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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 13, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLY MOORE CAPITO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

Dr. Curt Dodd, Senior Pastor, Westside Church, Omaha, Nebraska, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I ask You this day to empower these representatives, wherever they may be, both in this House and in committee meetings, with true spiritual sensitivity. Give them wisdom to know the difference between loud, hollow requests and opportunities to positively impact an entire nation.

Protect them, O Father, from the temptation to be politically correct for the sake of a few while the audience of heaven watches and millions in posterity wait to weigh their influence.

Help them this day to engage with purpose, using this platform for Your glory and their personal growth. Protect their families, regardless of where they may be this day. Surround them with Your presence, giving confidence that You have met their every need. In turn, may they meet the needs of others through their actions this day.

Help them enjoy the privilege of representing millions of Americans this day. May their decisions this day change our country for the better tomorrow. Give them great joy in what they do in this place.

Father, may they experience what it really means to be in peace because of

a relationship with You through Your Son Jesus, for it is in Jesus' name 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 her approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. STEARNS 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.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR CURT DODD'S MINISTRY FOR CHRIST

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

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I have the distinct honor to recognize Pastor Curt Dodd, our guest chaplain in the House of Representatives today, and I also want to thank him for his thoughtful and inspiring prayer.

Dr. Dodd began his ministry as an intern at the First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, in 1973. He was called to serve as associate pastor and then senior pastor at several Texas churches before shepherding the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston. Under Dr. Dodd's pastoral leadership, "the Met" received recognition as one of the fastest growing churches in Texas and the Southern Baptist Convention.

From 1995 to 1999, Dr. Dodd was called by God to leave his successful ministry at the church to start a

church in Pueblo, Colorado, one of that State's most under-reached areas. With his trademark enthusiasm and commitment to the Lord, he initiated several other church plants, including Fellowship of the Rockies in Colorado Springs. He then went to Florida to Merit Island, and now serves as the senior pastor of Westside Church in Omaha, Nebraska, where my family and I attend.

Dr. Dodd is also an accomplished author of three books: *Add One to Grow On*; *Hearts on Fire—the Keys to Dynamic Church Growth*; and *Running on Empty in the Fast Lane*.

With a heart for the local church and kingdom expansion, he has served on various national and international denominational boards, but his greatest accomplishments are seen in the eyes of the men and women who have heard and accepted the message he brings, that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour who died for our sins.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for my colleagues when I say we are proud and honored to have Dr. Dodd with us today.

IT IS TIME TO LEAD AMERICA TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as summer approaches, I am concerned about the effect that rising gas prices are having on family budgets and small businesses. In the past 3 weeks, gas prices have skyrocketed by 19 cents because of growing demand, high crude oil prices, and higher refining costs.

Congress can help reduce gas prices by finally implementing a comprehensive national energy policy. For the past 4 years, the House has passed sound energy legislation that will reduce our reliance on foreign sources of

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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