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No. 32

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.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, 2008.

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

Rev. Wayne Graumann, Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas, offered the following prayer:

O Father in heaven, Your very name is holy; help us to speak it with reverence and awe. May we extend the boundaries of Your goodness to those around us, and may we trust that Your provision is all that we need for today and eternity. Bless us with what we need on a daily basis, since, without Your gifts, we are helpless. When we err, cleanse us with Your forgiving love, and may the forgiveness You offer motivate us to have a forgiving spirit toward those who harm us. Do not let us be led astray by greed or pride. Graciously keep watch over us so that the destructive forces may not overpower us. You are our majestic God; all things belong to You and all praise goes to You.

Your Son taught us this form of prayer, and therefore, I offer this prayer in Jesus' name. 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.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the grounds that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa 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 a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 428. An act to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 107-12, the Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a mem-

ber of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board:

Trevor Whipple of Vermont, vice David E. Demag of Vermont.

WELCOMING REV. WAYNE GRAUMANN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm always inspired by the fact that we begin our business here in the Congress with a prayer to God and a pledge to this great country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, a man of God, a man of faith, a man who has devoted his entire career, indeed his entire life, to the service of his fellow man. Pastor Wayne Graumann, who offered this morning's prayer for the House of Representatives, is revered, admired, and loved by all in his congregation and by all those whose life he has touched. He is the voice and the shepherd of Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas.

Born in Granite, Oklahoma, Pastor Graumann became a pastor after completing his education at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. He eventually accepted a calling from Salem Lutheran in Tomball, Texas, and has served and strengthened his flock there for the past three decades.

Pastor Graumann has been married to his wife, Kathy, for more than 36 years. They have been blessed with two children and two beautiful grandchildren. Pastor Graumann also spends countless hours working on world missions for the health and well-being of others, particularly in Honduras, Kenya, and Mexico.

□ 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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Everyone who knows Pastor Graumann knows him as a true messenger of Christ. In his words and in his deeds and, above all, in his heart, his example is a beacon of light which draws us all closer to our Creator. His faith and devotion to the life of Christ is an inspiration to us all.

I'm reminded of the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

May the peace of Christ be with you and may He hold you in the palm of his hand.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests of 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of African Americans in celebration of Black History Month. I find it quite fitting to address the House on this particular date when, in 1869, John Menard, the first African American elected to Congress, presented his case for being unfairly denied his seat as a Representative for the Second Congressional District of Louisiana. His testimony made him the first African American to address Congress on the House floor.

Now, almost 140 years later, we bear witness to the fruits of his labor by having 41 African American Members of the U.S. House and 1 African American Member of the United States Senate. That's why I'm so proud to represent the First District of Iowa where, in this great State, we have created a legacy of diversity and our own mark in history.

Iowa was home to Lulu Johnson, the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. It is also home to 12 of the Tuskegee Airmen. Iowa State University, my alma mater, educated George Washington Carver and also houses Jack Trice Stadium, the only division 1-A football stadium to be named in honor of an African American. Iowa State also educated the current highest ranking African American health policy adviser in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Aranthan Jones.

It's these types of accomplishments that inspire me to continue to work and stand up for people of all backgrounds fighting for justice and working toward equality.

BRITAIN OLYMPIC GAG

(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 press in Great Britain has reported that British Olympic athletes will be required as a requirement for their inclusion on the Olympic team to sign a contract promising not to speak about China's appalling human rights record. I'm surprised and dismayed that a country with a history such as Britain's would be so short-sighted. The country that paved the way for the enumerated rights of individuals in the Magna Carta is now restricting the free speech of its athletes from condemning some of the most brutal human rights violations in the world today.

The country of William Wilberforce, the man who was so outspoken in his campaign to end the slave trade, must have forgotten its history as a society dedicated to human rights. It is deeply disappointing that our closest ally has chosen to kowtow to the Chinese regime.

Wilberforce's friend, another British statesman, Edmund Burke, once said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

WE SHOULD DO AS WE SAY, NOT AS WE DO

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Turkish Government took its troops into northern Iraq and went after their nemesis, the terrorist, the PKK. They defeated, destroyed, and killed a great number of the PKK who've killed over 40,000 Turks since the 1980s and what is possibly the greatest terrorist group to attack a sovereign country.

Our Secretary of Defense Gates is going to be in Turkey today and has said he will tell the Turks to make their foray short, a matter of days, weeks, not months, and to respect the sovereignty of the Iraqi Government. I can only imagine what the Turks will tell Secretary Gates. Do as I say, not as I do. For have we respected the sovereignty of the Iraqi Government? Has our foray been short? Can we afford to lose more blood and more dollars in a losing attack in Iraq?

I submit to Secretary Gates, Mr. Speaker, we should do as we say, not as we do.

INNOVATION, NOT NEW TAXES

(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, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

The Democrats have failed three times to push through their energy tax

increase but here it is on the floor again today. When will our neighbors across the aisle realize we cannot tax our way to energy independence? Innovation and competition, the free market forces that have led to extraordinary discovery, do not emerge from tighter bureaucracy and punitive tax policies; yet, the majority still wants to raise taxes on the American people.

The truth is that our antiquated domestic refinery capacity, a dependence on foreign oil, and a growing global demand for oil are responsible for the increase in oil prices. Raising taxes on American companies simply punishes American taxpayers by implementing a policy which will raise the price at the pump and hit us all in the wallet.

Let's expand our energy development and workable conservation programs, but let's promote innovation, not new taxes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

ON DEFENDING OUR CITIZENS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, almost before the ink was dry on the February 22 letter to Intelligence Chairman REYES claiming that the telecommunications companies were balking at their surveillance support requests, the DNI and Attorney General were forced to admit that the companies were, in fact, cooperating with the U.S. Government surveillance activities. It is not simple patriotic duty; it's the law. They must cooperate. Under FISA, if they're compelled to cooperate, they are automatically provided immunity.

The truth is that the only time FISA phone taps have been turned off lately is when the President failed to pay the FBI phone bills. If you don't believe me, look at the Inspector General's report of the Department of Justice in 2008 this year.

The real issue before us is this: How do we produce law that provides us better intelligence and safeguards Americans' liberties? The answer is we've done it through the RESTORE Act, and the sooner that House-passed bill becomes the law of the land, the better. Requiring the government to apply to a court and demonstrate to a standard of probable cause that they know what they're doing not only protects the liberty of Americans, it produces better intelligence.

□ 1015

SAMUEL MCCULLOCH, JR.—FIRST BLOOD

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, born in South Carolina in 1810, Sam McCulloch, Jr.