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No. 29

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: God, ever mindful of those who place their trust in You, You bless our comings and our goings, for You are "God with us" and guide every step of the way.

Today we ask Your blessing upon Lorraine Miller and Dan Beard as they enter this Chamber to be sworn in as Officers of the House of Representatives. May they faithfully fulfill the duties that are about to be laid upon them and serve this noble institution and its Members with diligence, prudence and right judgment. May they be welcomed with sincerity and gratitude.

Today, Lord, we also pray for the Honorable Charlie Norwood, who will be carried from Your Church here on Earth and laid to rest. May the modest smile on his face come to full expression as he hears You say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, enter the joy of your Master."

Grant his family and friends the consolation that comes from faith. May he and all those who serve and love others and work in public service through Your mercy rest in peace.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN 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.

SWEARING OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now swear in the new officers of the House, Lorraine C. Miller as the Clerk of the House, and Daniel P. Beard as the Chief Administrative Officer.

The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

INFORMING THE SENATE OF THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 165) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 165

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that Lorraine C. Miller, a citizen of the State of Texas, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Tenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 166) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows

H. RES. 166

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Lorraine C. Miller, a citizen of the State of Texas, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Tenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Deputy Clerk, and Mr. Jorge E. Sorensen, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which they would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 110th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

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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H1671

CONGRATULATING LORRAINE C. MILLER AND DANIEL P. BEARD ON THEIR ELECTION AS OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to congratulate Lorraine C. Miller on this historic occasion as she assumes the duties of Clerk of the House, the first time an African American has held a position of leadership in terms of being an officer of the House.

The resolutions are necessary for the Office of Clerk, and so there is much fanfare associated with that. The House is equally as pleased to have the services of Daniel P. Beard as our Chief Administrative Officer of the House. Congratulations to Dan Beard.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

AMERICA IS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I had a 1-minute prepared to talk about the debate on Iraq, but I think what is more appropriate at this time is to talk about what this House of Representatives has experienced since January 4.

The doors of this House of Representatives, indeed this country, have been opened to thought, perspectives and issues that have been stifled for the last 12 years. I want to thank the Speaker for her leadership, for the leadership of the Democratic Party, and the chairman and what they brought forward. The first woman ever elected Speaker in this country's history, the first African American to be elected Clerk. History is being made with the issues coming forth from middle America for people who are in need, for the future of this planet.

I want to thank the Speaker. America is going in the right direction.

THE RESOLUTION OF RETREAT

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the band continues to play today while Congress argues the "Resolution of Retreat" from Iraq.

This illness of defeatism is spreading. Self-proclaimed military experts are saying the war cannot be won, even with more troops. Wars have always had homegrown critics and doom-sayers, even in the military. Those in and out of the military who say we cannot win should never be placed in a position to allow us to lose. Those critics are thorns in the battlefield of hope.

This resolution, this policy of "No More Troops for the Troops" leaves our volunteers in Iraq in a precarious, vul-

nerable situation. Since no help is coming to their aid, what shall our troops now in Iraq do with less manpower? Fight a containment war? Fight not to lose? Or win? Not fight? Retreat to the hills?

This resolution is good news to the terrorists, bad news for the troops. We should find the moral will to finish our mission in Iraq and protect American interests with whatever number of troops is necessary. Duty requires such, and safety and honor demand it.

And that's just the way it is.

GENERALS AGREE THAT PRESIDENT'S TROOP ESCALATION PLAN IS NOT BEST WAY AHEAD

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, as we continue today to debate a resolution on the floor voicing this Congress' opposition to the President's plan to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq, I think it is important that we stress that Congress is not alone in opposing the President's escalation.

First of all, it is critical that we remember that the people of Iraq do not wish us to be in their country. They wish to sort this out themselves, and we need to honor that. But retired and current military leaders in our country have also expressed their opposition to this plan.

Retired General Barry McCaffrey described the President's plan as a "fool's errand." Retired General Wesley Clark said, "Without such fundamental change in Washington's approach, there is little hope that the troop surge, Iraqi promises, and accompanying rhetoric will amount to anything other than stay the course more." And this from Lieutenant General Raymond Odierno, the commander of the Multinational Corps in Iraq: "It's clear that you cannot solve this problem militarily. You have to have the combination of military, economic and diplomatic things that we need to do."

IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the resolution that is before the House. It is a resolution in two parts. The first part says we support the troops. The second part says we are not going to reinforce the troops. That is kind of curious in a way, I suppose, isn't it? That we would support them with up-armored Humvees, with body armor, with tanks, but oh, no, we are not going to allow other troops to help the troops that we have there. It seems like you can't have it both ways. It is self-contradictory.

You picture Davey Crockett at the Alamo, and he is there and Santa Anna's army has got him back to the

wall, and he gets his BlackBerry out and he checks with the Congress, and the Congress says, yeah, Davey Crockett, we support you, but we're not going to send anybody to help. I don't think you can have it both ways.

When I was a legislator in the State of Missouri, I kept track of some of what I considered to be the silliest legislation I had seen. One of them was this lady who got so enthused about volunteering, that she created a bill called "Mandatory Volunteerism." That was odd. And here we go, we are saying support, but don't support. This is curious, and it undermines people like my son, who has served in Fallujah.

CONGRESS MUST SEND THE PRESIDENT A MESSAGE THAT THE DAYS OF A RUBBERSTAMP CONGRESS ARE OVER

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, for 4 years, President Bush has been able to run the war in Iraq any way he wanted to, without any questions or proper oversight from Congress. That changed with the November elections when the American people said they wanted a check on the President's power.

This week, the House is checking that power, debating a simple resolution that sends the President the message that this House does not agree with his plan to send more troops to Iraq.

I hope this debate serves as a wake-up call to the President, and that the status quo in Iraq is not acceptable to this new Congress. And this new plan is not a change in direction, but it is an escalation of his same failed and dangerous policy.

The President has already heard from the bipartisan Iraq Study Group and from his own generals that a military solution is no longer possible, and yet that is exactly what he has proposed.

Mr. Speaker, this week, Democrats and Republicans will send the President a strong message that we must change course in Iraq, and it is really time for the President to listen.

□ 1015

IRAQ RESOLUTION

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's brave men and women currently serving in the name of freedom and to oppose this resolution of retreat.

As Abraham Lincoln said famously in his second inaugural address: "Fervently do we pray that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away." As Americans we are reluctant warriors, but throughout our rich history, whenever our troops have been in