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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. HOLDEN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM HOLDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Benny Tate, Rock Springs Church, Milner, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Our heavenly Father, as we bow our heads in Your presence, today we are reminded of the prayer of President Lincoln, who said, "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for that day." This morning, we also come to You, realizing we are insufficient and incapable. We come asking for divine protection for our men and women serving bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan and all over Your world. We acknowledge that freedom is not free and the trees of every generation are watered with the blood of its sons and daughters. We ask You to preserve and protect us. You said righteousness exalted the Nation but sin is a reproach to any people. May we seek righteousness and lives that please You.

We lift up our Congress, Senate, and President. May our leaders acknowledge their dependence upon You and seek wisdom and direction from You.

We pray this prayer, respecting all faiths, but we pray this prayer in the

name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Until You come, we pray. 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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 DR. BENNY TATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our guest chaplain for the day here in the House, the Reverend Dr. Benny Tate. Dr. Tate has served the members of Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church in Milner, Georgia, for 20 years, and I'm honored to count him as a friend.

Dr. Tate is a leader among God's followers. He's well known in Georgia for delivering powerful, informative, and even life-changing messages from the pulpit of his church and from behind the microphone of his radio show, Apples of Gold, which is broadcast statewide on 15 stations.

Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church has thrived during Dr. Tate's tenure. The church has grown from 35 members when he took the helm 20 years ago to more than 4,600 worshippers today.

The church has put those resources into the service of God's people and the church's community. Every day, Rock Springs teaches the next generation to live by biblical principles at Rock Springs Christian Academy. Dr. Tate's church also conducts a prison ministry and a nursing home ministry, and it sponsors a medical clinic for the uninsured. Georgia's Third District is privileged to have wise and selfless religious leaders such as Dr. Tate. It's a great honor to have him with us here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WILL HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, for the last couple of years I have been talking to small businesses in my district, and one of the things that I consistently hear from them that they ask for help with is the issue of the cost of health care for small business. Small business is telling me they can't afford to buy health care or they are precluded from buying it because one of the members in their small group has a pre-existing condition, and insurance companies don't even sell to them. I'm here to tell them that we are listening to them and that, if health care reform passes this House and is signed into law, it can reform dramatically the small business health care costs.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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