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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Pastor Gary Strickland, Kingdom Place, Lumberton, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Our dear Heavenly Father, on this National Day of Prayer, we publicly acknowledge You to be the Lord of the universe, the author of creation, the arbiter in history, and the savior of man.

We bow before Your providence and celebrate Your goodness to our Nation. Thank You for blessing America.

Bless this Chamber of decision-makers, and let each of them seek Your guidance in every matter affecting our country.

Bless this Chamber of legislators, and let each of them vote always according to Your eternal standards, which transcend time and personal preference.

Bless this Chamber of social leaders, and let each of them model for us Your healing virtues of compassion and mercy, integrity, forgiveness and service.

We bow before Your power, celebrating Your goodness to us as a people. Thank You for blessing America.

In the name of Your son, Jesus Christ, we ask and pray for all these things.

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 gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. TAUSCHER 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. 1760. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group conference during the Second Session of the 110th Congress:

The Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

INTRODUCTION OF REV. GARY STRICKLAND

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased today to introduce the Reverend Gary Strickland who just delivered the invocation for the U.S. House as we, as a Nation, begin this National Day of Prayer, a time when communities across America will be joining in prayer for our country today.

And what better person to begin this day than a man whose ministry has carried him across North Carolina, touching people from all walks of life, from the booming coastal city of Wilmington to rural communities like Pikeville, Wilson, and Little Wash-

ington, North Carolina, to the All-American cities of Fayetteville and Lumberton.

The former Christian Education Director for the North Carolina Conference of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Gary now pastors a vibrant, nondenominational, multicultural church named Kingdom Place that is growing exponentially and has a wide-ranging ministry that shares God's love and the redeeming power of Jesus Christ.

Born and reared in Southeastern North Carolina, he is married to my sister, Karon McIntyre Strickland, who's with us today, and they have two children, Joel and Amy; two grandsons, Bailey and Bentley; and a son-in-law, Steve.

Gary is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke where he served as student body president. He received his master's in religious education at Duke and his master's of divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

As my brother-in-law, I'm particularly honored to have had him open us today on the National Day of Prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further 1-minutes on each side.

PRESIDENT BUSH IS 0 FOR 2

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, in 1993, when professional baseball owners were deciding how to rehabilitate the reputation of baseball after the players' strike, they debated whether to enact a wild-card rule to allow the second place team into the playoffs. Only one owner at the time voted against this, Texas Rangers general partner, George Bush.

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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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When the rule passed 27-1, at the time the President said, "I made my arguments and went down in flames. History will prove me right."

Since then, nearly a third of the World Series Champions have been wild-card teams, including the 2004 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox. The rule helped save baseball, as history has shown.

And just like his baseball predictions, President Bush sings a very similar tune about Iraq. He says, as recently as yesterday, "History will prove whether I'm right, and I think I'll be right."

Really? Five years today since his speech on "Mission Accomplished." And let's take stock. More than 4,000 lives have been lost, tens of thousands of American men and women have been injured, we've spent over 475 billion taxpayer dollars in Iraq, with the price tag continually going up.

History will judge whether, once again, George Bush's record and America's reputation will go down in flames. At this rate, he's 0 for 2.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of this Nation's strongest allies and friends, Israel.

For 60 years now, Israel has been the pride of her people, and a beacon for those who believe in the transformational power of democracy. Our relationship with Israel is built on the bedrock principle that free people and freedom itself must be defended whenever and wherever it is threatened.

Israel itself faces constant threats to its freedom as her people suffer from the most consistent barrage of terrorist attacks the world over. But that does not stop, does not deter, does not prevent Israel from thriving and standing strong.

As a representative of one of the country's largest Jewish communities, I'm proud to rise today in support of Israel, and to congratulate the great State of Israel on its 60th anniversary. May she live strong and free for years to come.

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF IRAQ AND TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE AT HOME

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, yes, we're looking at an anniversary of Iraq here. But let's talk about things that the American people can relate to immediately. Cost of eggs going up 35 percent in the last year, cost of milk going up about 23 percent, bread going up about 16 percent.

Now we know that Americans going to the gas pump are paying near \$4 a gallon in many areas.

What does this all have to do with Iraq?

Well, we're in Iraq for oil. The oil companies are running our domestic energy policy. It's having an impact on the price of food. It's causing a great transfer of wealth upwards away from the working people and the middle class of this country into the hands of a few wealthy oil company owners.

We need to get out of Iraq. We need to end the occupation, close the bases, bring the troops home. We need to set in motion an international security and peacekeeping force that can stabilize Iraq as our troops leave.

We need to start taking care of things here at home. Americans are losing their homes, they're losing their jobs, they're losing their health care, they're losing their retirement security. It's time we started to take care of things here at home and get out of Iraq.

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SAN FRANCISCO ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR ILLEGALS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, San Francisco city officials are encouraging illegals to find their home in this California town. The city recently began an expensive public relations campaign reminding illegals that it is still a sanctuary city and that local law enforcement will not cooperate with Federal officials to enforce immigration laws.

This bold announcement comes at a good time. Many other American cities actually believe in enforcing the law and cooperating with the Feds to arrest international trespassers. This causes illegals that live in the shadows of those cities to be perplexed as to what to do. They certainly don't want to go home because they cannot receive free social services like health care, welfare, and education.

So to be completely compassionate and caring, San Francisco should expand its PR campaign to include those hardline, narrow-minded, nonsanctuary cities and encourage their illegals to go to San Francisco. The PR campaign should be "The City by the Bay welcomes all, including those that violate the law."

Meanwhile, Congress should prohibit all Federal money from going to sanctuary cities like San Francisco that laugh at the rule of law and pander to illegals.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING CHRIS LOCKE

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today it's my pleasure to extend my congratulations to Chris Locke, a walnut farmer from Lockeford, California, who recently earned an award from the Environmental Protection Agency for sustainable farming practices. He tends 580 acres of walnuts on a plot of land in a town that his great-great grandfather founded and which bears his family's name, Lockeford.

Chris utilizes pest control practices that reduce the need for chemical sprays. His methods include pheromone-based treatments as well as maintaining plants that attract beneficial insects and birds that control rodents.

Chris' motivation is an admirable example of sustainable farming and stands as a shining illustration of the increasing commitment of San Joaquin County farmers and growers to environmentally friendly agricultural techniques. As a pioneer in the field, Chris has generously offered to share his techniques with fellow farmers.

It is my honor to recognize Chris and to congratulate him for his well-deserved award.

HONORING THE JEANNETTE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, March 15, the Jeannette High School basketball team from my district won the State's Class AA championship. The Jeannette Jayhawks became the second high school in all of Pennsylvania history to reach the achievement of winning both the state basketball and state football championships. Led by players Terrelle Pryor, Shaw Sunder, and Jordan Hall, and Coach Jim Nesser, the Jayhawks won a game that will go down as one of the best in PIAA history and cap a remarkable season in which the team went 25-4.

This is a great accomplishment for a small school district in southwestern Pennsylvania which has excelled in the classroom. McKee Elementary was named a Blue Ribbon school, and all the district's schools received the Keystone Achievement Recognition this year, with the school district getting the bronze medal.

Congratulations to the entire Jeannette school district and to the entire Jeannette community.

HONORING MARINE LANCE CORPORAL JORDAN CHRISTIAN HAERTER

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise with profound sadness to recognize a fallen marine from my district, Lance Corporal Jordan Christian Haerter who was only 19 years old when he was killed in Iraq last week.