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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: May today's prayer rise before You, O Lord, and give You praise.

May the acts of Congress be accomplished this day according to Your holy will, and generate a new spirit among the Members that will give them satisfaction in their work and bring justice and security to the Nation.

May those who are in most need of Your mercy take refuge in You today.

May this day bring joy and laughter to children, relief of suffering to the sick and loving consolation to the elderly.

At the end of the day, may all rest from their labors and may You grant the world peace.

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 Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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 recognize up to five 1-minute speeches on each side.

PLACEMENT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court once again has made complex that which is clear.

In their decisions regarding placement of the Ten Commandments on public property, an alleged violation of the first amendment, their rulings are inconsistent. They have said that the Ten Commandments must be removed from those courthouses in Kentucky. On the same day, the same Supreme Court said that the Ten Commandments placed on the State Capitol grounds of Texas, that is okay.

The Supreme Court, the Ten Commandments police, has created confusion, chaos and calamity. What if folks in Kentucky decide to remove those forbidden Ten Commandments from inside the courtrooms and place them on the courthouse grounds, is that permitted?

Well, the chief of police of the Ten Commandments police, Justice David Souter, would be the one to decide because he ruled one way in one case and the opposite way in the other case.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court ruling should be simple for all Americans to understand. The Ten Commandments are simple to understand. The 10 amendments to the Constitution are simple to understand. It is ironic that the same Supreme Court, policing the Ten Commandments throughout courthouses, in their own courtroom above their head, Moses holding the Ten Commandments. This ought not to be.

HONORING LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPUTY JERRY ORTIZ

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a

heavy heart to honor the life and public service of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Jerry Ortiz.

A 15-year veteran of the police department, as well as an Army veteran, husband and father, Deputy Ortiz was slain in the line of duty while valiantly working to wipe out gangs in southeast Los Angeles County.

Deputy Ortiz's tragic murder shows how the gang epidemic has gotten out of hand, and he paid the ultimate price trying to make his community safer.

Deputy Ortiz was a model law enforcement agent and was admired and respected by his colleagues.

He was awarded the Lakewood City Medal of Valor for arresting a robbery suspect, and he will be remembered as a tireless crime fighter who personified the ideals of community-based policing.

On behalf of every resident of the 39th Congressional District, I thank and honor Deputy Ortiz for dedicating his life to defending our country and making our community a safer place to live and to raise a family.

May God bless and give strength to Deputy Ortiz's wife and children as they mourn their tragic loss. Deputy Ortiz will truly be missed.

EMINENT DOMAIN

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as a former judge and now a Member of Congress, I rise today to protest the attack on individual private property rights contained in the recent Supreme Court decision *Kelo v. City of New London*.

Following the Court's logic, nothing can stop a local government from replacing a church with a Wal-Mart, or a family farm with a shopping mall, because these will produce greater tax revenues for the government in charge.

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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