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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: God of wisdom and love, with the many issues facing the Nation regarding foreign policy, as well as national security and prosperity, Congress, this governing body of the people, by the people, and for the people, is ready to serve.

Send Your light and spirit, Lord, to teach Members the depths of truth in the pursuit of justice. Guide all their actions that the bonds of unity and civility between civilian leadership, military forces and the populace may be strengthened, and in the end, all glory, power and honor be given to Your Holy Name, both now and forever. 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 Illinois (Mr. KIRK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KIRK 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 Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute on each side.

ZARQAWI AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from visiting our troops in Iraq. I have seen the damage Zarqawi inflicted. I visited the areas where Zarqawi lived and terrorized people. And I have met the brave soldiers who ultimately tracked him down and killed him.

I visited Amman, Jordan, where Zarqawi killed 60 people by bombing three hotels. I toured the special operations command center in Iraq with General Stan McCrystal a three-star general in charge of tracking down Zarqawi. All over the walls of the command center were posters of Zarqawi.

I flew in a Black Hawk helicopter around the area of Ba'Qubah where Zarqawi was ultimately located. I also toured Baghdad where Zarqawi intimidated the U.N. by bombing their headquarters and where al-Jazeera TV once broadcast a videotape showing Zarqawi personally beheading an American citizen.

I was with President Bush at the White House on June 7 when he got the message that al Zarqawi had been killed. However one feels about the war in Iraq, realize that our troops deserve our support 100 percent. God knows they have earned it.

AMERICA NEEDS TO LEAVE IRAQ

(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, we must get out of Iraq. But getting out of Iraq is not enough, because the same thinking that led us to Iraq, the addiction to war and fear, the misunderstanding of the nature of power, the belief that might makes right can lead us into Iran, into Syria, and put us at odds with Russia and China.

The war on terror has become a war of error. We attacked a nation that did not attack us. By pursuing policies

based on lies, we have separated ourselves from the world. We must reconnect with the world with our hearts as well as our heads, with the intention of preserving not only our security, but future of all humanity.

Getting out of Iraq is not enough. This is a call for a new role for America in the world, a call for America to put aside unilateralism and interventionism, a call for an America which practices cooperation instead of confrontation.

There is a place for American leadership. Leading the way in diplomacy instead of armaments, leading the way in nuclear abolition and climate protection. The world is waiting for an America which leads by example instead of reaction. The world is waiting for an America to rise up with a new commitment to truth and justice, to truth and reconciliation, to truth and compassion.

OUR TROOPS DESERVE OUR THANKS

(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, on Monday this week I had a chance to go to Walter Reed to see one of my constituents who lost a limb in the fight in Iraq. I saw many of his comrades who were similarly situated, who had lost one, two or three limbs.

What I sensed from them was not only a sense of patriotism, but a love of this country. As we begin the debate today, and I know politics seems to permeate everything, I ask that we first think about those young men and women who have risked so much for this Nation, who have lost so much for this Nation, whose families are by their side today giving them the love and dedication they need to overcome this difficult struggle.

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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Mr. Speaker, they have given the full measure of devotion to this Nation and they deserve our thanks. The invectives and political discourse need to focus on their sacrifice and not on our political ambitions.

URGING RESPECT FOR THE 9/11 WIDOWS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, across the Potomac in Arlington today, we are breaking ground for the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon. Our Nation is rightfully honoring the victims of those heinous acts.

It has also been 1 week since I called upon my Republican colleagues to reject Ann Coulter's vicious attacks on the widows of 9/11.

Not a single Republican elected official has stepped forward to reject her hate. So I have to conclude they are comfortable with her as their spokesman. Your silence is deafening. Apparently it is okay to exploit 9/11 to shore up your own sagging poll numbers or make a quick buck.

So rather than see 9/11 as a moment to unite America, Ann Coulter and her followers have chosen to divide and demonize fellow Americans. I am always amazed that the one casualty the American people would accept on 9/11 would be partisanship, and that is the one casualty you are not willing to give.

Ms. Coulter is threatened by the 9/11 widows. They threaten her simplistic world by daring to ask questions. Mr. Speaker, the 9/11 widows have courageously stood up to demand that we never forget the horror of September 11.

