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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Monsignor George Coyne, Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Tiltonsville, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

We gather in this special place this morning, aware of our dependence upon our Creator for the spiritual gifts needed to conduct the affairs of this great Nation. Elected officials are called by God through the voice of the people to work for peace and justice.

Almighty God, empower these men and women of the Congress with knowledge and wisdom so that they will lead and govern Your people in the right way. Be with them today in the deliberations and the decisions they will make. Guide them so that they will always keep the common good as their first priority. Help them always to be aware of Your presence in their lives.

Creator God, we ask Your special blessing on all world leaders. May they work together to end terrorism. May they be instruments for peace in our world.

We ask Your blessing on our President. Bless our Senators. Bless the men and women of this Congress. Bless all who assist in the operation of our gov-

ernment. Bless the people of our great Nation. Keep each of us today and every day in Your loving care and protection.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania 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.

INTRODUCTION OF MONSIGNOR GEORGE COYNE

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I welcome my good friend, Monsignor George Coyne, to the Congress this morning.

I have known Monsignor Coyne since I was a young boy and he was a student in the seminary. At that time, he was also working for my grandfather in our family business. My entire family came to know him well. Monsignor Coyne set such a good example that his brothers, Jerry and Tim, followed him as employees of our family business.

Even back then, Monsignor carried a deep faith and a commitment to serving others in our community, which he has all of his life as a priest. All of

these years later, his faith and commitment are more evident than ever. Today, Monsignor Coyne serves the parishioners at two churches in eastern Ohio: Saint Joseph Church in Tiltonsville, and Saint Lucy Church in Yorkville.

Just as I have, parishioners at Saint Joseph and Saint Lucy have witnessed Monsignor Coyne's passion firsthand. Today the Congress and the viewers across the Nation have had their chance to see what makes Monsignor Coyne such a special person. For that I am deeply grateful.

In closing, I would like to thank Monsignor Coyne for joining us here today and for his years of dedicated service to the people of eastern Ohio.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 one-minute speeches on each side.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

(Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Small Business Lending Improvements Act of 2007, passed yesterday by this House by an overwhelming margin.

Small businesses are critical to the Kansas and American economies. They create jobs, they keep wealth in our local communities, and they spur innovation. But in order to succeed, small businesses need ready access to startup capital and financial services.

The Small Business Association's 7(a) loans have helped tremendously. Last year alone, 757 Kansas businesses received \$104 million through the 7(a) program.

☐ 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 Small Business Lending Improvements Act will increase the accessibility of small business loans, helping to drive the Kansas economy forward. I especially support its provisions benefiting the rural lenders that serve so many entrepreneurs in my district.

I was pleased to vote for this important and innovative bill.

AVOID FUTURE CAMPUS TRAGEDIES

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. The recent tragedy at Virginia Tech leads us to ask what else could have been done to protect students at our colleges and universities.

The Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is intended to protect the confidentiality of student records and define under what instances parents can have access to student information and grades. Unfortunately, under the definitions in the act, there are many examples where information was not released to parents or guardians regarding a student's mental health, which led to withholding of vital information that could have prevented suicides, assaults and other crimes.

Schools are hesitant to release information for fear of legal action. In my 25 years of practice as a psychologist, I have known many instances where these problems arose.

I am introducing legislation to clarify the act to help define circumstances where universities can release vital information to parents, including risks for suicide, homicide and physical assaults. Further, it will hold harmless colleges and universities who, after consultation with a mental health specialist, act in the best interest of the student, where they can release information to help save lives. We can no longer let this 30-year act be a barrier between parents, students and schools.

I urge my colleagues to sign in support of this bill.

DAY OF DEFEAT

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Iraq defeat bill that this House has passed sets the day certain that American troops will leave Iraq. By doing so, Congress is trying to legislate "defeat day" no matter the consequences.

In other words, retreat, retreat, at any price, retreat. Quit, quit, at any price, quit. Withdraw, withdraw, at any price, withdraw. Flee, flee, at any price, flee. Surrender, surrender, at any price surrender.

Congress has changed the phrase, "when the going gets tough, send in

the U.S. Cavalry, send in the U.S. Marines," to, "when the going gets tough, leave," leave in the darkness of the night and let the Iraqis go it alone.

I am sure there is joy in "Desertville" in the fanatical minds of the enemies of freedom. Mr. Speaker, war is hard. This war is hard. But we cannot neglect our duty because it is hard.

The stability of the region and our national security depend on our U.S. success in defeating the enemy. We need to make it hard on them. Give them a day to remember.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRAT BUDGET: "RESERVE FUNDS"

(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, the American public deserves to have all the facts about the Democrats' \$3 trillion budget resolution.

On the surface, it looks great, more money for program after program, all the while balancing the budget. If it sounds too good to be true, it's because it is.

This budget funds a wish list of spending with so-called reserve funds. On paper, these reserve funds appear to designate funding for billions of dollars in Federal spending. But the fact is they are empty, little more than a clever gimmick to help balance the books, a shell game.

In order to fund them, offsets would have to be found elsewhere or taxes would have to be raised. Since their plan doesn't include offsets, that leaves only one option, tax hikes.

In other words, the Democrats are asking Americans to tighten their belts so that Uncle Sam can loosen his. Congress has serious fiscal challenges to solve, but tax hikes and budget gimmicks are not the right answer.

COMMENDING MOUNT PLEASANT, NORTH CAROLINA, HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Mount Pleasant High School Wrestling Team for the 2007 North Carolina High School Athletic Association State 1-A/2-A Championship Title win.

Mount Pleasant completed an impressive run to the team championship title. The overall team record for the 2006-2007 season was 31-1. The Tigers also hold the 2007 titles of Cabarrus County Champions, Rocky River Conference Regular Season and Tournament Champions, and 1-A/2-A Midwest Regional Champions.

This season there were nine State qualifiers and eight State place win-

ners on the team, the most in Mount Pleasant's high school history. In the title match, Mount Pleasant recorded 135.5 points to second-place Mayodan Dalton McMichael High School's 82 points.

I am extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and scholarship of these young men from North Carolina's Eighth District. Congratulations, Coach Greg Hinson, Coach Randy Kaiser and the Mount Pleasant High School men's wrestling team on your successful season and State championship victory. Go Tigers.

FAREWELL TO TIA WILLIAMS

(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, tomorrow the Second Congressional District of South Carolina will lose an important public servant. Tia Williams is departing the Washington office to be in graduate school at the University of Virginia where she will seek a master's degree in urban and environmental planning.

Tia has served as staff assistant to the Second District since March 2006. Many South Carolinians have come to know her, as she was vital in arranging tours for Palmetto State families visiting Washington.

A native of South Congaree, Tia is the daughter of Marty and Angie Williams and the sister of Taylor Williams. She is a graduate of Clemson University and Airport High School of West Columbia.

I appreciate Tia's dedication to the people of the Second District. I know she will apply the same dedication to her studies at UVA.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11. All Americans should read the Lieberman op-ed in today's Washington Post.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 249, WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER PROHIBITION

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 331 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 331

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the