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No. 33

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN T. SALAZAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
O Creator of the heavens and Earth, You have endowed this planet, the ground for all our living, with innumerable gifts of nature held in delicate balance.

So many resources have been given by You to Mother Earth so that life for Your people all over the globe may be sustained and developed.

May this great Nation, led by gratitude and imagination in government, study with sincerity the laws of nature and share with others its discoveries so that a just distribution of all Earth's resources may be assured according to principles of justice and solidarity. Then will the poor and the hungry over all the Earth be given voice and sing praise and thanksgiving to You both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 20, 2007.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 20, 2007, at 12:00 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 171.
That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 67.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 577.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 514.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 433.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 521.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 335.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 49.

Appointments:
United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.

United States Commission on Civil Rights.
Japan-United States Friendship Commission.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki).

National Council on the Arts.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

THE TRUCKS ARE COMING, THE TRUCKS ARE COMING

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the next sound you hear will be the rumble of thousands of Mexican trucks streaming across our southern border. The U.S. Government has agreed to allow 100 Mexican trucking companies to send trucks on the highways and byways of America. Presently, Mexican trucks may only go 20 miles inside the U.S. border. The U.S. Government says they will inspect the trucks for safety and inspect the drivers as well. Yeah, right. There are already 6,000 trucks a day crossing in each direction just between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico; and only a fraction of these are inspected.

This country has no way of inspecting each and every Mexican truck for safety, and there is no telling what could be in them, whether it is legitimate cargo, narcotics or contaminated food. Not to mention, Mexican trucks are not up to the standards of the U.S. trucking industry. Overweight, polluting Mexican trucks driven by low paid, unqualified drivers that may not even be able to read highway signs is a dangerous policy for the citizens of this country.

Once again, our government seems to be more concerned about Mexico than it is about our Nation, our highways or our people.

And that's just the way it is.

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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H1899

OUR COUNTRY MUST APOLOGIZE FOR SLAVERY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, today I am going to introduce a bill to call on the United States Government to apologize for the history in this country of having a slave system and for Jim Crow laws that went on for a hundred additional years.

The State of Virginia is to be commended for its action this past week in making, in essence, an apology saying they regretted a system of slavery in this country.

For 246 years, our Constitution and our laws allowed a system that made people slaves, that divided people from their families and treated them as property. And for 100 years thereafter, a system of laws in many States throughout the country had Jim Crow laws that deprived people of the opportunity for equal access to education, health care, public facilities, and other types of programs. These ended by law in the sixties somewhat through the efforts of Thurgood Marshall and other attorneys in *Brown v. Board of Education*, but the effects are lingering.

This country needs to apologize for a brutal, inhumane system of slavery and Jim Crow laws. President Bush has made remarks similar to this in Senegal; President Clinton also in the State of Virginia most recently.

I hope we will have all our colleagues sign on and pass this unanimously, as the State of Virginia did, and make a proper apology for a harmful and unfortunate part of our history.

DIANE E. SUMPTER RECOGNIZED FOR SUCCESS

(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, during Black History Month, Diane Sumpter has earned front-page cover status in the *Greater Columbia Business Monthly* of South Carolina for developing one of the most prestigious minority business firms. DESA, Inc., has grown to be a nationally recognized management consultant firm.

Ms. Sumpter is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. She later moved to Columbia, where she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and then attended the University of South Carolina, where she obtained both a B.A. in English and a master's degree in social work.

Ms. Sumpter's dedication to the growth and success of minority- and women-owned businesses is evidenced in her efforts with the South Carolina Minority Business Development Center, which is operated by her company. The center has assisted businesses by acting as a liaison to facilitate business growth for over 10 years.

Since DESA was started in 1986, it has been awarded service contracts from HHS, the Department of Commerce, the Minority Business Development Agency, the Army, the Air Force, the Small Business Administration, as well as various contracts from the private sector. DESA works with companies from the very beginning of projects until their completion.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11 and the courageous service of Army Chief Warrant Officer II, Jason De Frenn of Barnwell, South Carolina.

ILLEGALS USING FED TO WIRE MONEY

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. You know, the United States is a Nation founded on the rule of law. Those who do not follow the law are held accountable, except when you are an illegal immigrant.

We have already learned that a few of our major banks are issuing credit cards to illegal immigrants, but a recent article in the *L.A. Times* uncovered a program through our own Federal Reserve Bank that makes it easier for illegal entrants to send money back to Mexico, direct to Mexico. A federally sponsored program allows illegal immigrants without a Social Security number to wire money through the Federal system for a fee.

What is even more shocking is that the Fed expanded the program that allows anyone, illegal or not, to open accounts at participating banks. This is a big business. We have learned it is 27,000 transfers from illegal immigrants every month, totaling \$23 billion a year, all with the help of our Federal Government.

We are sending mixed messages, Mr. Speaker. We say we want to stem the tide of illegal immigration, but once again, here we go. We will not only turn a blind eye; we will make it easy for illegal immigrants to send money back to Mexico.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 47) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Medal of Honor Day to celebrate and honor the recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 47

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be bestowed to a member of the Armed Forces for valor in action against an enemy force;

Whereas the Medal of Honor is awarded by the President, in the name of the Congress, to members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas the United States will forever be in debt to the recipients of the Medal of Honor for their bravery and sacrifice in times of war or other armed conflict;

Whereas the Medal of Honor was first awarded on March 25, 1863, during the Civil War;

Whereas, of the millions of men and women who have served in the Armed Forces in war, military operations, or other armed conflicts, only 3,443 members have thus far been awarded the Medal of Honor;

Whereas 111 Medal of Honor recipients are still living as of January 1, 2007;

Whereas it is appropriate to commemorate and honor the recipients of the Medal of Honor and to recognize their bravery and sacrifice for the United States;

Whereas the designation of a National Medal of Honor Day would raise the awareness of the American people regarding the significance and meaning of the Medal of Honor and help focus the efforts of national, State, and local organizations striving to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients; and

Whereas March 25 would be an appropriate date to observe National Medal of Honor Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States;

(2) recognizes the educational opportunity that a National Medal of Honor Day would present to the American public; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of a National Medal of Honor Day to celebrate and honor the contributions of Medal of Honor recipients.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Today I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 47, which I introduced to recognize the extraordinary heroism and sacrifice of the Nation's