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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. OTTER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 26, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ed Sears, Pastor, Grace Baptist Temple, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, Father of Nations. We come into Your presence this day asking for Your blessing and Your help. Your Holy Word admonishes us to pray for those in authority over us. Therefore, Lord, we lift the men and women of the 108th United States Congress to You. Remind them of past blessings and present responsibilities. Exhort them to personal integrity and empower them with truth and honor to carry out the awesome task of government.

We would ask also that our President, George W. Bush, be granted the wisdom and ability to lead us in accordance with Your divine plan.

Please, Lord, give protection to the men and women in our Nation's military as they are placed in harm's way. Grant victory quickly. We make these petitions because of Your grace and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. 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 Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND ED SEARS, PASTOR, GRACE BAPTIST TEMPLE, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

(Mr. BURR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure that I rise today in recognition of our guest chaplain, the Reverend Ed Sears of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a blessing to our community, and it is an honor to have him in Washington and in this House today.

Reverend Sears is the senior pastor at Grace Baptist Temple in Winston-Salem. He has been faithfully serving this congregation of over 1,000 members for the past 22 years. His faithfulness to the ministry and gift of leadership extends into his work as a teacher at the Piedmont Baptist College and Calvary Baptist College. His service on various leadership boards, such as the General Council of Baptist Mid-Missions and his chairmanship of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist World Missionary Outreach Ministries, is only a partial list of his extensive community service.

Reverend Sears has been happily married for 36 years. He is joined today

by his wife, Linda, and also by their daughter, Heather.

I want to thank Reverend Sears for his commitment to his ministry and to our community and take this opportunity to welcome him to the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to have Reverend Sears open the House of Representatives with prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

FDA STARTING NEW DRUG WAR

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, a new drug war is starting. The first shots have been fired by the FDA. Those shots are being fired at American seniors. This is a dumb fight, dumbly fought.

The Bush administration, which claims to support open markets, must decide whether it will stand with American consumers or with the new elitist drug lords that run the multinational pharmaceutical industry.

The FDA has decided to use the iron fist of the Federal Government to defend the abusive monopolistic practices of those drug lords. This is a policy and political mistake of historic proportions.

Who is the FDA really trying to protect? Surely Teddy Roosevelt is rolling in his grave.

□ 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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