The House met at 10 a.m.  

Mr. KIND led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Speaker. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Kind) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KIND 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.

FUNDRAISING FOR GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, we had our annual fundraiser, to raise funds for a wonderful university for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my Republican counterparts under the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Coach Oxley). It was 1991 when the Democrats last won the game. The Republicans have learned to be very gracious winners, and now they are learning to be very gracious losers, and the Democrats appreciate that.

There were, however, 7 seconds remaining in the game, and some of us feared the gentleman from Ohio (Coach Oxley) would figure out a way to keep the clock running for another 3 hours until he determined he agreed with the final outcome.

Mr. Speaker, it was a lot of fun, and it was good to see in the midst of a heated budget debate we could come together for some fun and camaraderie, and raise money for a good cause.

BUDGET RESPONSIBILITY

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, in the year 2001, 2002, and 2003, we gave the American people tax breaks. How much more would American families pay without this tax relief? If none of this tax relief had become law, in 2004, 111 million Americans would be paying an average of $1,586 more in taxes; 81 million women would be paying an average of $1,878 more in taxes; 49 million married couples would pay, on average, $2,602 more in taxes.

Mr. Speaker, 43 million families with children would be paying an average of $2,000 more in taxes; 11 million single women with children would be paying an average of $921 more in taxes; 14 million elderly individuals would be paying an average of $1,893 more in taxes; 25 million small businesses would be paying an average of $3,000 more in taxes; and nearly 5 million individuals and families who currently have no income tax liability would become subject to the income tax. The numbers speak for themselves.

Fundraising for Gallaudet University

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Republican budget carefully crafted by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Nussle) for fiscal year 2005, because it is a responsible plan that sets clear priorities.

As we fight the war on terrorism, we will make sure we have the tools that we need to fight the enemy abroad and protect our homeland. Defense spending has increased 9.5 percent, and homeland security has increased 9.5 percent.

Additionally, we are committed to continuing the policies of economic recovery through job creation. The budget allows for making tax cuts, like the marriage penalty and child deduction, permanent so American families can keep more of their own hard-earned money.