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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Steven T. Cherry, President, Wesley Enhanced Living at Heritage Towers, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

God of the nations, You gave this new day, blessed it with springtime color, and we give You thanks.

Look today on Your people throughout this beloved Nation, a grand diversity from all corners of the land, and bind us together in the principles of liberty, respect, and service. Teach us to revere those advanced in age who feel the weight of years but live with depth of character that comes from long life. May we be so reverent in the face of the profound gift of life. We give deep thanks for all those who act out of dedication to sisters and brothers, wherever they serve.

Give to all those who work in this place, O God, strength, wisdom and pause to consider Your grace in our midst. You have given to them the great traditions and tools of leadership forged from years of testing. May Your work prevail today.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ. 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 gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS 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 Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment Joint Resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.J. Res. 81. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Phillip Frost as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.J. Res. 82. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

WELCOMING REVEREND STEVEN T. CHERRY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome Reverend Steven Cherry to the House Chamber this morning as our guest chaplain. It is my further honor to welcome the residents of Heritage Towers, a retirement community located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, where Reverend Cherry serves as Executive Director. They are in the House Chamber as I speak to lend their support to the Reverend as well as to see our body in action. Welcome to the Nation's capital.

I have had many opportunities to visit Heritage Towers and meet with the 350 residents who call the community home. I also have had the chance to speak with Reverend Cherry about the mission of Heritage Towers and how it is not just a retirement community but a place where seniors can enhance not only their minds and bodies but their spirit as well.

Reverend Cherry is tasked with the challenge of maintaining the high quality of the services Heritage Towers offers. He is well-equipped to meet that challenge. Reverend Cherry has served as the finance chairman for the Berwyn

United Methodist Church and as a board member of the Central Bucks YMCA. In his ecclesiastical role, Reverend Cherry has served as the pastor of many churches, including the Radnor Church in Rosemont and the Iona Methodist Church in Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Cherry has shown his dedication to service and community action throughout his career. Heritage Towers is lucky to have him as Executive Director, and the House is honored to have him with us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minutes from each side.

LONE STAR VOICE: MICHAEL ESTEP, SR.

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, working Americans continue to voice concern about the unlawful entry into the United States. Michael Estep, Sr., from Spring, Texas writes to me:

"I am writing to express my most sincere concern for our Nation and the State with regard to the current immigration issues. Having served in both public law enforcement and the private sector for the past 30 years, in all these years I have not seen one good side of illegal immigration, just varying degrees of bad. The strain on local and State medical services, higher insurance costs due to uninsured and unlicensed motorists, the criminal justice system where 29 percent of the American prison population are illegal aliens, are all paid by the citizens.

"What is happening to the land the greatest generation fought to protect? Is the uncontrolled assimilation into

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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the melting pot of America destroying the values and resources which made us strong? Is this unchecked invasion crippling our ability to tell the difference between right and wrong, leading us to choose the politically correct solution rather than the right answer?

“I ask your support of immigration reform in the strongest terms. Too many citizens and illegals alike choose which laws are to be obeyed while seeking protection from the law through protests and civil disobedience.”

That's just the way it is.

REPUBLICAN FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY, HOUSE REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO CHANGE COURSE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, the other side will once again try to spin their 2007 budget as fiscally responsible. The American people know better. For 5 years now, Republicans have controlled both the Congress and the White House, and for 5 years our budget deficit has been spiraling out of control. Two years ago, former House majority leader Dick Armey told the Wall Street Journal, and I am quoting, “I am sitting here and I am upset about the deficit and I am upset about spending. There is no way I can pin that on the Democrats. Republicans own the town.”

That is a former Republican leader talking about their fiscal irresponsibilities.

For 5 years now those who own the town created the fourth largest budget deficit in American history. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the 2000 budget those who own the town plan to bring to the floor this week is the fourth most fiscally irresponsible budget in history, creating an additional \$348 billion debt, and yet those who own the town try to claim their fiscal responsibility.

