

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. FOLEY 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 without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 23. An act to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize communities to use community development block grant funds for construction of tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks.

H.R. 2744. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois, as the "David Bybee Post Office Building".

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Cleveland Avenue, NW in Canton, Ohio, as the "Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 3379. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3210 East 10th Street in Bloomington, Indiana, as the "Francis X. McCloskey Post Office Building".

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

H.R. 2765. An act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2765) "An Act making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. INOUE, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

H.R. 2861. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to

the bill (H.R. 2861) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. REID, and Mr. INOUE, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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. 189. An act to authorize appropriations for nanoscience, nano-engineering, and nanotechnology research, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2754) "An Act making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes."

WELCOMING RABBI DR. ARI KORENBLIT

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, it is my pleasure to welcome Rabbi Korenblit and thank him for delivering this morning's prayer.

Rabbi Korenblit's eloquence this morning was no surprise to those of us in Brooklyn who have come to know him as one of the community's most prominent moral leaders. Since 1997, he has been the Rabbi at Temple Sholom in Southern Brooklyn, after having served congregations in New Jersey and Manhattan.

Rabbi Korenblit was ordained at Meor Hatorah Rabbinical College and received advanced rabbinical training at Torah Vodaath Rabbinical Institute, Boston Kolel and Gur Aryeh Institute for Advanced Rabbinical Studies.

What has most distinguished the Rabbi's career is his commitment to children, which is matched only by his commitment to his faith. He is not only the Rabbi at Temple Sholom, but he is the principal of the Schwartz Religious School at the Temple. And he spent many years as not only a principal but as a school teacher, camp director and youth group director. He has also written and lectured extensively on educational issues, with a focus on child rearing matters. Untold numbers of young people in our community have grown up to lead healthy spiritual lives because of the influence of Rabbi

Korenblit, and I can think of no greater contribution one can make to his community.

I am not only pleased to congratulate Rabbi Korenblit on the honor of being chosen to deliver this morning's prayer, but I wanted to congratulate his shul, Temple Sholom, on their 50th anniversary. For more than a generation, Temple Sholom has served the religious and social needs of the Mill Basin and Bergen Beach communities, and I wish them many more decades of continued vitality.

In closing, it is also my pleasure to welcome this day the Rabbi's wife, Daniela Reik, who is with us today, his three daughters, Haviva, Eliora, Emuna, and his mother-in-law, Mignon.

Thank you very much, Rabbi.

SUPPORT THE MEDICARE MODERNIZATION BILL

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, what should be a celebratory week for America's seniors is turning into a partisan fight. In memory of my grandmother, I come to the floor today urging my colleagues to come together on this important change in Medicare to provide prescription drugs for the first time in our Nation's history for our seniors.

Let me ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, in the memory of Claude Pepper, Franklin Roosevelt and others who cared so deeply for seniors, to put aside your partisan differences and walk with us in improving the most important fundamental health care program for seniors in our Nation's history. Discount drug cards, lower prices for prescription drugs, availability for new technology to help those who are ailing, preventive health care, diagnostic screening for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. This is a tremendously important bill for our Nation's seniors. Let us not fight about it. Let us move forward.

AARP supports this bill. Yet the Democratic leadership is urging Members that if they vote for it, they should leave the caucus. One Member from California is actually resigning from AARP because she is so upset with their endorsement of the bill. AARP has long been known as the gold standard for keeping and caring for America's seniors. Let us not put their vision outside this building. Let us bring it in. Let us debate this bill but in behalf of millions of American seniors, let us pass this important landmark legislation this week before we go home.

ESTABLISHING ARABIA MOUNTAIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

(Ms. MAJETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)