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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. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 8, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE 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:

Fifteen years ago today, the world took notice and celebrated the reunification of Germany. This marked the end of coldness in Europe and a re-creation of relationships that have continued to flourish.

Lord of history and God of creation, strengthen in each nation of the world and in each person healthy, honest, and lasting relationships.

Certain moments in life exhort us to be more connected to others. The memory of 9/11 and now the enormous challenge facing us as a result of Hurricane Katrina stir within us all the importance of living beyond self and being connected to others.

Send Your sustaining and creative spirit upon this Chamber and the Nation. Lord God, may we find strength by reaching out to the weak, find blessing by opening our hands and our arms to the helpless, and find fulfillment by connecting ourselves to others. Help us, O Lord, to find allies who will fill the vacuum of evil.

This we ask 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. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE 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.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 881

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 881.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

STOP POINTING FINGERS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, soon after the country became aware of the devastation that Katrina caused on the Gulf Coast, the personal attacks on our Nation's leaders began. We have heard constant criticism of the Federal Gov-

ernment for the past week, and we need to get past pointing fingers.

The fact of the matter is that progress is being made. We know that. More than 45,000 lives have been saved, including over 23,000 saved by the U.S. Coast Guard alone. Over 273,000 citizens have been evacuated. Nearly 600 shelters have been established, housing 182,000 people, and more than 71,000 personnel are on the ground who have helped deliver more than 11 million meals and 18 million liters of water.

We are making progress, but the task is not over. Water is being pumped out of the city, and the evacuation of New Orleans is almost complete. Our personnel are working 20-hour days to ensure that every person is safe and sound.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that while some people choose to point fingers, America is doing what it does best: coming together for one another and helping each other during times of disaster.

EMPLOYING PEOPLE WHO WERE DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, for the people of the Gulf Coast region who were stricken by Hurricane Katrina, there is less to the emergency supplemental than meets the eye. I mean that exactly zero dollars of the \$50 billion Congress will send today for emergency relief and temporary construction will be used for employing people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. However, the administration is not withholding anything from Halliburton. Halliburton received a no-bid contract immediately after the hurricane. Yet the CBO estimates 400,000 people were made unemployed by the hurricane

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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