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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,
June 23, 2004.

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 Reverend Dr. Jack Davidson, Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and Gracious God, as we begin this new day, we seek Your forgiveness and blessing. As Creator and Governor of all, we pray that You will protect our country from all harm and attack. Restrain the plans of those who would do us evil. Change the hearts of our enemies that we may live with them in peace. Give to those who protect us the wisdom to defeat the plans of our enemies so that the people of this Nation will live in unity and peace.

Bless all those in service of our country. Endow our leaders with wisdom and knowledge, that by Your power, they will make God-pleasing decisions for the welfare of our citizens; through Jesus Christ Your Son Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. 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 Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSS 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. 4589. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 33. Joint resolution expressing support for freedom in Hong Kong.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DR. JOHN C. DAVIDSON

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

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this morning's honored guest chaplain, Dr. John C. Davidson, who serves as the pastor of the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Ohio.

Dr. Davidson has been an ordained minister for 22 years and has faithfully

served his parish and the Lancaster community during that time. He has earned two master's degrees and a doctorate degree from the Concordia Theological Seminary located in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and St. Louis, Missouri.

In addition to his parish duties, Dr. Davidson also serves as second vice chairman of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, where he provides governing assistance to 172 congregations located in Ohio and portions of West Virginia and Kentucky.

Dr. Davidson is also known as a community leader. He serves as chaplain for the Charity Newsies in Fairfield County and the Fairfield County Corner.

On the personal side, Dr. Davidson and his wife, Luann, have been married for 22 years and are blessed with four beautiful children, Rachel, Emily, Andrew, and Mark.

Dr. Davidson is an uplifting minister who is loved by his family and is well respected by the Lancaster community and the members of the Redeemer Lutheran Church.

As Ohio's Seventh District Congressman, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognize Dr. Davidson for his commitment to the church and his community over the years. His many contributions to the spiritual growth of central Ohio are noteworthy, and I thank him for his service.

SPENDING RESTRAINT

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, \$164 billion of new Federal spending took place between 2001 and 2003, unrelated to defense and the events of 9/11. We are borrowing to spend, and we need to bring spending under control or we put future generations, our children

□ 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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and grandchildren, at risk with no hope of paying off this debt. We demonstrated that in 1998 with the balanced budget showing fiscal responsibility, but years of surpluses has sparked a spending spree that does not stop when the money runs out.

Alan Greenspan warned Congress that we must restrain spending. He said this last summer: "I would like to see the restoration of PAYGO and discretionary caps which essentially will restrain the expanse of the deficit and indeed ultimately contain it."

I urge my colleagues to heed Greenspan's remarks and to have the opportunity to reign in spending and update the budget process.

RESTORE BUDGET CUTS TO VETERANS PROGRAMS

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on the 4th of July our Nation will celebrate its 228th birthday. On this day, we will remember how our Founding Fathers dedicated their lives to honor the novel ideas of liberty, equality, and democracy.

Today, our brave men and women in uniform exemplify the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people to securing freedom and democracy throughout the world, and our veterans are living examples of the ideals of our Founding Fathers.

Unfortunately, there are some in Congress who actually want to cut funding for our veterans. House Republicans passed a budget this year that slashes funding for veterans health care by \$1 billion, and President Bush's 2006 budget is expected to include another \$900 million in cuts for veterans health care.

Mr. Speaker, we promised our veterans health care for life, not health care someday. I urge my colleagues in Congress to restore these cuts to our veterans programs.

Our veterans are truly America's greatest generation, and this Congress should honor them.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOBS AND GROWTH ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, President Bush signed into law the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, enabling American workers, families, and businesses to keep more of their own money and laying a foundation for economic growth and job creation now and for years to come.

Eleven million individuals and families will receive an average tax cut of \$1,500; 49 million married couples will have an average tax cut of \$2,600.

The President's tax relief is helping American job seekers. Unemployment has fallen to 5.6, the lowest average unemployment rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. In my State of Florida, unemployment is at 4.7, showing jobs are being created and people are working.

The President's tax relief is helping the budget of America's families, increasing disposable income, allowing them to buy the things they need for their families and their homes. And the President's tax relief is helping America's businesses. The stock market is up 18 percent, increasing America's capital base by more than \$2 trillion.

All in all, this is working, jobs are growing, the economy is strong. We salute the President for his leadership.

NO MORE JUDGMENT CALLS

(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, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz testified before Congress yesterday that he did not plan or expect an insurgency in Iraq. This observation, from one of the war's architects, whose record includes ridiculing former General of the Army, General Shinseki, by saying his troop estimate was "way off the mark." Now there are 150,000 Americans in the Iraqi theater.

He said that Iraqi oil would pay for reconstruction. U.S. taxpayers have been tabbed \$20 billion to rebuild Iraq. Secretary Wolfowitz could not remember how many troops had been killed in Iraq. At that point he guessed about 500. In fact, there had been 734 at the time. He was off by 30 percent.

Now he says he could not comprehend and did not plan for an Iraqi insurgency.

How many times do you have to be wrong in this administration and still have your job? Maybe Ahmed Chalabi did not tell him to plan for insurgency. Now he is telling us that our stay in Iraq could last years.

With a record like that, Mr. Wolfowitz, do not give us any more of your judgment calls.

ARCHIMEDES CLUB FAMILY BOAT WEEKEND

(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, I would like to recognize the Archimedes Club, especially its chairman, Doron Zilbershtein. This wonderful organization in my South Florida district will be holding its first annual boat race hosted by the Coconut Grove Sailing Club.

This event will allow selected families, teamed up with underprivileged families, to spend time together building boats that they will race to the finish line.

The Archimedes Club has shown an unwavering dedication to the community by developing character traits and social skills through boating activities. Its members will be donating their time and boating knowledge the weekend of July 23 to give water sports fans the opportunity to participate in challenging competitions.

The Archimedes Club plans to build on this race and to donate the boats that are built to other communities around Florida. This act shows the unselfish and unwavering commitment of the Archimedes Club to help others, and it does not stop at the local level.

For the sincere concern and the outstanding dedication to underprivileged families, I congratulate the Archimedes Club for all it has done. The members will inspire many more citizens to follow in their steps.

MOUNTAIN OF DEBT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear one of my Republican colleagues precede me and talk about the impact of the debt, the growing deficit and the debt. I wish that the folks downtown were listening.

DICK CHENEY, Vice President DICK CHENEY, has declared that deficits do not matter. In fact, he now wants to send the result of this growing mountain of debt to an undisclosed location by hiding the fact that the United States of America is about to exceed its \$7.3 trillion debt limit. For the second time in Bush's brief 3½ years in office, Congress is going to have to increase the debt limit of the country, a burden that will be passed on for the next 30 to 50 years for future generations of Americans. Now they want to do it in a stealth manner, by attaching some vague language to a defense bill in the hope that they will not have to take a vote on the product of what they have created here, which is another couple of trillion dollars of debt for the American people.

They should at least have the courage and the honesty of their convictions and bring up the debt limit on the floor of the House and vote on it so people can see the product of their economic and tax policies, which is a mountain of debt for future generations.

JOHN KERRY SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR VIETNAM TESTIMONY

(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, this week, the Vietnamese Government has weighed in on the Iraqi prison scandal, but the official Communist Vietnamese news agency is not citing the Geneva Conventions or the U.N.; it is citing