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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 9, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Mary E. Moore, Pastor of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth. We stand here, O God, in awe of Your greatness, but most of all with gratitude in our hearts for Your multitudinous deeds of kindness.

Dear God, we thank You for the leaders of our Nation, and we ask that You bless President Bush and his family as he carries out his providential assignment. Bless not only these United States but extend Your hand of mercy the world over.

Manifest Yourself now in the attitudes, the efforts, and the oratory of each Representative. Let them be mindful to seek Your guidance in every decision to be made so that all people are benefactors of agreements made in this assembly.

Lord, we realize this is a trying time, but we are also cognizant of the fact that it is a trusting time. Now, dear God, deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FORD 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVEREND MARY MOORE

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

Mr. FORD. Madam Speaker, I thank you, and I thank my colleagues and Speaker HASTERT and the Chaplain. It is my honor to belatedly introduce to my colleagues the great pastor from the City of Memphis, Mary Moore, the pastor of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church who led us so wonderfully and graciously this morning.

Pastor Moore has distinguished herself as one of the outstanding voices of the mid-South region, a community traditionally recognized for the vibrancy of its spiritual roots. And through her ministerial duties and through her insight, Pastor Moore has emerged from the shadows of the legendary Reverend C.L. Franklin, the late great pastor of New Salem and the father of another great voice in this country, Aretha Franklin, to also take her place in Memphis history.

As a woman and a force in ministry, Pastor Moore has overcome obstacles

in further advancing New Salem's role as a pillar in our city's religious community. Her tireless ability to share the sacred scriptures in a way that is applicable to our everyday lives makes her an invaluable resource for Memphis and our larger community.

I have known Pastor Moore for many years. She has been a friend and a supporter. And she proves time and time again to be a trail blazer whose resolve to effect positive change in our community is second to none.

It is an honor for me to have her today as our guest chaplain, and I know I speak on behalf of all of my colleagues, thank you, Pastor Moore, for being with us this morning.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, many people may be asking, why are we bringing the topic of Social Security to the kitchen tables of the American family?

Well, maybe it is because Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system, with today's workers paying to support today's retirees. But each year, there are more people retiring and not enough additional workers to support them. Maybe it is because, if Social Security is not updated, it will cost all of us \$10 trillion, an amount just slightly larger than the entire U.S. economy today.

Maybe it is because, in the 1950s, there were 16 workers paying for every retiree. And, today, there are about three, and soon there will only be two to support each and every person on Social Security.

One thing is crystal clear. The Social Security system as we know it is broken and needs to be fixed. It amazes me that so many people from across the aisle believe that a 70-year-old program will be just fine if we leave it as is.

□ 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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Madam Speaker, our current Social Security system is well past retirement age. Let us put politics behind us and provide America with solutions rather than sound bites that make the 11 o'clock news.

ADVOCATING WELCOME HOME GI BILL

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, on March 19 we will begin our third year in Iraq. The brave men and women of our armed forces have fought proudly, and have served proudly.

After extended tours of duty, many are finally coming home to their families. Following every major war, every Congress has compensated its returning service men and women with the resources to begin their lives. Now is our chance, the 109th Congress, to honor a new generation of American heroes.

The Welcome Home GI Bill is a bold new direction in helping our veterans achieve the success they have earned and deserve. It provides health care for up to 5 years through the TRICARE program for service men and women and their families who do not have health care with their place of employment or have lost it.

The Welcome Home GI Bill includes \$75,000 for college education and waives the \$1,800 fee for getting that education and a down payment on their home. Most importantly, under the plan, all returning veterans, regardless of service, National Guard, State Guard, or Reservists, including our active duty, get this benefit. It is what a grateful Nation should do and has always done. We do not owe these returning veterans a favor but must repay one.

FAIRCHILD INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it takes determination, ingenuity and hard work to succeed in the global economy. In the Fifth District of North Carolina, I have recently seen how a growing manufacturing firm, Fairchild Industrial Products Company, is sustaining high-skilled jobs, creating new products and increasing American exports.

Fairchild has about 100 employees, and it manufactures highly engineered pneumatic controls for industrial processes. About 45 percent of its products are shipped to overseas markets. Fairchild achieves world class quality because its management really listens to the employees on the front lines through discussions on continuous quality improvement. At every company, it is crucial for managers to listen to the ideas from those who know the manufacturing process best, the

employees, who day in and day out work on the assembly lines and on the shop floor.

Fairchild had suffered some setbacks in recent years, but now, with support from Allied Capital Corporation, it is growing again, paced by double-digit growth in exports. Every Fairchild product that is shipped overseas helps reduce America's trade deficit abroad and sustains high-quality jobs here at home.

Madam Speaker, the success of Fairchild shows how American manufacturing can get back on to the path toward growth. I am proud this strong North Carolina company is showing how American manufacturing can compete and win in the global economy.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, President Bush has invented an immediate Social Security crisis, but his privatization proposal does nothing to solve his invented crisis.

Why would President Bush propose a Social Security privatization plan that leaves the program worse off after he is done with it? Madam Speaker, the President does not want to fix the Social Security program we have had in place for the past 70 years. Instead, he wants to privatize it. He talks about creating an ownership society, but his proposal creates an on-your-own society.

Madam Speaker, for 70 years, Social Security has improved the lives of millions of Americans. Without it today, two-thirds of America's seniors would be living in poverty. Social Security gave our parents and grandparents independence. Democrats are willing to work with the President in a bipartisan fashion to address Social Security's future, but we simply refuse to support the President's privatization proposal that dismantles the independence Social Security affords our senior citizens today and our children when they retire in the future.

We will work with the Republicans on trying to deal with the Social Security problems that exist in the future, but we cannot support privatization.

RECOGNIZING STRENGTH OF IRAQI AND AFGHAN WOMEN IN DEVELOPING DEMOCRACIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Iraqi Women's Caucus, I am honored to recognize the bravery and strength of Iraqi and Afghan women today in developing democracies. In the face of great danger, the women of Iraq and Afghanistan are displaying tremendous courage.

In January, Iraqi women risked their lives to participate in Iraq's first free elections in over 50 years. After the votes were tallied, their bravery was rewarded, as over one-third of Iraq's newly elected legislators are women.

The liberation of Iraq delivered hope and a future to Iraqi women, and they are helping to turn the promises of democracy into realities for their children and grandchildren. Today, a group of Iraqi and Afghan women are visiting the halls of Congress. I am pleased to celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them to continue their work for freedom and democracy.

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

LIFETIME STOP THE VIOLENCE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lifetime Stop the Violence Week. One-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband at some point in their lives.

One critical step we can take in Congress is to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act this year, which will add very important services for immigrant, rural, disabled and older women.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, I would like to share my concern for the violence against women worldwide, including those women in Ciudad Juarez. Approximately 400 women over the past 10 years have been murdered and sexually assaulted there. It is time for both our governments to come together and find a resolution to these heinous crimes.

Today, also, I am reintroducing a bipartisan resolution focusing on the murders of these young women in Ciudad Juarez. I hope my colleagues will join me this week in wearing their Lifetime scarves and their ties and speak out against the violence against all women throughout the world.

Yes, indeed, we are going to have visitors today from Afghanistan and Iraq, women who have been elected to office. We need to support them and ensure that freedom and democracy reign throughout the world.

□ 1015

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT BROKEN

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, a large number of people are on the Hill this week from ACORN, one of the most effective grass-roots community organizations in America. The group I just met with told me one thing. They said, Tell the President if it ain't