Members of their own party don't even believe that anymore.

HONORING GORDON PARKS

(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, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, my constituent Gordon Parks.

Mr. Parks was born in Fort Scott, Kansas, the youngest of 15 children. Mr. Parks' accomplishments from this simple beginning are far too many to name in the limited time allotted to me, but allow me to list some of his more significant contributions.

Mr. Parks was the first African American to write, produce and direct a motion picture. He was an award-winning photographer for Life magazine and helped found Essence, the first magazine targeted to African American women.

Mr. Parks won an Emmy in 1968 for the documentary, *Diary of a Harlem Family*. He received the National Medal of Arts from President Reagan in 1988, and was inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Parks passed away on March 6, 2006, leaving behind an expansive legacy. I come to the floor today to honor his life and to thank him for significant breakthroughs that occurred because of his life.

DEMOCRATIC BUDGET IS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND PROTECTS WORKING FAMILIES

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak out against the House Republicans' plan for an irresponsible budget that they are going to be presenting.

While the House Republican budget never reaches balance, the Democrats' alternative is balanced by 2012. We simply must restore fiscal sanity here in Washington and the fact is the Republican budget doesn't even get there.

The House Democratic alternative will not only provide a blueprint to get us back to balanced budgets, but it will restore critical domestic funding for programs that are so important for working class families.

The Democratic budget provides the needs for working families who have been hit hard by Washington Republicans over the last 5 years. As they continue to face increasing gasoline prices, home heating bills, an increase in health care costs, and high tuition bills, we can't even send our children to college. Our budget provides critical funding for homeland security, education, health, veterans' benefits, and environmental programs that are all left out of the Republican budget.

It is time that this House start working on behalf of the working families in our country.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD MARKETING GIMMICKS

(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, I read recently that Planned Parenthood in San Francisco has launched a fresh marketing gimmick to drum up new business for its clinics.

Under its “Tell A Friend” campaign, girls can earn free movie tickets for referring a friend to Planned Parenthood clinics. These same area clinics are offering the chance to win a free iPod for scheduling an appointment by April 30.

While the idea of luring young girls into abortion clinics with gimmicks like free iPods and movie tickets may be outrageous, I guess it shouldn't be surprising. After all, Planned Parent-

hood may be feeling the financial squeeze these days.

Statistics show U.S. teenagers are having fewer abortions than any time since Roe v. Wade, and polling indicates that today's teenagers are more pro-life than previous generations.

Mr. Speaker, the pro-choice side likes to say that their goal is to see that abortion in America is safe, legal and rare; but those who truly seek to reduce abortion rates in America aren't baiting girls into abortion clinics with offers of free movie tickets and iPods.

HONORING PORTLAND PILOTS WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome this morning the University of Portland Women's Soccer Team to our Capitol and congratulate them for their undefeated season, winning the 2005 NCAA Champion Division I Title, their second championship in 4 years. Even the team's dedicated fans have set a new NCAA attendance record for any soccer season, men or women.

I want to congratulate University President, Father Bill Beauchamp, Head Coach Garrett Smith, and the entire university community as the Pilots carried on the legacy of the late legendary coach Clive Charles.

Most of all, I congratulate these women whose combination of athletic and academic excellence is an inspiration for young people everywhere, especially today's young women.

There is much to celebrate “Up on the Bluff.” The women's soccer team is a great example of excellence at the University of Portland. I welcome them to the Capitol and their White House ceremony later today.

RESPONSIBLE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a strong supporter of effective immigration reform and with a sense of urgency that Congress must act decisively to secure our borders and control illegal immigration.

Every day we put off sending the President border security legislation simply allows more opportunity for illegal immigrants to break our laws and cross our borders.

America must not continue to be a foster home for those who deliberately break the law. Rather, we must be a Nation that respects law and encourages safe and legal immigration.

The burden of illegal immigration is increasing daily for American citizens as hospitals and schools are filled with illegal immigrants who cannot pay for