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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. BASS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 4, 2003.

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

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Clint Decker, Pastor, Clay Center Wesleyan Church, Clay Center, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

My Father, who rules the universe from Your throne in heaven, holy is Your Name. Your kingdom now lives in the hearts of Your children and will one day rule this earth. May Your will be done in and through these Representatives today as it is freely done in heaven. May Your wisdom be sought and Scriptures obeyed. Thank You for our daily bread. You have given us the food we eat and this free country we live in.

Father, forgive us our sins. Forgive our pride, our selfishness and, at times, our stubborn hearts. Also, forgive those who have sinned against us, those who have mistreated us. Protect us from the Evil One today. Guard marriages in this Chamber he will try to defeat. Guard souls he will try to tempt. May Your presence be acknowledged many times today.

To You, God, belongs all glory, honor and power. In the name of Jesus I 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEY 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 Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 313. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a program of fees relating to animal drugs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REVEREND CLINT DECKER

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to welcome to the House of Representatives the Reverend Clint Decker. Through radio interviews and his involvement in his community of Clay Center, Kansas, I have worked with Clint for many years, and I am pleased to have him here today to offer our opening prayer.

I am also happy to welcome his wife, Kathe Decker, a State Representative from the 64th district in Kansas. She

has served our State very well in the State capital. Also joining them today is their granddaughter Jessica, who is visiting Washington, D.C., for the very first time.

Clint is an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church. He has served in the positions of Assistant Pastor and Youth Pastor in Clay Center Wesleyan Church since 1997.

Over the last 3 years, Clint has served as the Assistant News Director for KCLY and KFRM radio. In these positions he has earned State awards for his work and has also helped the station earn Station of the Year honors.

Clint has been involved in the Detour Youth Center, a local community youth ministry, since 2000. He has served on the board and been the ministry's director and has been a regular speaker in working with youth.

In 1990, Clint's life was transformed and he later left a promising career in business to pursue service in the full-time ministry. Clint attended the Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe, Kansas, and completed his requirements for ordination in Indiana.

Clint was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, and has also lived in Ohio, Colorado, and Missouri. He is the youngest of one brother and two sisters. His father is an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene. His mother and father have been in the pastorate for over 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Clint and his family to the Nation's Capital.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to ten 1-minute from each side of the aisle.

INTERNET GAMBLING BILL

(Mr. PITTS 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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the offshore casino industry would like us to think that Internet gambling is a harmless activity that can be tamed by Federal regulation. The problem is, it cannot happen.

Proponents of regulation are selling it because it sounds reasonable. Their arguments for regulation are nothing but a smoke screen to cover up what is already illegal activity. They seem to be more interested in regulating around the law than taking legitimate action to stop illegal activity.

That is the bottom line. Internet gambling is illegal according to the Department of Justice and the FBI. However, there is no effective way to regulate it. The only way to stop it is to cut off the financial flow through the legal Internet casino industry, and that is what H.R. 2143 does.

H.R. 2143 does not define what is legal and what is illegal. It simply ensures that law enforcement has the means to stop illegal activity. It is time to pass the bill.

RESERVIST PAY GAP

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our Nation's National Guard and Reserve. These brave Americans voluntarily leave behind families and their civilian duties to serve in our Nation's military for the sake of protecting our Nation. And how do we repay them? By requiring long terms of duty and often paying them less salary than they would earn by staying at home.

Today, the House will consider House Resolution 201, paying tribute to private companies who have been willing to support these troops in part by filling in this pay gap for some of our reservists. However, just last month, when my colleagues and I tried to introduce amendments to the Defense authorization bill that would have ended all pay gaps for reservists, they were not only defeated by my Republican counterparts, but they were not even allowed to be debated on this House floor.

It is time that Congress does more for the reservists than just pay accolades to private industry. To truly give tribute to our national reservists we must pass legislation so that all of these individuals who risk their lives for our country will not risk financial disaster.

PIED PIPER NURSERY

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about Pied Piper Nursery in St.

Clairsville, Ohio. We have a lot of turbulence in the world, but I think we all ways need to point out the bright spots, Mr. Speaker.

The owners are Karen Griener and Jean Fulton, and the teachers are Cathie Cilles, Joan West, Joyce Snider, and Teri Coleman. There are 100 students in total, and it is strictly educational.

A while back, Mr. Speaker, I went to Pied Piper Nursery and the young children sang songs, they talked about their country and they asked questions. I just wanted to keep a promise that I made to those students that I would let our Congress know about a bright spot, and that is the Pied Piper Nursery. We applaud the parents, the teachers, the owners, and especially the young students.

BUDGET UNDERFUNDS VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, this House recently passed a budget which woefully underfunds veterans' health care by \$6.2 billion. The result: Many veterans will no longer be able to get health care through the VA system. It is a shame that we are rationing health care for our veterans.

This House also passed a tax bill that takes care of the millionaires, but leaves thousands of children behind, even children whose moms and dads at this very moment are serving in Iraq. So this is what my Republican colleagues have done. They have taken care of the millionaires and they have left our veterans and our children behind. Shame on them.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ERIC BLEYTHING

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Private First Class Eric Bleything of the 3rd District of Arkansas.

Private First Class Bleything, a scout with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq, was wounded last week when the eight-vehicle resupply convoy he was with was attacked. He was shot in the stomach with an AK-47. Fortunately, the bullet missed all vital organs, and he is in good condition.

Private First Class Bleything is one of the many heroes currently stationed in Iraq. However, what makes his story even more special is that Private First Class Bleything had an opportunity to stay in the U.S. rather than ship out with his unit in April. His wife had just been diagnosed with cancer, and his commanders told him he could stay behind to be with her through the treatments. However, they decided he

should go and be with his unit. As Marcie herself said, he felt the obligation to go and serve his country.

Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Bleything embodies the courage and sacrifice of America's men and women. My thoughts and prayers are with him as he continues to recover from this attack.

BENEFITS OF BROADBAND

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, we all know the Internet is a powerful tool. It makes distance and location irrelevant. It evens the playing field between small and large businesses and increases worker productivity.

The next revolution is broadband. We will be able to do so much and do it more efficiently. But we can only do it if we have the infrastructure to do it with. The FCC ruled in February that DSL, telephone company-provided broadband connections, should not be subject to certain rules imposed on local voice telephone networks. This is a good beginning and it should start some companies on the road to more broadband deployment. Verizon, the largest phone company in my State, plans to make broadband available to 10 million more residences and small businesses nationwide in 2003 alone.

The problem is that the FCC has not issued its February order. That order will detail the new rules that companies know how broadband will be regulated and guides investment decisions. Until it is released, however, these companies cannot move forward. I urge the FCC to issue its order as quickly as possible so that millions of Americans can begin to experience the new opportunities that broadband will provide.

IN MEMORY OF DEPUTY SHERIFF SHELBY GREEN

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, in the early morning hours of Thursday, May 15, Deputy Sheriff Shelby Green, of the Anderson County, Texas, Sheriff's Department, was brutally murdered in the line of duty by an unknown assailant.

After attempting to stop a suspicious vehicle, Deputy Green pursued the assailant for 10 miles as bullets were smashing through his windshield. When the chase ended, Deputy Green was left dead with a fatal gunshot wound to his chest.

A decorated law enforcement officer, last year Deputy Green received the Award of Valor from the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor and mourn the loss of this 39-year-old hero, a family man. He served and protected