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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The Lord draws near. Come, let us worship.

My brothers and sisters, know that the Lord desires to be close to you. You have prayed, ''Thy kingdom come!''

Let the Lord's justice now guide all your judgments. Let the Lord's peace penetrate your hearts. The Lord God Himself will come and establish a new beginning in our humanity.

In you and through you, the Lord will lead people to true freedom.

Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your strength; then from within you, the Lord will rebuild the Nation.

The Lord draws near. Prepare the way for the Lord, for He comes. Prepare your people to meet the Lord your God. 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 (Mr. HASTINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida 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 SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

NOTICE

If the 109th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 20, 2005, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 109th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Friday, December 30, 2005, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–60 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Thursday, December 29. The final issue will be dated Friday, December 30, 2005, and will be delivered on Tuesday, January 3, 2006. Both offices will be closed Monday, December 26, 2005.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at ''Record@Sec.Senate.gov''.

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at http://clerk.house.gov/forms. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–60.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the Congressional Record may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

TRENT LOTT, *Chairman.*

☐ 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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H.R. 4195. An act to authorize early repayment of obligations to Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills on the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 310. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District in the State of Nevada.

S. 435. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 648. An act to amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to extend the authority for drought assistance.

S. 1025. An act to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to provide for the construction of the Cheney division, Wichita Federal reclamation project, Kansas, and for other purposes'' to authorize the Equus Beds Division of the Wichita Project.

S. 1096. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate portions of the Musconetcong River in the State of New Jersey as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 1165. An act to provide for the expansion of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Honolulu County, Hawaii.

S. 1496. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

S. 1552. An act to amend Public Law 97–435 to extend the authorization for the Secretary of the Interior to release certain conditions contained in a patent concerning certain land conveyed by the United States to Eastern Washington University until December 31, 2009.

S. 1578. An act to reauthorize the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin endangered fish recovery implementation programs.

S. 1869. An act to reauthorize the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize up to seven Members on each side for 1-minute speeches.

CONGRATULATING APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and congratulating the 2005 NCAA Division I–AA Football National Champions, Appalachian State University.

This courageous and athletic group of students, along with their coaches and support staff from Boone, North Carolina, defeated the University of Northern Iowa last night in Chattanooga, Tennessee, by a score of 21–16.

This marks the first time in history that a team from ASU has won a national championship. This championship culminates a tremendous year of Mountaineer football that saw the team finish the season 8–3, winning the Southern Conference championship before winning four playoff games, including last night's national championship game.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this football team and their coach, not just for winning a national championship but for the character and teamwork they display.

The Mountaineers have excelled under the leadership of Coach Jerry Moore, the winningest coach in the history of the Southern Conference. He has a talented staff, including Coach Lonnie Galloway, the son-in-law of our colleague from North Carolina, Robin Hayes.

I wish my duties in Washington did not prevent me from being in Chattanooga last night with so many Appalachian students, alumni, and supporters. I would have liked to have seen first hand the crushing defense in the fourth quarter, led by Jason Hunter and Marques Murrell. I wish I could have been there to witness in person the courage of quarterback Richie Williams, who played through a painful ankle injury suffered last week in the semi-final game against Furman.

Please join me in congratulating the Appalachian State University football team. I am proud of my long history with ASU. I am proud to represent this fine university in Congress. Go Mountaineers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). The Chair thanks the gentlewoman.

LIABILITY IMMUNITY FOR BIG PHARMA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Wake up, America. In addition to giving away the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to the oil companies, the Defense appropriations bill is rumored to contain a massive holiday gift to the pharmaceutical industry in the form of liability immunity for pandemic vaccines. The liability is not the reason for vaccine shortages, especially in the case of avian flu.

This giveaway will not result in increased vaccine production. Why does Big Pharma want these liability exemptions? Because there is reason to doubt the safety of at least one of these vaccines. Chiron, the same company which allowed contamination of half of last year's flu vaccine supply, is hoping to use MF59 in an avian flu vaccine. MF59 is a compound that contains squalene, which is on the short list of potential causes for the chronic debilitating illnesses experienced by our veterans of the first Persian Gulf war.

At a minimum, this issue must be debated in front of the American people, not slipped in behind closed doors into this large bill. I urge my colleagues to reject this liability immunity.

CONGRATULATING DIVISION I–AA NATIONAL CHAMPION APPALACHIAN STATE MOUNTAINEERS

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the frigid unforgiving winds that normally blow across the Blue Ridge Mountains during the months of winter are blowing less brutally and less severely today. For on this day, these winds sweep across the campus of Appalachian State University, home of the National I–AA champions of intercollegiate football.

I attended Appalachian State, Mr. Speaker, and I know I speak for many in the Congress and many congressional staffers as well in conveying hearty congratulations and best wishes to Chancellor Peacock, Coach Moore, and the entire Appalachian community.

Mr. Speaker, I join you in enthusiastically declaring, Go Mountaineers from Appalachian State.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, the Christmas tree is lit and decorated on the west front of the Capitol; but meanwhile here in the House Chamber, the Republican elves are toiling on the gifts to be put under the tree for the American people.

For the wealthiest, the investors who earn over $300,000 a year, fabulous gifts, huge new extensions of tax cuts. Unfortunately for seniors, working families, and the poor, there is nothing but a box of rhetoric. They even have to forego the usual lump of coal because it is too expensive with the Bush failed energy policy.

Even worse, the tax cut for the wealthiest among us, those who earn over $300,000 a year, will be paid for by cuts in student financial, food and nutrition assistance, school lunches, Medicaid care for poor people. The list kind of goes on and on. Merry Christmas.

WE CAN HAVE BOTH FREEDOM AND SECURITY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, history has shown that free peoples are willing to give up civil liberties or freedom in the name of security. Our forefathers knew this, so our Constitution protects us from government taking rights in the name of security.