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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Bobby C. Dagnel, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Our most gracious heavenly Father, we offer thanksgiving for this day of life and the opportunities it brings. We acknowledge that the freedoms afforded us by this great democracy creates within us not a license to do as we please, but a responsibility to act in a way that pleases You.

As this capable body of elected public servants entertain the multitude of issues before them, I pray they might have the wisdom of Solomon, who urged us to look neither right nor left but to keep our eyes fixed straight ahead; to do what is right; to do that which reflects the true spirit of democracy, giving consideration to and deeming of equal importance the rights and freedoms of every person, whether in the majority or the minority, of both the strong and the weak.

We remember, also, this day, those who stand in harm's way to protect and promote these very tenets of democracy we hold dear. In Your name we pray, O Lord, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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.

HONORING THE REVEREND BOBBY DAGNEL

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor someone who is very important to me in my life, and that is my pastor, Bobby Dagnel.

Bobby Dagnel opened today's session of the United States House of Representatives with an invocation that should guide us throughout the day as we do the people's business in the halls of the United States Congress.

Pastor Dagnel began his senior pastorship at First Baptist Church in Lubbock on August 4, 2002. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Texas at Tyler in 1985. And he went on to Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary where he received his Master's in Divinity in 1987. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry at George W. Truett Seminary.

As Pastor Dagnel has traveled down this path, he has become a man of steadfast faith. He understands personally what it means to transform one's life from one without direction to one that is full of purpose and meaning. Pastor Dagnel is a wonderful family man, a loving husband to his wife, Patti, and a father to his daughter, Courtney, who is 14, and to his son, Hunter, who is 12.

I want to thank Pastor Dagnel for answering the call to help others find their way and serving as an example for all that follow. God Bless Pastor Dagnel.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, the

Committee on Government Reform, and the Committee on the Budget:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2004.
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign from the House Agriculture, Government Reform and Budget Committees due to my appointment to the House Committee on Rules.

Sincerely,

ADAM H. PUTNAM,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.
There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 806) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 806

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Cantor.

Committee on Rules: Mr. Putnam.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, whoever is elected President will face the prospect of another terrorist attack. The

□ 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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question is: Will we have the right policies in place to best protect our country?

George Bush has waged an aggressive war on terror by going on the offense. He has taken the fight to the terrorists rather than waiting to fight them in our cities and on our streets.

On the other hand, his critics have demonstrated, I believe, a fundamental misunderstanding of the war on terror, saying that by going on the offense, America has caused the creation of more terrorists. The critics fail to articulate how they would deal with the gathering threat and, if we are attacked again, what would be their strong response.

Mr. Speaker, as we wage the war on terror and determine which policy can best keep America safe, this is at the heart of our national debate and an important part of the choice that all Americans will have to make on November 2.

THE SITUATION IN IRAQ IS GETTING WORSE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today the Washington Post quotes a former CIA official who said, "People at the CIA are mad at the policy in Iraq because it's a disaster . . . The best we can hope for is a failed state hobbling along." But this view is widely shared in every branch of government. The State Department official warning to travelers from September 17, "Iraq . . . remains very dangerous."

An army officer recently back from Iraq said, "It is getting worse . . . They have infiltrators conducting attacks in the Green Zone. That was not the case a year ago." A National Intelligence Estimate from July said that among the three possible scenarios for Iraq, the best case was merely "tenuous stability." A study by Kroll Security International shows that the number of daily attacks has increased from 40 per day to around 70 each day. On Meet the Press, General Abizaid said, "We will fight our way through the elections." "Through," not up to the elections.

And this weekend, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "Yes," Iraq is "getting worse." It is getting worse, but we do not know it from the President's comments who says and sees Iraq as a success.

The President of the proud of the fact that he does not read the newspapers. Can somebody please arrange a briefing for the President?

RECOGNIZING THE CENTURY COUNCIL AND NICKELODEON

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to

congratulate and recognize The Century Council and Nickelodeon for their creation of an innovative new program to educate middle-school-age students about the problems of underage drinking.

The Century Council is a national not-for-profit organization funded by America's leading distillers to develop and implement programs designed to stop drunk driving and underage drinking. Nickelodeon, the very popular children's TV network, has joined The Century Council on a creative multimedia program for middle-school-age kids and their parents called "Ask, Listen and Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix."

As a mother of two teenage daughters, I realize the critical role that parents play in the efforts to reduce and eliminate illegal underage drinking. I commend The Century Council and Nickelodeon for providing such a dynamic and valuable communications tool.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, since the Iraqi War started, nine soldiers have died in my district, all under the age of 30, and I attended some of their funerals.

As of to date, 1,051 servicemen and women have been killed in Iraq, and more than 7,500 have been injured.

Our servicemen and women are serving this Nation with honor and demonstrating great courage beyond our belief. Yet the actions of our President are not helping to ensure their safety and security. While their job is to fight, ours is to protect them.

The violence is not stopping. The streets are not safer. Our soldiers and Iraqi citizens continue to be at risk and are dying.

The U.S. had a plan to topple Baghdad, but it did not have a plan to adequately win and secure the peace. We need to secure the Nation. We need to equip it with the tools to protect and defend itself. And we need to establish peace.

What we need is new direction in Iraq. We need strong leadership and accountability, and we need to make sure that whatever this government provides in terms of funding is actually made available so that all our military on the ground has sufficient equipment and supplies that are needed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of a measure we will

consider today in the Congress authored by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER). It is the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, and there will be much sound and fury throughout the day and perhaps this evening on this measure.

The measure actually overturns local District of Columbia laws that ban the sale and possession of hand guns, ammunition and certain types of semi-automatic weapons to law-abiding citizens in the District of Columbia.

I believe that guns in the hands of law-abiding Americans actually save lives, and there will be arguments and statistics on both sides of that debate. But I rise very briefly to begin the argument, specifically to refute what I believe will be the false federalism argument that many will employ today, to say that the District of Columbia has the right to pass its own gun laws even when, in so doing, they ban and discriminate against the blood-bought right to keep and bear arms that is enshrined in the Constitution.

Let us be clear on this point and this definition of federalism: No State has the right to legislate away the blood-bought constitutional right of every law-abiding American to protect their person, their family and their liberty.

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CONSISTENTLY WRONG ON IRAQ

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Bush brags about how consistent he has been in his policy on Iraq. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the President has been consistently wrong.

President Bush was wrong about weapons of mass destruction. He was wrong about any connection between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda. He was wrong about not working to bring in our allies to join us in the war against Iraq. He was wrong about sending our troops into battle without the protective gear that they needed. He was wrong when he declared "mission accomplished," and wrong again when he challenged terrorists to "bring it on." Finally, He was wrong when he did not plan for the aftermath of the fall of Baghdad.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has certainly been consistent about Iraq, but he has been consistently wrong.

INDONESIA HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

(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, last week Indonesians voted directly for the first time to elect their new president. The Charleston Post