All Americans who lost loved ones should be honored, as we are doing in Arlington today, not denigrated simply because they do not fit your simplistic world view.

NO NEED FOR FLIP-FLOPPING IN THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the sound you hear on the other side of the aisle is the sound of flip-flopping. Democrats may have put off announcing their agenda, but they have managed to perfect the art of the flip-flop.

Just this week the minority leader stated that she voted against the war in Iraq because she had seen the intelligence and it did not support the threat being claimed by the Bush administration.

Strangely, the minority leader had a different opinion during the debate leading up to the vote authorizing the use of military force. Then she said that she was aware that Saddam Hussein was engaging in the development of weapons of mass destruction "which

is a threat to countries in the region," and that there was no question he had chemical and biological weapons.

Flash forward to this week, and the minority leader stated that there was never anything in the intelligence that Iraq posed an imminent threat. Mr. Speaker, which is it? As we begin this debate on Iraq and the war on terror, the American people need decisiveness, not flip-flopping. Republicans want to step up and meet the challenge. It is now time for the Democrats to do the same.

IRAQ WAR UNDERMINES FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, increasingly Americans are realizing there is a better way to support our troops than just sending more of them off to be killed. Would that more here in Washington had a little of our troops' courage to stand up to the myth-based policies of this Administration.

The good judgment of a strong majority of House Democrats, including the consistent position of our minority leader in opposing President Bush's original invasion of Iraq, was demonstrated again yesterday by a report from over 100 top foreign policy experts across the ideological spectrum.

Eighty-seven percent of them said that the war in Iraq has a negative impact on protecting the American people, that it is undermining the war on terrorism. But ignoring their advice, ignoring one retired general after another, and ignoring the good sense of ordinary Americans across this country, the Administration has consistently pursued a policy that endangers our families' security.

The price of the Administration's deaf ear, \$229 million per day, and a price paid in the blood of others every day.

LONE STAR VOICE—C.E. CUNNINGHAM

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, down on the Rio Grande where the sage brush and mesquite trees line the lawless border of the riverbank is the home of generations of Texas ranchers. Their homes, feet from the porous border, they wake up to human smugglers, drug runners and thieves that have trespassed on their soil.

On the border I met crusty rancher, C.E. Cunningham of Quemado, Texas. He has lived on the land for seven decades, and he now writes me about the southern border invasion into America: "We have had our livestock, wildlife killed, vehicles, tools, equipment stolen. I had to move my mother out of her own home when three illegals stole and robbed her. I have taken weapons

away from thieves. I have seen the Mexican Army camped out on the riverbank, and I have seen their tracks on our side. I have tried to get the Mexican Government to help with the thieves, but they told me it was best they stole over here instead of Mexico. It seems to me the Mexican government sanctions these crimes against us."

Mr. Speaker, Americans like C.E. Cunningham want their lives back, their land back, and their security back. We have to stop letting the Mexican Army and Generalissimo Fox invade the United States by encouraging illegal entry into our country.

And that's just the way it is.

DO NOT FOCUS TOO HEAVILY ON FEMA

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, all of the talk in the media these last few days has been about the fraud in the FEMA individual and housing assistance program.

Now, I am not saying that those who perpetrated the fraud should not be dealt with appropriately, or that FEMA and the Red Cross do not have to clean up their act.

But, folks, this is a disaster the likes of which we have never seen. What would you have had them do in such an emergency, apply miles and miles of red tape and risk not giving service to those who need it quickly?

Colleagues, do not let this be a smoke screen that would cause us to lose sight of the contracting and the purchasing waste, fraud and abuse that the big corporations have perpetrated on our government and all of us, while businesses in the Gulf Region went bust for lack of work.

It is always the little guy who bears the blame while the big ones get away. Our relevant committees in this Congress need to turn our focus to the Halliburtons of the world. When we look at the waste, the fraud, and abuse of these giants, that \$1 billion will look like chump change.

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ETHIOPIA BORDER DISPUTE

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to call attention to what may become the next tragedy in Africa, the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

My constituents in Minnesota remember the destruction and death from the 1998 to 2000 war over the border that cost the lives of 70,000 people. I urge the President and the Secretary of State to leave no stone unturned to bring a peaceful resolution to this matter.