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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: "Love justice, rulers of the earth, set your mind upon the Lord, as is your duty. Seek the Lord with simplicity of heart. He is found by those who trust Him without question, and makes Himself known to those who never doubt Him."

Lord, how boldly You speak, in the opening words of the Book of Wisdom. And You speak directly to those chosen to rule, govern and legislate for Your people.

Everything begins with a love of justice. If each day, each undertaking, each Member, each committee meeting and each debate would be focused on a true pervasive love of justice, neither time nor money would be wasted. Energy would run high and Your people would be animated with a transforming spirit that would shape this Nation and change the world.

Help Congress, Lord, to set all else aside as secondary and first, love justice, now and forever. 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 North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McHENRY 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 with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4311. An act to amend section 105(b)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minutes on each side.

LONE STAR VOICE: ALEXANDRA GARY

(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, this week, the first National Guard troops hit our Nation's border. They are not carrying the same guns and ammunition as the Mexican military on the other side, but they are driving bulldozers and road equipment. They are starting a project that people all across the country support, fortifying our border, helping to prevent the invasion of the drug smugglers and human traffickers that blatantly infiltrate our Nation.

Americans want to see our Nation strengthened. Mr. Speaker, Alexandra Gary from Riverwood Middle School in Kingwood, Texas, writes to me, "I think we should stop trying to help people from Mexico come into America illegally. I think we should have a stronger border control. It is unfair to let so many people come to America illegally. It is almost like they are stealing. They sneak into our country and escape from paying taxes. They take people's jobs. The few people that we catch and return to Mexico just keep coming back. If we strengthen our borders, then no more can come in. All America needs is ideas and justice."

Mr. Speaker, those simple but strong ideas of justice come from a 12-year-old, someone who has more stake in the future of our nation than anyone on the floor right now. And as a legal citizen, no matter her age, she, unlike illegals, has the right to speak her mind. Alexander understands we are being invaded. Now it is our government's turn to understand this simple but wise truth. And that's just the way it is.

CRITICIZING THE HATE-FILLED WORDS OF ANN COULTER

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as United States citizens, we are blessed with many freedoms. Among those is the right to freely speak our minds. While freedom of speech is one of the things that makes our country great, it also means we have to endure the words of a hatemonger like Ann Coulter.

In her new book, the goddess of the right slanders the 9/11 widows, writing, "These broads are millionaires, lionized on TV and in articles about them, reveling in their status as celebrities and stalked by grief-arazzi. I have never seen people enjoying their husbands' death so much."

Lest Ms. Coulter forget, more than 3,000 Americans were killed simply because they lived in the United States. That doesn't matter to Ms. Coulter, because she is doing it to enrich herself.

But there is something more sinister in Ms. Coulter's words. The hate she spews is the same kind of hatred we are battling in the war on terror. As a country of thought and reason, I urge all of us to reject it.

I must ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, does Ann

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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Coulter speak for you when she suggests poisoning Supreme Court Justices or slanders the 9/11 widows? If not, speak now. Your silence allows her to be your spokesman.

She should apologize to all of us who have lost our fellow citizens on 9/11.

U.S. AIRSTRIKE KILLS LEADING ENEMY OF FREEDOM IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rejoice in the death of no man, but today I will make an exception. As America and the world just learned, the al Qaeda leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is dead. The President of the United States said it was an opportunity to turn the tide and that the ideology of terror had lost one of its most visible and aggressive leaders, and it has.

But this was not simply a tactically significant strike by U.S. and Iraqi forces. Somebody dropped a dime. It is also evidence, as U.S. General George Casey in Iraq said earlier today, of increased cooperation.

I commend U.S. and Iraqi forces for this extraordinary accomplishment. The leading enemy of freedom in Iraq is dead. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is gone. Let freedom reign in Iraq.

MAKE MEMBER VOTING RECORDS AVAILABLE TO CONSTITUENTS

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

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, last month this Chamber passed without my support the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act. Unfortunately, this body failed to truly bring sunshine to its decision-making process to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, democracy works best when the American electorate is engaged and informed. If we want to truly regain the public's trust, we can provide greater accountability and transparency with a simple step. Let's start by communicating to our constituents about the votes we take.

