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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Rogers, Senior Pastor, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, California, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Your children come to You this day in the midst of war, recession, disease, and uncertainty. We ask You to comfort us in these hard days with a reminder of all the blessings You have showered upon us in the past. For our long history as a free people, for the melting pot of love You have made us, and for the most recent successes You have granted us on the field of battle we praise Your name.

Oh Lord, You have empowered us to liberate the people of Iraq. Now may the liberation of America continue even today, through the work of these good men and women. Give them Your wisdom and Your aid so that they might turn their attention, and the resources the Nation has entrusted into their care, to tasks and projects that will enable everyone You have created to receive this day and all days their daily bread.

Further, bless the work of these Your servants so that everyone in this Nation, following their example, will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You, our maker and redeemer. I ask this all in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHIFF 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

The SPEAKER. Members are advised there will be 10 one-minute speeches per side.

### DUTY FIRST

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, upon other fields on other days, will bear the fruits of victory."

Mike Kamon has played on those fields of friendly strife at West Chester Henderson High School and now at West Point. In high school he was a star lacrosse player and could have gone anywhere to college, but he chose West Point. Through his first 3 years at West Point, he distinguished himself as a potent offensive threat. But this year he is a defensive midfielder because that is what his team needs. He is willing to do whatever it takes to see his team succeed, even if it means less glory for himself in his senior season.

On May 31, Mike will become a second lieutenant in the 4th Infantry Division because that is what his country needs. He will train to be an artillery officer, and by February will be deployed to Iraq or some other front in our war on terror. Thank you, Mike, for defending our freedom.

### VOTE AGAINST THE BUSH TAX CUT

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to understand just what the White House and the leadership of this Congress have against the poor folk in this country and the millions who have lost jobs because of the mess they have made of the economy.

Just look at the contrast between the frustrations of the people and the Republicans' proposed remedies. Over 43 million people with no insurance, yet they cut Medicaid. With unemployment high, Americans need the security of extended unemployment benefits, yet they refuse the extension Democrats have been fighting for. Those on welfare need more than a stopgap job that leads nowhere, and yet the training that can lift them out of poverty is being denied. People with disabilities, veterans, many others are also being shortchanged.

All children need a quality education, and yet education and college loans are underfunded. States are barely treading water, and all regular people are struggling under an increasing tax burden while taxes are being cut to save corporations and the rich. The Christian values this country was founded on do not reconcile with the actions of the White House and our Republican leadership. Colleagues, vote with the Democrats. Vote against the Bush tax cut, and let us get our country back on the right track.

### AMERICA NEEDS TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this House will consider an economic growth and jobs creation initiative that will provide a much needed short-term stimulus while setting the groundwork for long-term growth. I strongly urge Members to support it.

□ 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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