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No. 43

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 31, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Cindy Baskin, Pastor, St. James Episcopal Church, Potomac, Maryland, offered the following prayer: Almighty and everliving God:

You are the source of all wisdom and understanding, the source of all justice and righteousness. By Your gracious will, You have instituted governing bodies on Earth and granted them authority to rule.

We therefore beseech You, as this legislative body gathers this day, to guide and direct these elected representatives, enable them to seek first Your honor and glory in all their deliberations. Keep them ever-mindful of their calling to serve this Nation. Guide them in the ways of righteousness, that they may enact such laws for the welfare of our country, as shall please You.

Help each one, as they struggle for justice and truth, to confront one another without hostility or bitterness. Foster among them a spirit of mutual forbearance and respect. Take away any arrogance, anger, or self-interest, which infecting human hearts creates unnecessary divisions. Break down all walls that separate and empower this House to work together through any

struggles and confusion so that Your purposes on Earth may be accomplished. Guide, we pray, each of these Representatives to perceive what is right and grant each one both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it.

We now commend this body and this Nation into Your merciful care, O Lord, that being guided by Your providence we may dwell secure in Your peace and live to Your honor and glory. 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 gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan 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 with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2443. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 2443) "An Act to author-

ize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BREAU, and Mr. WYDEN, and from the Committee on Environment and Public Works: Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. JEFFORDS; to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that pursuant to title VI, section 637 of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission:

Michael A. Ledeen of Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission:

Eric G. Postel of Wisconsin.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 104(c)(1)(A) of Public Law 108-199, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program:

William E. Trout of Tennessee.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND CINDY BASKIN

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to welcome here today

□ 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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