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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. SERRANO).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 25, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSÉ E. SERRANO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of the heavens and the Earth, the skies over California are red and black. We beg You to drown the fires that beset thousands with Your compassionate love.

You, O Lord, with gentle winds of mercy and the mighty force of nature, combined with the bravery and ingenuity of firefighters from across this Nation, can put an end to this hellfire.

Then, may this crucible of the Golden State become the ultimate sign of commitment by this Nation. Lead us through global warming to become a leader in the world community clearing the heavens and providing hopeful vision for all Your people to praise You for Your creative glory both now and forever. 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.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on

agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLAKE 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### RECOGNIZING THE SKILL, DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF OUR NATION'S FIRST RESPONDERS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the skill, the dedication and the sacrifice of our Nation's first responders. In particular, I would like to honor and thank all of the first responders who are on the front line perilously

right now fighting the fires in Southern California.

We rely on our first responders to help us survive the most difficult and the most challenging experiences that we face. I am proud that when we passed H.R. 1 this year, Congress took critical steps to provide Federal support for our Nation's first responders. These steps included increasing the amounts of funding available to States and localities for hazardous preparedness funding, what we are facing in California right now, and establishing a stand-alone communications interoperability grant program so that our first responders could speak to each other as they were on the front line in these emergencies.

The Federal Government must continue to provide States and localities with all the resources that they need to effectively respond to these emergencies. Please keep all of our first responders and the residents who have been affected by the Southern California fires in your thoughts and prayers.

### PUTTING SUPERBUGS ON THE DEFENSIVE

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

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. This Tuesday, a Wall Street Journal article written by Theo Francis started off by saying, "Hospitals are prime breeding grounds for antibiotic-resistant 'superbugs' that kill tens of thousands of Americans each year. But most people have had no way of knowing how well their hospital keeps these bacteria—and infections in general—under control."

Nineteen States have some version of requiring reporting of infection rates in hospitals, but there is no overall plan for this, and thus there is a great

□ 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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