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No. 6

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 26, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord our God, rooted in Your covenant of promise and fulfillment, Your people live by faith.

Because we can recall all the benefits received in the past, we are all the more confident of Your presence with us now and Your guidance of us into the future.

May all the undertakings of this 109th Congress of the United States of America, and the laws that are made by this body, be firmly established in a total commitment to be faithful public servants and transparent leaders of compassion and fidelity, both 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 Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHOCOLA 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLERAIN HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Cincinnati Bengals once again will not be in the Super Bowl this year. Maybe next year. But Cincinnati is blessed with some of the best high school football in the Nation. In fact, for the last 3 years in a row the Ohio State champs have been from my district, from Cincinnati, twice Elder, and now Colerain High School. What a team. They so dominated this year that they went undefeated 15 and zero, and in the final playoff game defeated arguably the second best team in the State by 40 points, and on the rival's home field.

So often we hear that a team's character is a reflection of its head coach. Never before has this statement been so true. Dedication, tenacity, and heart are all words that come to mind when describing Head Coach Kerry Coombs. In his 13 years at the helm, Coach Coombs has not only built one of the most successful high school programs in the country; more importantly, he has positively influenced the lives of countless young men.

So congratulations to Colerain's players, coaches, students, parents, and fans. You have made us all proud.

URGENT NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO PREVENT WIDE-SCALE LOSS OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION AT HOME AND ABROAD

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to view the devastation in Southeast Asia as a result of the tsunami. As appalled as I was by what I saw, I must confess that occasionally my thoughts drifted back to the United States. What would have happened if last September, Hurricane Ivan had veered 40 miles to the west, devastating the city of New Orleans? One likely scenario would have had a tsunami-like 30-foot wall of water hitting the city, causing thousands of deaths and \$100 billion in damage.

The city has always been at risk because of its low-lying location, but that risk has been increased because of rising sea levels, groundwater pumping and the erosion of coastal Louisiana. Twenty-four square miles of wetland disappear every year, since the 1930s an area one and a half times the size of Rhode Island washed away.

Considering the reaction of the American public to the loss of a dozen people in the recent mud slides in California, it is hard to imagine what would happen if a disaster of that magnitude hit the United States.

The experience of Southeast Asia should convince us all of the urgent need for congressional action to prevent wide-scale loss of life and economic destruction at home and abroad. Prevention and planning will pay off. Maybe the devastation will encourage us to act before disaster strikes.

□ 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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