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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

May today's prayer rise before You, O Lord, and give You praise.

May the acts of Congress be accomplished this day according to Your holy will, and generate a new spirit among the Members that will give them satisfaction in their work and bring justice and security to the Nation.

May those who are in most need of Your mercy take refuge in You today.

May this day bring joy and laughter to children, relief of suffering to the sick and loving consolation to the elderly.

At the end of the day, may all rest from their labors and may You grant the world peace.

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

Mr. BURGESS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize up to five 1-minute speeches on each side.

PLACEMENT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court once again has made complex that which is clear.

In their decisions regarding placement of the Ten Commandments on public property, an alleged violation of the first amendment, their rulings are inconsistent. They have said that the Ten Commandments must be removed from those courthouses in Kentucky. On the same day, the same Supreme Court said that the Ten Commandments placed on the State Capitol grounds of Texas, that is okay.

The Supreme Court, the Ten Commandments police, has created confusion, chaos and calamity. What if folks in Kentucky decide to remove those forbidden Ten Commandments from inside the courtrooms and place them on the courthouse grounds, is that permitted?

Well, the chief of police of the Ten Commandments police, Justice David Souter, would be the one to decide because he ruled one way in one case and the opposite way in the other case.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court ruling should be simple for all Americans to understand. The Ten Commandments are simple to understand. The 10 amendments to the Constitution are simple to understand. It is ironic that the same Supreme Court, policing the Ten Commandments throughout courthouses, in their own courtroom above their head, Moses holding the Ten Commandments. This ought not to be.

HONORING LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPUTY JERRY ORTIZ

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a

heavy heart to honor the life and public service of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Jerry Ortiz.

A 15-year veteran of the police department, as well as an Army veteran, husband and father, Deputy Ortiz was slain in the line of duty while valiantly working to wipe out gangs in southeast Los Angeles County.

Deputy Ortiz's tragic murder shows how the gang epidemic has gotten out of hand, and he paid the ultimate price trying to make his community safer.

Deputy Ortiz was a model law enforcement agent and was admired and respected by his colleagues.

He was awarded the Lakewood City Medal of Valor for arresting a robbery suspect, and he will be remembered as a tireless crime fighter who personified the ideals of community-based policing.

On behalf of every resident of the 39th Congressional District, I thank and honor Deputy Ortiz for dedicating his life to defending our country and making our community a safer place to live and to raise a family.

May God bless and give strength to Deputy Ortiz's wife and children as they mourn their tragic loss. Deputy Ortiz will truly be missed.

EMINENT DOMAIN

(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, as a former judge and now a Member of Congress, I rise today to protest the attack on individual private property rights contained in the recent Supreme Court decision *Kelo v. City of New London*.

Following the Court's logic, nothing can stop a local government from replacing a church with a Wal-Mart, or a family farm with a shopping mall, because these will produce greater tax revenues for the government in charge.

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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Private property ownership is vital to both our freedom and our prosperity. The Kelo decision now puts every home and every business owner on notice that their property may be taken by the government at any time.

This is not the American way, Mr. Speaker. The Court's decision is an abdication of its responsibility to protect individual property rights, and it is a gross misinterpretation of the Constitution.

As we approach our Nation's Day of Independence, we should be concerned about protecting our freedoms, not curtailing them. A just and wise government values individual ownership and protects it.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day. Our Nation is built on many, many important tenets, and protection of private property is certainly not the least of them.

EXPRESSING THANKS

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on yesterday this august body amended the Transportation-Treasury-HUD appropriations bill to include \$7.7 million to fight discrimination in housing. I stand before this body today, Mr. Speaker, to thank all of the persons who supported this amendment, both Democrats and Republicans because it could not have been done without bipartisan support, and for that, I am thankful.

I also thank my staff, Mr. Speaker, because no one does anything without a capable, competent and qualified staff, and I think I have one of the best.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank another group of people. On yesterday, we had another event wherein we had to leave rather untimely. I want to thank those many security persons who work on our behalf. They are not only helpful and respectful, they are also full of care for us. Mr. Speaker, as we rush out, they rush in to uncertain danger. I want them to know that we care about them. Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what we pay them, but whatever it is, it is not enough for the service that they render.

