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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. MURPHY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 7, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM MURPHY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, Your words to the prophet Ezekiel are spoken today to each Member of Congress: "Look closely and listen carefully. Mark well all that I show you, for this is why you have been brought here."

Lord, through Your people's election, You have chosen the Members of this Congress and You hold them accountable. With the gift of Your word and wisdom, they are to read the times. Through their own efforts, they come to know Your people and the priority of Your people's needs. Through their common endeavor, they create a broad sweeping vision that holds Your people together as they decide the means to be used and make the laws of this land.

Guide them in this noble construction as You guided Ezekiel. All will be measured according to Your vision and purpose. Before speaking, the exhortation is "to look closely and listen carefully." Only then will words and actions be truly prophetic. For You are the Lord now and forever. 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 Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON 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.

BUILDING PEACE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the leaders of India and Pakistan continue their efforts to bring peace to South Asia, a historic visit to Capitol Hill takes place this week by a delegation of parliamentarians from India and Pakistan for a joint political and cultural exchange. These 14 parliamentarians have traveled together as a team to America and represent the future hopes of more than 1 billion people.

While India and Pakistan have lived in enmity for more than 50 years, the people of both nations share similar cultures and ambitions such as respect for family, religious traditions, and the desire to see South Asia prosper financially with peace between these two nations. These parliamentarians represent the symbolic interest of these common interests.

The future of South Asia lies in the hands of its young men and women. I commend the American Council of Young Political Leaders for bringing

this delegation of South Asian leaders to America, and I am confident that one day, India and Pakistan will live in peace as neighbors for mutual benefit as we all work together for victory in the global war on terror.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

THE MIDDLE-CLASS SQUEEZE

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, middle-class families are feeling the pinch. They feel it as they try to afford health care, try to keep their jobs, and try to provide a rewarding education for their children.

When I am in southeast Texas, I talk to folks every day who tell me they cannot afford tuition for their children, health care for their parents, or even to provide for themselves. These folks are getting the middle-class squeeze at literally every level. They work harder and harder every day, work more and more hours every day, and make less and less. The middle class is paying more in taxes, and the tax breaks that the rich get are not there for the folks who really need it.

I hope that my colleagues will use the remainder of our time in session to support these families so that our hardest-working Americans do not get left behind.

TODD BUCHANAN

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, one can scarcely imagine a more horrifying and terrifying experience than what happened yesterday to Todd Buchanan as

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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his van coasted with its electrical systems failing on Indiana State Road 67. Todd Buchanan is a 39-year-old quadriplegic. The electrical system in his van not only failed, but the sparks ignited a flame; and he sat helpless, unable to extricate himself from his vehicle with no one in sight.

At that moment with smoke and flames beginning to emit from the hood of the car, Allen Webster passing by pulled his car over and immediately began to reach into the flames and into the smoke to extricate him. Muncie police officer Kyle Temple joined as well as nearly a dozen passersby, and one police officer fought through the flames to their own injury to extricate Todd Buchanan safely.

The Bible says "No greater love has a man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends." Todd Buchanan is alive this morning and grateful to Allen Webster, Officer Kyle Temple, and many others because they brought this proverb to life and showed no greater love on Highway 67 yesterday, and they are rightly remembered on this floor of this Congress today.

CONGRATULATIONS KERRY-EDWARDS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Senator JOHN KERRY for naming North Carolina's JOHN EDWARDS to the Democratic ticket. As our State's favorite son, Senator JOHN EDWARDS has done North Carolina proud time and again throughout his career as a people's lawyer, in the Senate, and on the Presidential campaign trail. He will do great things for our Nation.

My friend JOHN EDWARDS is in touch with the heartbeat of America because he has lived the American Dream. Growing up in the small rural town of Robbins, North Carolina, JOHN EDWARDS learned the values of hard work, a quality education, and helping lift up those around him who suffered hardship. He is a living example of what we call North Carolina values.

