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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHAW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable E. CLAY SHAW, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Thomas Johns, Pastor, St. John Vianney Parish, Mentor, OH, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we are mindful of the blessings You bestow upon our Nation. Thank You for the farmers who provide food for our tables. Help us to be grateful for all we receive, and may we share our gifts with the poor.

Bless the men and women of Congress and grant them wisdom and fortitude so that they know what is right and good and pursue it diligently. Guide them to make good decisions, and may our actions as a Nation be pleasing in Your sight. Touch the hearts of our citizens, especially our young people, and inspire them to live lives of service.

Be with our brothers and sisters in the Gulf States as they rebuild their lives and communities. Please also bless the men and women in the military and keep them out of harm's way. May Your peace reign in our hearts, homes, neighborhoods, Nation, and world. 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 California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California 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 FATHER THOMAS JOHNS

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome this morning Father Tom Johns of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Mentor, OH, as the guest chaplain today. I am honored to have Father Johns here today.

I want to welcome him, his sister and brother-in-law, Trish and Denny, and their two children, Kyle and Kayla, to the House of Representatives.

Father Johns has been with St. John Vianney since 1993 and became pastor in January of 1998. He is a treasured member of our community, and he also has a special Washington connection. Several years ago, Father Johns presided over the wedding of Kirsti Talikka Garlock, counsel for the House Committee on International Relations, and her husband, Vince. I know it is a thrill for them to have Father Johns here this morning as the guest chaplain.

I first met Father Johns at the home of Jim and Ruthie Jackson a number of years ago, and they referred to him as Father Tom. Even though I am a Methodist and he is a Roman Catholic, I have to tell you that it is probably a good duty when you are marrying somebody like Kirsti and Vince. I have also had the sad occasion of being with him when he was the presiding official at the funeral of not only Jim Jackson but also Mike Brown. And Father Johns's ability to help friends and family get through those occasions really makes him a special person in my mind. It is a pleasure to have Father Thomas Johns with us today, and I thank him for being here.

IMPRISONED IN THEIR OWN HOMES

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, every day in this land of the free there are some women who live lives of quiet desperation. These women are not free, but are imprisoned in their own homes. Their crime? Being with the wrong person. Their warden is their spouse or their boyfriend. Their sentence? A lifetime of abuse, sexual assault, intimidation, mental turmoil, and even death.

As a judge in Texas, I saw these victims appear in court to tell their compelling, sad stories of their incarceration in their own homes.

This is a family issue. This is a national health issue. This is a public safety issue. And this is a criminal issue. This is an issue that must not go unnoticed by this House. We need to stand beside these victims that are battered, beaten, and bruised. The criminals will be held accountable for their actions. The protections in the Violence Against Women Act need to be reauthorized so women can truly enjoy living in the land of the free.

Mr. Speaker, love should not hurt.

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