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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Elgin, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and loving God, we enter this day sensing Your awesome presence and capacity. Give these public servants the vision, wisdom, and courage to carry out their legislative and leadership responsibilities.

We pray for the will to create "Beloved Community," where we all become brothers and sisters, working to create a world that is free from violence, hatred, and hopelessness. Grant Your Spirit upon this body, that each person realizes that he or she is an instrument of Your love and compassion.

We celebrate the architects of this Nation's Constitution, and the way in which we are gifted to merge our voices together around the concern for justice, holiness, and equity across the land.

We pray for this Nation and its people. Use each one of us to accomplish the Prophet Micah's challenge to walk, act, and love with humility, justice, and kindness.

This is our prayer. 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 Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SANDLIN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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 concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 388. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

H. Con. Res. 389. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the D.C. Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

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

S. Con. Res. 107. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of the 30th anniversary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Congressional Science and Engineering Fellowship Program, and reaffirming the commitment of Congress to support the use of science in governmental decisionmaking through such program.

S. Con. Res. 108. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Tinnitus Awareness Week.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING SISTER JEANNE O'LAUGHLIN

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a dear friend who I love and who my entire community loves, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, president of Mi-

ami's Barry University. It has been a privilege to be able to work with Sister Jeanne. It has been one of the truly wonderful things I have been able to do in Congress.

You see, Mr. Speaker, Sister Jeanne is so special, it is difficult to choose only a few words to describe her. Talent, imagination, compassion, faith, perseverance, sense of humor, devotion, integrity, charisma, success, all those realities about Sister Jeanne are evident. But the meaning of one word outweighs all others in regard to her, one word describes her best, "love."

Thank you, Jeanne O'Laughlin, for loving your family, your neighbors, your community, for loving us all. Thank you for having put your love into action in your life and with your entire life.

AN ARROGANT ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I see in the morning papers that the Republicans have a problem with Senator KERRY's characterization of this administration as arrogant in its foreign policy.

Arrogance. What do you call it when they ignore their economic advisers that tell them the real cost of the war will be \$200 billion, and not a couple of billion paid for by the Iraqis?

Arrogance. What do you call it when they ignore their military advisers on the number of troops that will be necessary, not only to win the war, but to keep the peace and protect our troops from harm?

Arrogance. What do you call it when they send their troops into combat without the proper equipment to protect those troops, such as bulletproof vests and armored Humvees, and still have not done it today?

□ 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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Arrogance. What do you call it when they ignore the advice of the State Department that we have to have international support for the war and international participation in the keeping of the peace? We had neither.

Arrogance. What do you call it when they rush to war, and the Pentagon says that rush to war prevented us from being able to protect our soldiers in a proper way, and now one out of four casualties is because we were improperly prepared to keep the peace?

Arrogance. That is what you call it.

CREATING AND KEEPING JOBS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important domestic issues facing us and our children and grandchildren is America's ability to compete in the world market.

Over the last generation, Congress has passed laws and legislation, perhaps with good intentions, but with disastrous consequences, in the form of regulations and policies. These regulations and policies have made it difficult to stay competitive. We have divided the challenges into eight categories; and for a period of 8 weeks on the floor of the United States House, we will debate and vote on measures to change the system and make America more able to compete globally. Our goal is more high-quality, high-paying jobs. We call it Careers For the 21st Century.

The eight issues are lowering the rising cost of health care; cutting bureaucratic red tape; lifelong learning for a skilled work force; applying fair trade policies; tax relief and simplification for reducing the burden on tax preparation; energy policy that will create 700,000 jobs; research and development initiatives; and ending lawsuit abuse.

Real solutions for real problems, so that American working families can make their dreams come true.

GETTING ALL AMERICANS AFFORDABLE HEALTH COVERAGE

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to this body's attention an editorial that was in the Houston Chronicle just a week or so ago by Dr. John Stobo, who is the president of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

Dr. Stobo talks of a 43-year-old emergency room patient with shortness of breath who had already had a doctor's visit where x-rays had been ordered. She could not get the x-rays because she could not afford them, did not have the health insurance, and her employer, a small business owner, did not provide it.

She could not afford a second doctor's visit and is now diagnosed, when she made it to the emergency room, with lung cancer. Since she saw the doctor, the cancer spread aggressively; but if she had had that x-ray 9 months earlier, her prognosis might have been more positive.

It is an absolute moral scandal that Dr. Stobo's patient, along with 43 million hard-working Americans, people with jobs, have no health insurance.

A study by respected analysts Jack Handley and John Holahan estimates that basic health insurance for all uninsured Americans would cost \$69 billion a year if typical of the sort now held by middle- and low-income Americans.

We will consider legislation next week that will change this. Let us get all Americans affordable health insurance.

OLD BACKPACK 4 IRAQ PROGRAM

(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, Americans are rightfully confident that the prison abusers are a tiny few of the over 300,000 American troops who have served in the war on terror to protect American families.

A more representative symbol of our troops' efforts is the Old Backpack 4 Iraq Program of the 3-178 Field Artillery Battalion of the South Carolina Army National Guard led by Lt. Col. Mark King currently deployed in Iraq. They are collecting used and new backpacks containing school supplies to be provided to Iraqi children.

The backpacks can be loaded with pencils, pens, notebooks, crayons, rulers, construction paper, a small teddy bear, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, BAND-AIDS, soap, wash cloth, and a towel.

I urge my colleagues to assist in this collection and bring backpacks to the Second Congressional District offices in Washington, West Columbia and Beaufort, along with offices of the Lexington County Chronicle. The first load must be completed by Thursday, May 21, so I can personally take them with me on a delegation to Iraq the next day. We will continue to collect them in the future.

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

ASK QUESTIONS OR STUPID THINGS HAPPEN

(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, Chairman GRASSLEY from the other body said, "We Republicans have never quite reached the level of competent oversight that the Democrats developed. We tried to emphasize legislating and

we have delegated so much authority to the executive branch of government and we ought to devote more time to oversight than we do."

This Congress in the last 43 days has been in session 14 days. What have we done with our time? We have named 11 post offices, recognized the Garden Club of America, recognized the importance of music education, authorized the use of the Capitol grounds for the Soap Box Derby.

What has happened to our troops? 175 have died in the last 43 days, bringing the total in Iraq to 775.

While we name post offices and recognize sports teams, our constituents are asking questions of how we got in a war without an exit strategy, and for what purpose did we miscalculate and how did we miscalculate our entry into that war.

And this week, how are we handling controversies in Iraq? We are going home a day early. President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." We can name post offices, or we can ask questions, and even this Congress might try to do both.

JOBS AND TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last month our economy created 288,000 jobs; 867,000 jobs have been created this year alone. Manufacturing employment is up, weekly jobless claims are at their lowest since October of 2000, our economy is on the rebound, and we have tax relief to thank for that. It is proof that when working families keep more of their own money, it works.

Today, we are going to act to prevent a tax increase. Current law says that the 10 percent tax bracket which was created in the 2001 jobs plan will expire. If that happens, 73 million working people will pay higher taxes next year, with an average tax increase of \$2,400 in the next decade.

Today, we will see who in this House wants to prevent this tax increase. Working families need every penny we can let them keep.

SUPPORT BIPARTISAN TOBACCO BUYOUT LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, for the past several years, I have worked with a bipartisan coalition of Members to pass critical tobacco buyout legislation on behalf of American tobacco farmers. Unfortunately, the House Republican leadership has opposed us at every turn.

This week, Senator JOHN KERRY announced his support for tobacco buyout legislation. His support stands in stark contrast to comments made last week