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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of Ohio).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES A. WILSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Pastor Tim Alexander, Smith Springs Church of Christ, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

O, God, hear the weary prayers of my beloved Nashville. The floods have moved houses off their foundations. O, God, be the foundation of our hope to rebuild; comfort and sustain us. As the waters recede, let our energies rise as we work together.

O, God, from this place, a young man, Bradley, 21 just yesterday, from our church, was sent to war. Today, in his country's service, Bradley moves in harm's way. Give him courage. Grant his leaders wisdom. Bring him home safe and whole. O, God, bless his parents, Angie and David. Bless his grandparents, Gerald and Lynne and Bettye. Grant them a measure of peace even as he is in danger.

As words have weight, even much more do the names of our sons and daughters have precious worth. Many sons and daughters who bear our names have been sent from this place. You know their names, O, God, and ours. Grant all who command them to be aware of them and of their families and of their names. Grant that leadership is ever tender to people with names.

This I pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPPS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5148. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to clarify the instances in which the term ''census'' may appear on mailable matter.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3111. An act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

WELCOMING PASTOR TIM ALEXANDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, we are honored to have here today Minister Tim Alexander from Nashville, Tennessee, to offer a prayer for Nashville and for this House.

Minister Alexander is a remarkable man. He and his wife, Polly, have been married for 26 years. They have two wonderful children: Abby and Ethan. Mr. Alexander has administered the flock at Smith Springs Church of Christ now since 1999 and has been a preacher of the gospel since 1984. He does much good work outside the church for victims of child sexual abuse and for victims of crime in general, so we are deeply honored to have Tim Alexander with us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, the old joke around Congress is that the Senate is Washington's legislative hospice: a place where good bills and ideas go to die a slow and quiet death.

I had really hoped that, given the necessity for financial reform today, this joke would have been proven wrong. Unfortunately, many of the reforms passed in the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009, including strong consumer protections and much-needed reforms to the industry, are being watered down.

The latest victim of this appeasement and the most egregious example of the Senate's appeasement strategy

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