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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2006.

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

The Reverend John Hergenrother, Presiding Judge, Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Chicago, offered the following prayer:

Lord, God, Father, Allah, Higher Power, we address You with many names, but You are one. We are many people striving to be united in mutual justice, equity and concern. 444 of Your people have the awesome responsibility to represent, to lead, to care, to legislate for over 260 million of Your people.

May the laws that come from this House strengthen, nourish and keep us united in the bond that we share as citizens and as Your children. With all of our ideals, and all of our limitations, we pray for the Members and staff. Give them insight, guidance and vision to discern the common good of all Your people in this land and beyond. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ESHOO 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.

FREEDOM IN MACEDONIA

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Democracy Assistance Commission, I was honored this past week to host a delegation of Parliamentarians from the Republic of Macedonia, in my home State of Michigan.

The Macedonia delegation was immersed in many factors important to the development of a democratic society. They visited our State capitol, as well as visiting one of our major daily newspapers, understanding that a free press is critical to a thriving democracy.

They met with State elections officials to talk about how to run free and fair elections, a fundamental caveat of a thriving democracy. They visited the University of Michigan's famed Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies. They visited our courts to get a better understanding of our system of justice, and we enjoyed each other's fellowship at a banquet held in their honor at our local Macedonian cultural center.

This week we welcome them to Washington D.C. The Republic of Macedonia is a great emerging democracy, and its leaders are committed to the cause of freedom and liberty for every individual.

Da zivee slobodna, Makedonia.

Long live freedom and democracy in Macedonia.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give voice to those who are silent: the many youth in our high schools and middle schools who are afraid to speak out of their place in our society because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning their sexual identity.

Today marks the 10th National Day of Silence in which we celebrate the diversity in our society, but acknowledge a deep-seated intolerance toward that diversity.

In my district, several efforts are being made to turn the intolerance into tolerance. The Watsonville YMCA has added a group called Latinas y Lesbianas y Aliadas. It is one of the few programs in the Nation dedicated to reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community, which has not historically had access to such support systems. I hope this becomes a national movement.

I am also proud to represent several Shoreline Middle School eighth graders who have been nominated for the Queer Youth Leadership Awards. These brave students have worked to end homophobia and discrimination, making their school or community a safer place for people of all walks of life. These students are joined by their families, but should not be alone in their efforts.

For this reason, I join my colleague Eliot Engel in cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 86 which memorializes the National Day of Silence and encourages each State or local jurisdiction to adopt laws to prohibit discrimination and harassment against persons of alternative sexual orientation.

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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