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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Allen Novotny, Gonzaga College High School, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we gather here this morning, representatives of millions, to use Your gifts of the power of words, of debate and of laws to serve their needs. Yet, we dare ask for even more, the awesome power of Your Spirit.

And so we pray, rush upon us, O Spirit of God. From this time, rush upon us: like living water, like leaping fire, like fresh wind through an open window.

For this time, rush upon us, O Holy Spirit: with wisdom and knowledge, with understanding and counsel, with wonder and with recognition and awe. Just in time, rush upon us, O Spirit of God: in life-giving words, in songs for the powerless, in a passion for service. At this time, rush upon us, O Holy Spirit: this hopeful time, this planning time, this renewing time, this new time, this full time, all the time. Rush upon us, O Spirit of God.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE COST OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office just released an analysis that on top of the half a trillion dollars that we have already spent on the war in Iraq, it will cost us another \$2 trillion over the next decade. That includes \$564 million of interest, because every dime of this war in Iraq has been borrowed, from our children and from our grandchildren. It will come to a greater cost than the cost of the Korean, the Vietnam War and all three theaters of operation in World War II. It boils down to about \$7,000 for every man, woman and child.

And here we thought the only real sacrifice was being borne by our soldiers and their families. We are beginning to see the real implications for all of America. In fact, just last week, the President vetoed a bill that would have cost \$35 billion but would have provided health care to 10 million children over the next 5 years and at the same time demanded that we instead spend that same amount of money for 3 weeks in Iraq. This is not what America expects from its President or its Congress, Madam Speaker.

VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, last week on ABC's news program, Charlie Gibson

announced the news in Iraq. He said, "The news is, there isn't any news." That's right. Across all of Iraq, there were no fatalities, shootings and bombs going off. As the media has started to recognize that we have turned the corner and are winning the war in Iraq, this pressing question, once again, comes before the House, and that is, what are the Democrats going to do with the bill that we have already passed and that the Senate has already passed to provide money for our veterans?

Eighteen million dollars every day is being wasted for the last 130 days because we won't bring this veterans funding bill back for final approval. It has the votes. What are we waiting for, post-traumatic stress syndrome? Veterans hospitals? Veterans clinics? We have to ask the Democrat leadership why a 130-day wait.

It's time for us to fund our veterans.

HONORING GALESBURG, ILLINOIS

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to my hometown, the city of Galesburg, IL, for publicly speaking out against hate crimes. Galesburg has a rich tradition of promoting equality for all of its citizens. It was a stop on the Underground Railroad and home to the first anti-slavery society in the State of Illinois.

Mayor Gary Smith recently declared October Not in Our Town Month, an effort to combat violent, bias-motivated crimes designed to cause fear and intimidation among an entire group of people.

The Not in Our Town Month proclamation states, "Hate groups shall not divide communities." It also urges the residents of Galesburg to "join together to eliminate racism and violence and to declare that respect,

□ 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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