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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 3, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JESSE L. JACKSON, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rabbi Felipe Goodman, Temple Beth Sholom, Las Vegas, Nevada, offered the following prayer:

Our God and God of our ancestors, God of Compassion, God of Justice, God of Peace, we ask for Your blessing for this House of Representatives, for our country, and for all our leaders. Grant them, O God, the ability to lead us with true understanding of Your vision so that this land under Your providence be an influence for good throughout the world. Protect the men and women of our Armed Forces who stand in harm's way so that we may enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty. May it be Your will that they speedily return in full physical and spiritual health to their families and loved ones.

Let us remember, O God, where we came from so that we may never forget the destination of our journey as a Nation. Let us be always mindful that we are all children of immigrants. Give us the wisdom to understand what the responsibility of fighting oppression, fighting poverty, and injustice really means. 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 gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BERKLEY 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.

WELCOMING RABBI FELIPE GOODMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Rabbi Felipe Goodman to the United States Congress. His credentials are as impressive as his spirit and his commitment. I know because not only is he my rabbi, he's my close personal friend.

Born in Mexico City, he is an alumni of Mexico City's University of the New World and obtained his master's degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Ordained in 1996, Rabbi Goodman now leads one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing conservative congregations in the United States, Temple Beth Sholom in my hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada.

In his 10 years of service, his congregation has grown from 100 to more than 700 families. He has built an entire new campus and is building a new home for its thriving school.

On January 5, 2007, 1 day after his 40th birthday, Rabbi Goodman became a United States citizen.

Rabbi Goodman is the co-author of "Hagadah de Pesaj," which is the most widely used edition of The Pesach Hagadah used in Latin America.

Singled-out by international leaders for both his ideas and hard work, Felipe became vice president of the World Union of Jewish Students.

He is one of 12 members of The Rabbinic Cabinet of The Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary and serves as a member of The Joint Placement Commission of The Rabbinical Assembly, The United Synagogue and JTS. The Seminary recently appointed him to the Joint Retirement Board of The Conservative Movement. He's a former member of The Executive Council of The Rabbinical Assembly and its Nominating Committee.

But more than any degree or honor or appointment, he is an important, warm, caring, and respected spiritual and religious leader in Las Vegas, Nevada, a devoted husband to Liz; a wonderful father to Yoshua, Daniela, and Ariela.

I am honored to have him here with us in the House today and honored to call Rabbi Felipe Goodman my rabbi and my friend.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN), the whole number of the House is 434.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed:

□ 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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H4835

by the Speaker on Thursday, May 22, 2008:

H.R. 2356, to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day

H.R. 2517, to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act to authorize appropriations; and for other purposes

H.R. 4008, to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make technical corrections to the definition of willful noncompliance with respect to violations involving the printing of an expiration date on certain credit and debit card receipts before the date of the enactment of this Act

S. 2829, to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes

S. 3029, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes

S. 3035, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965

S.J. Res. 17, directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean

by Speaker pro tempore HOYER on Tuesday, May 27, 2008:

H.R. 6081, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide benefits for military personnel, and for other purposes

OUR TROOPS NEED FUNDING

(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, Congress adjourned for Memorial Day having failed to pass an emergency troop funding bill that our military says is vital to successful operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including pay for our brave men and women in uniform.

Because the majority refuses to bring a clean bill to the floor, the military has announced that they will shift funding from one priority to another in order to meet the needs of our troops and civilian military employees. It is disappointing that when our military needs money to protect American families, the majority refuses to appropriate the funding without tying on billions more in unrelated spending.

On behalf of my constituents, many of whom serve proudly in the military, we need to work together for a clean emergency supplemental bill to be brought to the floor immediately for consideration. Our Nation is at risk with a delay in military funding, a failure to renew FISA, and limits on our energy independence.

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

THE LITTLE FELLOW FROM IRAN

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the little fellow from Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is ranting and saber rattling again against Israel and the United States.

The L.A. Times reports the dictator said, "The Zionist regime of Israel . . . is about to die and will soon be erased from the scene". And, "The time for the fall of the satanic power of the United States has come and the countdown to annihilation . . . has started."

The devil of the desert is preaching hate and murder in the name of radical Islam. Throughout history more people have been murdered, pillaged, tortured, and plundered in the name of religion than any other reason.

With Iran's dictator's involvement in supplying aid against the United States in Iraq, his support of Hezbollah, and his desire to have nuclear weapons to use against Israel, the world of nations must not diminish this loose cannon's evil ambition.

Freedom-loving people of all nations and religions must see the dictator as a menace. Hopefully, the people of Iran will replace their trigger-happy leader with a regime that wants peace.

In the meantime Ahmadinejad should never doubt the United States' resolve for a safe and secure Israel. The U.S. will do whatever necessary to keep the flame of liberty burning at home and in the Middle East, even if the little fellow doesn't like it.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING WALTER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, AUSTIN POLYTECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND RICHARD T. CRANE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend I had the opportunity to visit three schools in my congressional district, and I want to take the opportunity to commend and congratulate all three of them.

The Walter Lutheran High School in Melrose Park, Illinois, where I attended their graduation Sunday, and I was pleased that my nephew Dante Davis was one of the graduates; then the Austin Polytechnical High School, which focuses on manufacturing, in Chicago yesterday; and last night I had a town hall meeting at the Richard T. Crane High School in Chicago on stopping school violence.

All of them are outstanding, and I commend them.

ENERGY

(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, since 2006 the Democrats have been completely in control of Congress. The Democrat leadership continues to put a roadblock in the way of accessing American oil. Gas prices have doubled in the past year. At the station down the street from my home, gas is now over \$4 a gallon.

House Republicans believe in increasing production of American-made energy. Vast untapped American energy resources are currently under lock and key and off-limits. American energy resources can make our Nation more secure and less dependent on foreign oil.

House Republicans believe not only in technologies like wind, solar, and biomass but that we ought to make use of the billions of barrels of oil in Alaska, off the deep waters of the Outer Continental Shelf, and on Federal lands. We can do this in an environmentally sensitive way. And we should eliminate the red tape it takes to build a new oil refinery.

We should develop American-made energy.

HOW TO BRING DOWN THE COST OF GAS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today gas prices are hovering around \$4 a gallon, and good legislation that would help ease the pain at the pump languishes due to congressional inaction. Washington is just not working for average taxpayers in North Carolina.

Recently, I've seen some good ideas to deal with high gas prices, but we can't seem to get them brought to the floor for a vote.

For example, I'm a cosponsor of Mr. YOUNG's American Energy Independence and Price Reduction Act, which addresses both sides of this issue. It would tap domestic oil in an environmentally sensitive way and then use the tens of billions of dollars of Federal revenue to invest in 18 different existing alternative energy programs, from wind energy to water energy, all without raising taxes.

How high will the Pelosi premium have to get before we vote on common-sense legislation like this? This bill proves that we can bring down the price of gas while investing in the energy of the future without raising taxes on America's working families.

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: