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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 2004, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rabbi Elie Spitz, Congregation B'nai Israel, Tustin, California, offered the following prayer:

Master of the Universe, may You bless our great country and its leaders. May You give them, our congressional leaders, the wisdom to discern the path of righteousness.

Scripture teaches: "Today, I place before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life."

Sixty years ago this day, the Germans invaded greater Hungary to oust the government and begin deportations of hundreds of thousands of Jews and others. Many of those who survived have modeled an affirmation of life and a passion for justice in the shadow of tragic loss.

May You, the Almighty, guide our congressional leaders toward affirming life and pursuing justice in all that they do. May they find Your light despite shadow.

Infuse their acts with strength and courage, memory and wise purpose, open hearts and outstretched hands.

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 New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ANDREWS 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. The Chair will entertain 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

HONORING SPECIALIST MICHAEL WOODLIFF

(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, last Friday in Punta Gorda, Florida, I attended the funeral services for one Specialist Michael Woodliff who was killed in Iraq. He was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery on Monday.

At the ceremony there was no bitterness, but fond memories for a fallen hero. His friends and families describe his credos as faith, family, country. His father said to me, "Michael died serving his country with pride in defending his homeland."

Michael would not want the political debate that has taken place in the last 24 hours of acrimony and division. Michael would want us not to question the merits of the war in Iraq. He would want us to track the terrorists who killed him and others who killed those in New York on September 11.

Iraq has changed the world as we know it. Libya is cooperating on nuclear weapons. North Korea is talking about peace. Pakistan and India are trying to settle their longstanding skirmish over Kashmir.

Michael Woodliff died defending the honor of this country. Politicians should think of him when they utter words on this floor. His sacrifice to this Nation is a lot better than the speeches I have heard by some.

God bless you, Michael. Thank you for serving your Nation.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE THE TRUTH

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons this current administration has run up the largest Federal deficit in the universe's history is it has not told the truth to the American people.

The most recent example of that is this story that has come out that the chief actuary for Medicare had numbers indicating that the President's Medicare bill would cost billions of dollars more money than the administration told the American people. Indeed, Richard Foster advised the administration that this bill would cost \$534 billion, when the administration was telling the American people it would cost about \$400 billion.

And the reason this individual was not able to blow the whistle at that time is they effectively said they would

□ 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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