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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. GIBBONS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 9, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM GIBBONS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, God, You are the living God, the eternal King of Nations.

Yet, in tumultuous times, confident prayer is parsed with frustration. Constant trust is punctuated with anger. The weeks of war chip away resistance and lay bare the anguish of the human heart. With the prophet Jeremiah the cry goes out: "You are just, O Lord! Yet I must argue my case against You. Why does the way of the godless prosper?"

Let such defiant questions only prove the deep faith of this Nation, Lord.

Strengthen here the leaders of Your people. Be with our troops in battle.

Bring about the resolve of justice that will build peace.

For no one is like You, O Lord. Great are You, great and mighty is Your Name, 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 his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MICHAUD 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 10 one-minute per side.

HONORING SOUTH FLORIDA'S Y-100 RADIO STATION AND JOHN KROSS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on this great day, as we celebrate the freedom of the Iraqi people and continue the international war against terrorism, let us also continue our war against domestic drug abuse. And because of their valiant cause against substance abuse, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize south Florida's Y-100 radio station and John Kross, known as "Footy," for this weekend's upcoming 16th Annual Wing Ding.

This annual charity event benefits Here's Help, Incorporated, a private, non-profit, comprehensive youth drug and alcohol treatment facility in south Florida. This important grass-roots effort seeks to combat the menace of drug abuse among the most vulnerable members of our society, our young people.

Here's Help has made an invaluable contribution to protecting the dignity and the innocence of the youth of south Florida.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Y-100 and Footy for their un-

wavering commitment to our precious south Florida young people, as well as for the patriotic support that the radio station Y-100 has given to our Armed Forces throughout Iraqi Freedom.

VIETNAM NEEDS TO RELEASE BUDDHIST MONKS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of two of Vietnam's most prominent Buddhist leaders and outspoken dissidents, the most Venerable Thich Huyen Quang, patriarch of the banned Unified Church of Vietnam, and his deputy, the Venerable Thich Quang Do, a 2003 Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

Last week, 36 of my colleagues joined me in sending an urgent appeal to the Government of Vietnam, calling for the immediate release of both of these individuals, both of whom are facing complications from advancing age and deteriorating health.

Both men have been detained without charge or trial for most of the past 25 years for their peaceful advocacy of human rights and religious freedom, rights guaranteed by the Vietnamese constitution and by the U.N. Covenant on Human Rights, which Vietnam has both ratified and has pledged to uphold.

The Venerable Thich Quang Do's alleged crimes included launching an appeal for democracy in Vietnam and organizing a humanitarian effort to rescue flood victims.

I urge the Government of Vietnam to release these two men.

U.N. SHOULD NOT BE CENTRAL TO PEACE IN IRAQ

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ 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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