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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: O God of light and understanding, fill Your people with great expectations. With Your guidance and creative presence, good people working together can accomplish almost any goal set before them. Heartfelt prayer must conform their intention to Your holy will.

Be with the Members of Congress today as they accomplish the work of the people in this House of Representatives. Stir within them a wisdom that penetrates every problem. Send them sound knowledge to surround every issue important to this Nation, so that the consequences of their action, which will be felt around the world, may build true security and grant lasting peace both in our day and forever. 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 Ohio (Mrs. JONES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio 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 10 one-minutes on each side.

HONORING OUR TROOPS' SACRIFICE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, following an historic election, the Iraqi people took another huge step towards democracy with nearly 79 percent approving a new constitution. However, this political milestone was not reached without a cost paid by our American soldiers.

As we sadly marked the 2,000th death in Iraq, we must take time to honor the sacrifice our soldiers have made for this country. Our men and women are fighting terrorists in Iraq, so that we do not have to fight them in this country. Now is the time to honor these soldiers and thank their families for the sacrifices they are making to keep our country safe.

Unfortunately, there are some out there who have chosen this solemn occasion to score political points. They are using this opportunity to call for withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. Nothing could be more wrong. Bailing out would hand a victory to the terrorists and a defeat to the United States.

One group is actually using this occasion to raise funds. Featured on their Web site is a television ad featuring a coffin in the sand. Click on this ad, and you are immediately taken to a contribution page asking for a donation.

Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to honor our troops by staying the course in Iraq. Using these sacrifices for political purposes, as many are doing, is wrong.

CLEAN DRINKING WATER

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, our Chaplain reminded us that our actions on the floor of the House are felt around the world. Well, today, one half

of the people who are ill around the world are sick needlessly from water-borne disease, and up to 5 million are going to die this year as a result.

We know how to solve this problem, and the solution is affordable. For less than what it costs our Europeans for perfume in a year, or less than what Americans spend on elective surgery, we could fulfill the United Nations commitment to cut in half the people without safe drinking water and sanitation by the year 2015.

Sadly, the United States, despite its leadership in the United Nations on this issue, still does not have a comprehensive program to address this crisis. Our International Relations Committee is sending to the floor bipartisan legislation to correct this policy deficiency. H.R. 1973, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, will establish safe drinking water and sanitation as a core foreign policy principle and create a plan. Today is the last day to add your name to the list of sponsors. I ask that you do so before it reaches the floor.

SHERIFF SIGI GONZALEZ, JR., TEXAS LAWMAN

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the early morning hours of this past weekend, I accompanied Zapata County Sheriff Sigifredo "Sigi" Gonzalez, Jr., his SWAT team and posse of deputies who were patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border in south Texas.

Every day Sigi leads his small 24-member force into the daily battle to protect Zapata County from the invasion of drug lords and human smugglers. Lots of drug money, filthy lucre, as I call it, fund these dangerous drug organizations and human smugglers that lurk across the Rio Grande River. These outlaws have better guns, better

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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