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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Austin DeLoach, Jr., Pastor, Southside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I come to You thankful for this great country that You have blessed us to live in.

Please keep us ever mindful that freedom only comes with a price and cannot be sustained without responsibility.

Give our Nation wisdom to understand that liberty must be protected in part by laws that are grounded in Your truth.

I come humbly before You today asking You to give this body, the Congress of the United States, wisdom and guidance as they fulfill their call to serve others through public office.

According to Your Word, as written in Romans 13:1, You, Lord, have ordained government and chosen to work through those who serve. So I lift up every man and woman of this Congress to You. Bless their families and the people they represent, that these United States may serve Your purpose in this world, as the book of Esther says, for such a time as this.

I thank You for hearing this prayer and I ask it in Jesus' name.

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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY 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 an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4837. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4837) "An Act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

S. 2279. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to maritime transportation security, and for other purposes.

FULFILLING AMERICA'S PROMISE

(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, this year we celebrate our 10th anniversary as the governing party of this great Chamber.

In 1994, the Dow Jones industrial average was at 3,834. Today, it is 10,453. Homeownership was at 64 percent. Today it is a record high of 69.2. Violent crime is down. Interest rates are down from 8.5 to 4.42.

Charitable giving among Americans is at its highest, from \$150.7 billion in 1996 to over \$241 billion now. Bankruptcy rates are down from 17.9 to 2.8. Per capita incomes are growing. Poverty is shrinking. African Americans living in poverty are decreasing and their homeownership is at record highs. Unemployment is down from 6 to 5.4.

These may be dry statistics to some, but they are progress to many Americans, thanks to the direction we have taken this country and this Congress. Yes, America is safer, and I thank the President for standing steadfast against terrorism, against tyranny.

DEMOCRATIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today House Democrats will announce a new partnership with the American people, a partnership that would strengthen six of our Nation's most important core values. We will put Americans back to work, make health care more affordable, hold polluters responsible for the contamination they cause, give our children the education and development tools they need to have a positive future, and restore fiscal responsibility here in Washington.

Democrats' new partnership is necessary today because a large majority of Americans have lost faith in Congress. Over the past decade, Republicans have controlled the people's House and have often strayed from these core American values.

My Democratic colleagues and I have been fighting for these causes for many

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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years, but this is the first time we are unveiling a partnership with the American people, a promise, if you will, that if the American people put their trust in us and elect a Democratic majority in November, we will work with them as partners to make their lives and our government better.

TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOP HOUSE MAJORITY

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Americans like the partnership they have. Republicans have trusted the ingenuity of the American people to expand opportunity for themselves and their families.

For 10 years, the Republican majority has worked to expand the power of the American people over the power of the American government.

We believe in letting people keep more of their hard-earned money so that they are better able to provide for their families and invest in their own futures.

We trust small business owners to create jobs and grow the economy better than government programs can.

We understand that school teachers and parents in Springfield, Missouri, and other places across this Nation know what is best for students, not bureaucrats in Washington.

We know that excessive government regulations never created a single job for an American worker.

House Republicans believe individuals make better decisions than government, and when Americans are given freedom to exercise personal responsibility to provide for their futures, they have a greater stake in securing that future.

After 10 years, that future is bright. As a majority, we have accomplished so much, but there is still so much more to do. In many ways, we have only just begun to make the impact our Nation needs.

Although priorities have changed, our principles do not, as we move forward into a second decade.

REPUBLICAN PARTY IN BREACH OF CONTRACT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is time to declare the Republican Party in breach of contract.

A decade ago, the GOP promised the American people they would balance the budget. Instead, they have engineered the largest deficit in history.

A decade ago, the GOP promised Americans a fair shake. Instead, average Americans have seen their incomes shrink, their jobs evaporate, Social Security threatened, and health care beyond the reach of 45 million Americans.

A decade ago, the GOP promised to help seniors. Instead, the GOP sent plastic cards to senior citizens and big profits to drug companies. Some contract.

When it comes to the American people, the GOP, like the President, have been AWOL. The contract is null and void. It is time for a new partnership. Come January, we will stand and say, Madam Speaker, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) becomes the first woman Speaker of the House.

The time is now and it is long overdue. It is only 40 days away.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Members are admonished to refrain from improper references to the President.

TEN YEARS OF A REPUBLICAN HOUSE

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in the past 10 years, the Republican majority in this House has created a stronger, safer and more prosperous Nation and we celebrate that today. At the heart of that prosperity stand our Nation's small businesses.

Under our Republican-led House, the number of small businesses has exploded, most notably female-owned companies. From 1992 to 1997, women-owned firms increased by 16 percent, accounting for a quarter of all small businesses. Today, nearly 40 percent of all small businesses are owned by women, a number that is increasing at double the rate of all U.S. companies.

By cutting red tape and providing tax relief and regulatory reform, House Republicans have made it possible for Americans, women especially, to become independent entrepreneurs. Less time tangled up in red tape and buried in paperwork means more time at home with their children, the ability to hire more workers, even the possibility of opening another store or factory.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority understands the tremendous potential of the American entrepreneur. I look forward to the next 10 years, seeing American dreams become realities in our communities across this country.

DEMOCRATS OFFER A DIFFERENT VISION

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the greatest disservice that the Bush administration and the Republican leadership have inflicted upon the American people is the lowering of

expectations of what this great country of ours can be.

As the undisputed superpower of the world and the richest nation in the history of the planet, our opportunity to be a force to advance humankind in all respects is without limit and, one after another, this Nation has squandered those opportunities, leaving more Americans in poverty and without health insurance, breathing dirtier air, fewer with a chance of college, 1,027 dead in a war that has made the United States reviled around the world.

The Democrats are offering today a different vision, inviting all Americans to partner with us and each other in an America built on our shared values of prosperity, opportunity and fairness for all, national security, accountability and community.

Together, we can fulfill the great promise and the great hope that is the United States of America.

WELCOMING DAVE AND KELLY KEIM OF BERNE, INDIANA

(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, I rise this morning to welcome Dave and Kelly Keim of Berne, Indiana, to our Nation's capital. They are in town today to stand with many others in this building to oppose embryonic stem cell research.

Why would people come from Berne, Indiana? The answer can be found in their 18-month-old twins, Caroline and Spencer, who are a daily and profound reminder that embryonic adoption should be preferred in the law always over destroying human embryos for stem cell research.

Mr. Speaker, Caroline and Spencer Keim are fully human today, just as they were 18 short months ago when they were in the frozen embryonic stage of their development. They stand as a living testament to the truth that it would have been morally wrong to destroy their embryonic lives, even for well-intentioned medical research.

Ronald Reagan said it wisely in the year 1984, "We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life, the unborn, without diminishing the value of all human life."

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Dave and Kelly Keim and their two beautiful twins, Caroline and Spencer, to Washington today, and I thank them for their courageous stand for life in this critical issue of embryonic stem cell research.

DEMOCRATS UNVEIL NEW PART- NERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, recently the President of the United