Too many people feel left out of the process and find it difficult to locate and understand the votes cast by their representatives. That is why I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor H. Res. 797, which I introduced with my colleague CHRIS SHAYS.

This resolution would require each Member of this Chamber to provide a clear link from their publicly-funded official Web site to a new voting record database organized by Member name maintained by the House clerk. This nonpartisan database would give each American the opportunity with the click of a button to view a comprehensive list of every rollcall vote cast by their representative and see a description of each vote.

We are supposed to be the most representative body of government. With this in mind, we should make it easy for citizens to be informed. Please cosponsor H. Res. 797.

WORLD A SAFER PLACE WITH THE DEATH OF AL-ZARQAWI

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, the killing of al-Zarqawi is the most important victory in Iraq since capturing Saddam Hussein. Al-Zarqawi was the Osama bin Laden of Iraq. He was al Qaeda's leader in Iraq. He personally beheaded American hostages on national TV. He bombed U.N. headquarters in Iraq and hotels Jordan.

I was with President Bush yesterday at the White House at the very moment he got the message that al-Zarqawi was killed. At exactly 3:57 p.m., National Security Advisor Steven Hadley told President Bush and also handed a note to Vice President CHENEY and Condi Rice that he had been killed. President Bush looked at the note, smiled and winked at Condi Rice. I knew something big had just happened.

I have just returned from Iraq, where I personally met with the people who tracked down al-Zarqawi. I met with General Stan McChrystal and his Special Operations team at their command center. All over the walls of the command center were posters of al-Zarqawi. They told us they were close to getting him and they would get him.

Well, they did get al-Zarqawi, and today the world is a safer place. Thank God for our troops.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Guests in the gallery should refrain from applauding.

AL-ZARQAWI'S DEATH A MAJOR MILESTONE IN WAR ON TERROR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are making great strides in the war on terror with every new day. Just last night, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the mastermind behind countless brutal acts of terror, was killed in an air strike. Al-Zarqawi was directly responsible for thousands of bombings, assassinations, kidnappings and other acts of terror in Iraq and around the globe. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our United States military forces, he will no longer be able to kill.

This is a major victory in the war on terror and a major step setback to al Qaeda, as al-Zarqawi was one of its

strongest leaders. Yet as President Bush said, we cannot expect the terrorists to give up just because one of their most visible leaders is gone. We must continue to prosecute this war on terror until our mission is accomplished and until Iraq can defend and govern itself.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot begin to express how proud I am of our troops for their service, selfless attitude and sacrifice. They are making great strides. They are freeing people from oppression so they may enjoy the same freedoms Americans cherish. They are fighting a global war on terror, and they are winning.

I commend our military forces for reaching this great milestone and encourage them to keep up the great work.

FREEDOM IS ON THE MARCH IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, last night, the murderous mission of one of the most brutal terrorist minds in Iraq, al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda's master of death and destruction to Sunni, Shiite, Kurd and coalition forces alike, has been brought to an end. The death of Zarqawi, al Qaeda's commander-in-chief of the insurgency, is proof to the people of Iraq, the United States and the world as a whole that freedom is on the march. His death in a U.S. military air strike represents another milestone in the war on terror.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our men and women in uniform who put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedom and to bring terrorists like al-Zarqawi to justice.

I call upon my colleagues to reaffirm our commitment to the important work our troops in Iraq are doing to make the world a safer place for people of all nations.

WASHINGTON REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS RATHER THAN OFFER REAL SOLUTIONS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we need to declare victory with the Zarqawi killing, and this is a time to also declare that the Iraqi government has completed the formation of its cabinet and we can start withdrawing our troops.

Now, all Americans are disgusted by what they see in Washington and they are looking for real leadership on the important issues of the day. First we could announce there are victories and we can start withdrawing our troops.

But, unfortunately, Washington Republicans prefer to waste time on partisan politics, instead of focusing on