit Court of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Monroe County, Florida.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

DEBRA MUSGROVE ZIMMERMAN,

*District Chief of Staff
for Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6 p.m. today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 528, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DIRECTING CLERK OF THE HOUSE TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORREC- TIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 4818

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 528) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 4818.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end of the resolution, insert the following:

Strike Section 222 of Title II of Division H.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

□ 1415

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before the House, H. Con. Res. 528, directs the Clerk of the House to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 4818, the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005. Members