Mr. Speaker, America needs new leadership at the national level to make our country stronger at home and more respected around the world. America needs new leadership that represents the values, dreams, and aspirations of the middle-class families, those families struggling to make it into the middle class and those families struggling to stay in the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, Senator KERRY's choice of JOHN EDWARDS for a running mate is good news for North Carolina and good news for America.

CLINTON DEMOCRATS ARE WRONG ON TAX RELIEF

(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, at a recent fundraiser, a group of well heeled Democratic contributors were told: "Many of you are well enough off that . . . the tax cuts may have helped you. We are saying that for America to get back on track, we are probably going to cut that short and not give it to you. We are going to take things away from you on behalf of the common good."

If these campaign contributors believe the tax relief affected only a few rich people, they are wrong. If none of this tax relief had become law in 2004, 11 million Americans would pay on an average of over \$1,500 more in taxes, 49 million married couples would pay over \$2,600 more in taxes, 11 million single women with children would pay over \$900 more in taxes, 14 million elderly individuals would pay over \$1,800 more in taxes, nearly 5 million individuals and families who currently have no income tax liability would have to pay the income tax.

The fact is middle-class families, small business owners, who have created most of our 1½ million new jobs this year, are not rich as some of our friends would have us believe.

HALLIBURTON AND VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY

(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, a recent editorial in the Columbus Ohio Dispatch reads thusly: "The steady stream of revelations of colossal waste, mismanagement, and possible corruption by Halliburton and other U.S. contractors in Iraq demands an immediate and thorough investigation. At the same time, Vice President DICK CHENEY should be forthcoming with the House Committee on Government Reform."

Among the accusations, a former logistics specialist said that Halliburton housed employees at \$10,000 per day, a five-star hotel in Kuwait. A woman who handled subcontracts said the company paid \$100 per bag for laundry service. A former employee said that Halliburton ordered that spare parts be removed from \$85,000 trucks; if they got a flat tire, just burn the vehicle. These reports come on top of the fact that when one contract for Halliburton to provide meals was cancelled, the cost of food service decreased by 40 percent.

Halliburton and CHENEY owe the American people answers about how our tax dollars are being spent.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities towards the President or

the Vice President. Policies may be addressed in critical terms, but personal references of an offensive or accusatory nature are not proper.

ENDING THE VISA LOTTERY

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, we enjoy our current prosperity because of the American work ethic, that hard work, sacrifice, perseverance, and doing the right thing really pay off in the end.

Unfortunately, the visa lottery teaches the exact opposite to those who would immigrate to the United States. It condones crime by allowing illegal immigrants to apply. It promotes fraud by allowing these illegal immigrants to enter the lottery under multiple different names. It lets those who did not work, who did not sacrifice or persevere to step in front of those who did by giving all an equal chance at a visa regardless of skills, education, or even humanitarian needs.

To allow the lottery system to continue to bring 50,000 people a year into our country while completely circumventing our legal and moral code is a crime against every American.

I urge my colleagues to join me and cosponsor the SAFE Act, H.R. 775, and repeal this visa lottery scam.

THREATENED POLLINATORS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on the floor of the House, we are often involved with contentious, hard political choices. Many of the sharpest disagreements deal with the environment. We look forward in the fall to a spirited debate between President Bush and Senator KERRY about their rhetoric and their actions in protecting our environment.

But one critical area that actually brings us together is on exhibit a short 10 minutes away from this House Chamber, down the hill at the National Botanical Gardens. This exhibit deals with the tens of thousands of threatened pollinators who make possible our quality of life, our agricultural bounty, things that range from fresh fruits and chocolate, flowers, even Tequila and other exotic items. These key species, from honey bees, fruit bats, butterflies, are, in fact, at risk. We in Congress, we as the American public, need to be aware of this. This is one of the environmental issues that is not that contentious, it is not that expensive, and, in fact, brings us together. I urge my colleagues to take advantage of the pollinator exhibit at the Botanical Gardens.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR ALFORD McMICHAEL

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1