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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. LYNCH).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

May 24, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEPHEN F. LYNCH 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:

Lord God of sacred revelation, the poetic and pathetic story of Job raises for every generation the mysterious question of human suffering: Why do bad things happen to good people?

In our own day, Lord, we hear Job in the African cry of the poor, in the conflicted mind of the wounded Marine and in the silence of the abused child.

Make the Members of Congress true comforters of Job, who not only talk about suffering but are in anguish to relieve his fate. Lift them from the illusion that virtue is directly linked to public notoriety and comparative wealth. Rather, by the infusion of faith, Lord, plunge them into a deeper solidarity with the war-torn poor and the heroic innocents so that Job's blessing may truly be their own:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return. The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord 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 Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAHOOD 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 without amendment bills and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 414. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 Calle McKinley, West in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Miguel Angel Garcia Mendez Post Office Building".

H.R. 437. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Eisenhower Street in Rio Grande City, Texas, as the "Lino Perez, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 625. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the "Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office".

H.R. 988. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office".

H.R. 1402. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the "Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building".

H. Con. Res. 128. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of a commemorative document in memory of the late President of the United States, Gerald Rudolph Ford.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1352. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the "Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minutes per side.

WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I have served this Nation in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. The first was a just war; the second was a tragic misadventure.

After 31 years of military service, I ran for this office. I have never deviated from believing that a date certain to redeploy from Iraq is the only strategy which can change the incentives for the Iraqis, the Iranians and Syria, to change their behavior and to work for a non-failed state in Iraq. But I have run the Navy \$67-billion-a-year warfare program. And I understand that money is only so fungible, and we will run out.

There is a greater good than me, than my office, than my caucus, than this Congress, and that is those that still wear the cloth of this Nation in Iraq that we Americans sent to fight for us.

I cannot vote to place their security between us and someone we hope might blink, because I do believe, however, after this, that I have great faith that there are those Americans on both

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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sides of the aisle that will work towards ending this open-ended commitment for their security and America's.

LANCE CPL. BEN DESILETS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets.

Ben was killed in Iraq on Tuesday. He was from Elmwood, Illinois, which is just west of Peoria, Illinois. He was a 2004 graduate of Elmwood High School.

In a statement from his family, it was described that Ben was killed behind the wheel of a Humvee when he died in the early morning hours. His mother is quoted as saying in an article in a local paper today, "He thought he was doing good. I was proud of him. It made him grow up a lot."

Today, as we honor Ben and all those who have fallen, and we remember our veterans on Memorial Day, we thank them for their service. We thank their families for their service and the great sacrifice that people like Ben and others have made in the name of freedom.

God bless Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets and his family.

IT IS TIME TO END THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. With the passing of the war supplemental, our creation, the Iraqi Government, must meet certain benchmarks of performance, including turning over most of their oil assets worth as much as \$21 trillion to international oil companies.

The administration blows up Iraq, is responsible for the deaths of perhaps as many as a million Iraqi citizens; the administration triggers a civil war, takes \$10 billion in Iraq oil proceeds, which disappear, and now tells the Iraqis they better start behaving or the U.S. won't give them more support.

This isn't politics; this is pathology. Instead of passing legislation to continue the war, we should instead deny funds for the war and begin documenting war crimes.

It is time this Congress took responsibility to bring the troops home, to end this war, to restore our Constitution and reconnect our country to the highest values of truth and justice.

A CALL FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE

(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, I rise this morning in a continuing call

for responsible leadership in this House.

It has now been 107 days since the President called for Congress to produce a supplemental bill that will adequately fund the war on terror. And after more than 3 months of political theater and grandstanding, we have a leadership that hasn't produced anything. A bill will come before us today, hopefully that will fund the troops, and quite simply this will hurt our men and women in uniform.

These are not my words but those of a sergeant first class from Tennessee serving in Iraq who wrote to me recently. She has said this, and she is frustrated with some of the things in Iraq but is committed to her duty. And I would like to quote from her letter.

She writes, "I believe that before Congress keeps pushing to get us out of here just to get their sons and daughters home, they need to take a step back, talk to the soldiers." She continues, "I have lost several good friends, brothers and sisters in arms, to this place, but I do not want my children to come back here and clean up this mess if I had the capability to take care of it myself. I know that if we pull out now, the next generation will be right back here to finish what we did not, because too many people are worried about their own political agenda. I am proud to be an American soldier, doing my job to protect my country and help others."

God bless this soldier, and God bless all who serve.

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UNDERSCORING THE NEED TO MAKE CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Democratic National Summit on America's Children underscored the need to keep critical investments in preschool education for children today so that society does not pay a higher price later. A new Joint Economic Committee report shows that investing in high quality education is a cost-effective way of improving the life circumstances of children, while also increasing the U.S. economic growth over the long term by as much as 3.5 percent.

Another report details the provisions in Federal and State tax codes that are available to help families with children. The credits offered by my home State of New York are among the most generous. Both reports are available on the JEC website.

Investing in our Nation's children not only helps them, but also helps produce an innovative workforce for the future and keeps our economy strong.

WHY THERE IS A MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day, we honor the warriors of America whose lives were taken in their youth for their country's future. In Southeast Texas, 18 of these men have been killed in Iraq in sacrifice and service for the rest of us. One of those was 20 year old Lance Corporal Anthony Aguirre of Channelview, Texas.

While on patrol with 20 other Marines in the desert sands of Al Anbar Province, Lance Corporal Aguirre stepped on an improvised explosive device. Since America's enemies hide in caves and won't face off with our troops, these cowards of the desert use these explosives to kill Americans. Rather than immediately jump off the IED, however, Aguirre stood firm and told his fellow Marines to clear the area. When his buddies were safe, he took his foot off the bomb. He died so others could live. Amazing men, these young Marines of the United States Marine Corps.

Later, as the funeral procession passed through the streets of Channelview, the crowds, estimated at 8,000, waved flags and stood in silence along the rural roads for this Son of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Aguirre and his fallen comrades are why we have Memorial Day.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH PEOPLE TO AMERICA

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Jewish American Heritage Month to recognize the contributions the Jewish people have made to our country.

I have come to understand that to the Jewish people, the word "heritage" has deep meaning. It is not simply a sense of pride or history. It is a belief that each person should in some way improve the world. The often quoted Rabbi Hillel asked the question, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, who am I?"

It is this same set of values that brings Jewish groups to the Hill advocating not just for so-called Jewish issues, but for issues that affect everyone; better education, better healthcare, more protections for the environment, free speech, and separation of church and state. The Jewish community feels a special obligation to repair the world, one little piece at a time, for all people, not just their own.

I am grateful to the organizations in my own district for their contributions to our community. From providing educational and social services, to involvement in local and national policy,