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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. BISHOP of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 6, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, California, offered the following prayer:

O God, Your sacred word teaches us the words of Jesus who said: ''Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.''

Teach us the religion of African American slaves who sang about laying down their burdens and studying war no more. Give us the knowledge for understanding how to remove the causes of violence. Open our eyes to see that violence as a solution only multiplies escalating violence.

Grant us the wisdom to make peace in our heads, hearts, homes, school houses and legislative houses. Grant us the courage to become advocates for the weak in our society, for the strong are their own advocates. May the fresh awareness of Your invisible presence guide each of us today as we seek not to be problems, but solutions for the ills of our hurting world.

Help the elected leaders of this U.S. House of Representatives serve as eyes for the blind, voices for the voiceless, and advocates for the last, the least, and the left out.

We pray this prayer in the name of the One who is wonderful, counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting parent and the Prince of Peace. 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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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 PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

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. 466. An act to deauthorize a certain portion of the project for navigation, Rockland Harbor, Maine.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 4, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 4, 2006, at 10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 843.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3858.

That the Senate passed S. 1899.

That the Senate passed S. 3836.

That the Senate passed S. 2068.

That the Senate passed S. 2694.

That the Senate passed S. 3534.

That the Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 467.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

THE REVEREND DR. J. ALFRED SMITH, SR.

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome and to recognize my pastor who offered this powerful prayer as we opened our session today, the Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., of the Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California, in my district.

Among his many accomplishments, Pastor Smith serves as a distinguished professor of Christian ministry and preaching at the American Baptist Seminary of the West and the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley, and is the past national president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Church of the West.

From his work in helping ex-offenders to turn their lives around and successfully return to our community, to

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his efforts in the fight against HIV and AIDS, I can tell you that you can see the results of his loving and his spirit-filled ministry in my district. Pastor Smith has been described as a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness, and he has been a source of strength and inspiration for me and for thousands in our community and throughout the world.

So as Congress reconvenes, I want to thank Pastor Smith for his powerful words of wisdom and of guidance, and for a lifetime of service to God and to humankind, and to my Allen Temple family, several of whom have joined us this afternoon in the House gallery. Thank you, Pastor Smith.

NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the single most important function of the Federal Government: national security and the protection of our citizens. The United States is in an ongoing war on terror. While we have achieved many successes, such as the recent apprehension of Hamid al-Su'aydi, al Qaeda's second-highest ranking member in Iraq, we must not relent in the apprehension and destruction of global terrorist cells.

We are making progress in the global war on terror, but there is still more to be done. The August 31 deadline for Iran to stop producing nuclear fuel has been ignored. And although the United States, along with three European allies, is assembling a list of sanctions to present to the United Nations, it is no surprise that many of the U.N. sanctions and resolutions go ignored.

It is time the United States made clear that Iran's nuclear ambitions must not go unchecked. A well-known philosopher once said that a nation never falls but by suicide. If we ignore the current threat of terrorism, the nuclear ambitions of rogue nations, we are certainly setting our Nation on a path to suicide.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to relentlessly pursue and eliminate the global terrorist network, as well as ensure that the nuclear ambitions of Iran are eradicated. Not only will this aid in the stabilization of the Middle East, but in the security of all Americans.

SENATE MUST PASS THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

(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, I too want to welcome the Reverend Smith and the Allen Temple Church and especially commend them for their work with ex-offenders and ex-offender reentry.

We were very fortunate to get passed out of Judiciary before the recess the Second Chance Act; and I would hope that before we adjourn this year, that both the House and the Senate will have passed that legislation, sent it to the President's desk, and he will have signed it, because it is one of the most important things we can do.

REAL COMMITMENT—NOT RHETORIC—NEEDED TO WIN WAR ON TERROR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a great deal lately from the Democrats about their ideas on how to fight and how to win the war on terror. But yesterday I was listening to the White House press secretary, Tony Snow, give his daily briefing. I thought he summed up the Democrats' position on the war on terror very clearly.

He said: ''There have been some in the Democratic Party who have argued against the PATRIOT Act, against the terrorist surveillance program, against Guantanamo. In other words, there are some who say that we should not fight the war, we should not apprehend al Qaeda, we should not detain al Qaeda, we should not question al Qaeda, we should not listen to al Qaeda. In other words, they are all for winning the war on terror, but they are against providing the tools for winning that war.''

Mr. Speaker, now those same people want America to entrust them with power, to set national policy in the war on terror. And this month we will be addressing many issues important to the security of our Nation: defending against terror, prosecuting terrorists, securing our borders. I urge every American to watch how each Representative and each party votes on these very important issues, and they will each know which party truly stands for security from terror.

AMERICA'S STRONG ECONOMY

(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, while traveling by bus through the 10 counties of South Carolina's Second Congressional District last month, I visited with chambers of commerce, schools, and booming local businesses. During these visits, I saw the effects of Republican tax reductions and pro-growth initiatives at work.

Due to the Republicans' fiscal policies, workers are keeping more of their own money. In turn, they are investing more money in their local economies. Last month, the unemployment rate dipped to 4.7 percent, one of the lowest points since 2001. Yet just last week, House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI stated: ''Our economy is moving in the wrong direction.''

I am grateful that American workers can celebrate 36 consecutive months of job growth, creating nearly 6 million new jobs. Homeownership is at a record high of nearly 70 percent, and more persons than ever in history are fulfilling the American Dream.

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

HONORING ANDRE AGASSI

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to recognize a great Nevadan whose name is Andre Agassi for his 20 years of success as an athlete. His professional career goes from eight Grand Slam titles, 60 singles titles, Olympic gold medal and number one in the world in tennis.

But I am here to share with you that his success is far greater than that on the court. Off the court, Mr. Agassi has raised close to $50 million to help abused and neglected children in the State of Nevada, has created a Boys and Girls Club, a K–12 charter school, cottages for medically fragile children and is certainly a loving father and husband.

History will show that he is one of the greatest athletes in modern times, but I truly believe that his charitable, humanitarian approach to our community will overshadow his athletic success. He told his fans that he was inspired by his fans.

He truly has been an inspiration for our community in Nevada and for our country. I rise today recognizing Andre Agassi as a great American hero.

AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES

(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 this Chamber last met, there has been some good news regarding American energy. Over the past 2 weeks, gas prices have been dropping, providing some relief for Labor Day travelers.

Just this week a group of oil companies announced a discovery of a petroleum reserve that could increase America's proven reserves by as much as 50 percent. This is good news, Mr. Speaker. But more can be done.

This year alone, the House has passed several meaningful bills aimed at boosting our domestic energy supply. In May we authorized environmentally responsible energy exploration in Alaska. In June we passed legislation to streamline the process for building new refineries in our country. We also authorized access to the enormous reserves known to exist off our coast on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Mr. Speaker, the House has a strong record on energy independence. But there are only a limited number of