HONORING BARNEY CHAPMAN

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and friend, who after 37 years is retiring as an officer of the largest credit union in my congressional district, the America First Federal Credit Union.

Barney B. Chapman's service to constituents' financial needs in my district over the years is impressive, but his work in the community is the reason he deserves the respect and thanks today.

The organizations which have benefited from him include: The Air Force Reserves, Boy Scouts of America, Chamber of Commerce, Legislative and Military Affairs Committee, the Federation of Independent Business, several Governors Advisory Boards, Salt Lake Community College, the Junior League, Junior Achievement of Utah, the United Way, Weber School District and Weber State College.

Like the good old boy scout that he is, Barney Chapman does his best to do his duty to God and his country and to help other people at all times, but I am particularly grateful for his commitment to the Air Force. A good airman lives by three principles: integrity first, service before self, excellence in all he does. These are the Air Force core values, and as a full colonel retired, they are his as well. They typify the life of Barney Chapman, and for that, I do honor and thank him today.

REPUBLICAN REFUSAL TO FUND VETERANS HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are still waiting. It has been a week now since the Department of Veterans Affairs finally admitted that veterans health care funding was short \$1 billion. As a result of that shortfall, VA facilities around the country can no longer schedule appointments for new veterans.

House Republicans, however, do not seem to be too concerned. Democrats have tried repeatedly over the last week to offer amendments that would provide the VA the \$1 billion so veterans can get the services they were promised, but Republicans have shot down every effort to increase funding.

Last week, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) tried to offer an amendment to the Labor-HHS bill to eliminate the Republican VA funding shortfall, but the Republican majority refused to allow a vote. Then, yesterday the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) wanted to offer the amendment to the Transportation spending bill, and once again, Republicans refused to allow a vote.

Mr. Speaker, this House should not adjourn for the 4th of July recess until we honor our promise to our veterans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELDER PANTHERS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Ohio's number one-ranked Elder Panthers capped off a season of domination in grand fashion by celebrating its 12th State baseball championship.

Here is my dentist's son, the catcher, Billy O'Conner, and pitcher, Matt Klausing, moments after the win on the front page of the Delhi Press.

The 3-0 shutout over Toledo Start gave the Panthers 28 victories for the year, the most in school history, and marked the third consecutive Division I State baseball championship by a Cincinnati area team following in the footsteps of fellow GCL rivals Moeller back in 2004 and St. Xavier in 2003.

Cincinnati Elder is no stranger to being honored on this House floor for its long-standing tradition of athletic and academic excellence.

It gives me great pleasure to, once again, congratulate Elder High School and its players and coaches and students and teachers and parents on capturing yet another State title. As always, they make the west side of Cincinnati proud.

An Elder Panther family, the Lysaghts, dropped off this T-shirt at my office, celebrating the win, and this La Salle Lancer intends to wear it with pride. Go Elder.

□ 1015

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF KHOBAR TOWERS BOMBING

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this past Monday, June 25, marked the eighth anniversary of the bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. At 9:50 p.m. local time, a truck bomb exploded with the force of 20,000 tons of TNT, and 19 Americans were left dead, Americans who were due to return home 2 days later on June 27.

Mr. Speaker, we now know that this was one of the first battles in the global war on terror, and we have since seen other such battles, and other Americans have lost their lives. Now we are engaged in what the President describes as a forward strategy of the war on terror, and he articulated that vision again for the American people 2 nights ago, and I was grateful for his ability to do that.

Mr. Speaker, the recollection of our record in what has happened in the past 10 years' time around the world has so changed everything that we do in this House, and the events of last evening have shown us one more time how the world has changed around us.

I salute the families of the men and women who died at the Khobar Towers. God bless them, God rest their souls, and God bless every one of our American troops serving today.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 3058, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?