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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Reverend John Appel, Senior Pastor, Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church, Frederick, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

By Your grace we are citizens of this great Nation. Forgive us when we fail to do our part to keep this democracy healthy. Guide us as we work for its well-being. Guard our lips from inflammatory rhetoric which produces much heat, but very little light. Cleanse us from bigotry and self-centeredness in the pursuit of our own narrow interests in the public arena. Your word teaches that the long-term security of all depends on the strength of each. Strengthen, then, our resolve that we may exercise our precious votes for what is right, not just for what is personally advantageous.

Show us how to carry out Your will in the public arena, that we may respectfully and intelligently develop opportunities of liberty and justice for all. Purify our hearts and minds, that we may learn to renounce exploitation and prejudice in all its forms, and so contribute to the well-being of the community in which we live. For we pray this 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCING PASTOR JOHN APPEL

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Appel's ministry extends beyond his congregation to embrace the entire Frederick community, as well as missions abroad. He is currently serving as the president of the Ministerial Association of Frederick County, Maryland. This organization is composed of all of the ministers in the county. It meets monthly to engage in fellowship, dialogue, and to promote interfaith cooperation and activities to meet the spiritual needs of Frederick County residents.

Pastor Appel is also an active supporter of the Adventist Church's Hope for Humanity projects in southern Africa in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Pastor Appel explained: "Hope for Humanity is coming to this program saying, 'Here are some challenges, here are some needs. We are a world church. We just can't stay focused congregationally. We've got to start thinking about our brothers and sisters around the world who need our help.'"

Mr. Speaker, today's prayer continues a tradition that began when Benjamin Franklin spoke during a moment of crisis at the Constitutional Convention, and these are his words: "In the days of our contest with Great Britain when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of superintending providence in our favor. To that kind provi-

dence we owe this happy opportunity to establish our Nation. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men.

"If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that a new Nation can rise without his aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to any business."

Mr. Speaker, I am really honored that my pastor, Pastor John Appel, senior pastor of the Frederick Seventh-day Adventist Church and currently serving as the president of the Ministerial Association of Frederick County, is here today to continue this precedent followed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

2006 WILL BUILD ON LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES OF 2005

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in the past several weeks we have all been back at home spending time in our districts talking with constituents, and I cannot even begin to tell you how energizing that has been. We have talked about tax policy. We have talked about the war or terrorism. We have talked about the ways we can reduce government spending. There are a lot of great ideas out there. And we have discussed the border security issue.

Last year, we enacted several spending cuts. Great work for us. Our men

□ 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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and women in uniform eliminated key al Qaeda figures, and we eliminated or cut some duplicative and wasteful government programs. We have a lot more to do. And we also passed legislation to work on our illegal immigration problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a great year. We are going to build on the successes of 2005, and we are going to act on the issues that matter to our constituents. Let's get to work.

MEDICARE PART D AND THE DONUT HOLE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the gentlewoman was energized in talking to her constituents and encouraged by it, but I guess she didn't talk to any seniors about Medicare part D.

I have the unfortunate privilege of probably representing the first victim in the United States of America of the so-called donut hole. You don't know what the donut hole is? They wanted to pretend that you could preclude Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices, subsidize the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, and do all this for \$400 billion. Of course, it turns out it will be more like \$800 billion; but in order to get there, they had to create this weird construct. After you pay your payments, your premiums, and all that, you get to a certain point, around \$2,000 or so, where you have to pay everything for the next \$2,850.

This constituent doesn't have \$2,850. The pharmaceutical companies eliminated the compassionate drug programs because they said, hey, these people can get this great Federal benefit. This means, in all likelihood, if we can't get this woman some help, she will die. Medicare part D. I guess she didn't talk to her constituents about that.

RADICAL ZEALOT

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian president is up to his old tricks again, recently claiming that God has put him on a divine mission to have nuclear weapons. This bizarre banter comes from the same sinister man who called for the destruction and devastation of Israel. This is more than disturbing. Iran's commander in chief is obviously a saber-rattling zealot who puts world security in turmoil.

Mr. Speaker, the President of Iran is defiant and determined to lead his country in a dangerous direction. He supports organizations that kill Americans, like the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and encourages the use of violence against Israel. Hopefully, the people of Iran see the de-

structive behavior of their president and want to bring about a free and stable Iran that wants to be a part of the community of nations.

A nuclear-armed Iran is a dangerous and deadly threat to the Middle East and all of the Free World. We must keep America as well as the rest of the world safe from this radical reactionary outlaw with his ridiculous ambitions. This is a matter of world security.

That's just the way it is.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I believe working-class Americans deserve a Federal budget which is compassionate, decent, and provides hope to the American public.

President Bush's budget for fiscal year 2007 fails on all counts and provides insufficient funding for one of our Nation's greatest investments: its health.

Despite the confusing and poorly implemented new Medicare prescription drug benefit program, President Bush's budget cuts Medicare by \$35 billion in the next 5 years, it cuts funding for public health programs by \$126 million, and puts more families at risk of food and security by cutting more than \$706 million in assistance.

Even with the growing problem of health care disparities and lack of insurance for communities of color, the budget slashes the Office of Minority Health Programs by 20 percent.

To our children, to those battling high health care costs, and to the uninsured, this budget, in my opinion, is not compassionate and it doesn't provide the American public with hope.

Americans deserve better. We must not inflict this pain on the most vulnerable populations in our country.

WAR ON TERROR AND BUDGET REQUEST

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as my stepson, Douglas Lehtinen, and his fiancée, Lindsay Nelson, wrap up their mission in Iraq, where they have been serving as Marine officers flying F-18s, I want to thank all of the brave men and women who wear our Nation's uniform for their commitment and the service that they are performing. I am pleased that the President's budget submitted to Congress this week provides more funding for the protection of our troops overseas.

The budget also provides the necessary funds to win the war on terror and enables our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to defeat the enemy and protect our liberties. The budget calls for

funding that will help our military transform itself to face current and emerging challenges.

Whether conventional military threats to our security interests or unconventional ones from terrorists and their supporters, we must be prepared for what tomorrow brings. Thank you, Mr. President, for supporting our troops.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

(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. Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that budgets are a way of reflecting priorities. And if that is the case, then the budget documents that I have seen are indeed frightening.

The proposed budget I have seen will serve to widen the gap between the rich and the poor, cut vital health services for people who need them the most, and increase the cost of higher education.

I had hoped that the budget this year was going to be something different, but I am afraid it is the same old soup warmed over, the same old lemon with a new twist, and same old trickle-down theory of economics. I hope that we will tear it apart and send it back.

SALUTING THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2006, over 1,850 South Carolinians will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, or melanoma. Unfortunately, this devastating statistic is reflected in communities throughout our Nation.

While families struggle to cope with these serious diseases, the South Carolina Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is fighting to find cures and improve the quality of life for patients and their families. By focusing their resources on research, patient services, professional education and advocacy, a dedicated group of volunteers and staff are making tremendous progress every day.

Today, I am honored to recognize the South Carolina Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for its service. As blood cancers continue to threaten the lives of our family members and friends, I would like to encourage my colleagues and all Americans to join in this important fight.

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

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CUTS FEDERAL FUNDING FOR METHAMPHETAMINE PROGRAMS

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1