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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. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 1, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God of all goodness and life, the Holy Scripture teaches the human family that human progress, though it is a blessing, brings also a great temptation.

When there is an imbalance with others on the scale of values, tensions are raised.

When evil becomes mixed with what is good, both individuals and nations can be worried only about their own interests.

In our own day of economic difficulty and uncertainty and world markets, protect us, Lord, and free us from becoming narrow-minded or so frightened that self-interest devours any sense of compassion or concern about others.

May insecurity never rob us of thanksgiving or sharing our blessings.

Before You, all is transparent and accountable, both now and forever.

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 Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRIGHT 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING NOWRUZ

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

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nowruz, a holiday which marks the traditional Iranian new year.

Over 1 million Iranian Americans and the people of Iran celebrated Nowruz on Friday, March 20, and I introduced a resolution which recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz. It expresses also appreciation to Iranian Americans for their contributions to society and wishes Iranian Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year.

I'm proud to represent a civically engaged Iranian American community, and I'd like to commend the initiative and instrumental support given by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans and the National Iranian Council, who I have had the pleasure of working with on this resolution.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate Nowruz.

AUTO PLAN

(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, I rise today to let my colleagues know that there is no challenge that we in Michigan cannot handle. So when the administration's auto plan came out this week, and it was announced that some decisions have been made that might mean even tougher times ahead, I knew that we would just do what we have always done: roll up our sleeves and get to work. And that's exactly what we are doing.

Recently, a bipartisan group of us in Congress introduced the CARS Act, which would offer vouchers to Americans to purchase new fuel-efficient cars made in North America, while trading in their old gas guzzlers. I was encouraged to hear the President say this week that he is in favor of such an incentive program.

This "cash for clunkers" program is a win-win plan. It gives our auto industry a much-needed boost, it cleans up our environment at the same time, and it does what those in Michigan and this great country have always done. It creates an innovative solution to answer the call of a challenge.

Let's support this plan and continue to work together to create solutions. That is the Michigan way. That is the American way.

CONGRATULATING HARRY N. MIXON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON RECEIVING THE ACCELERATED READER RENAISSANCE MASTER SCHOOL AWARD

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

□ 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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