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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: Let the Nation be the land of promise and the citadel of freedom for the world. Let all the people rejoice to find the Lord their God in their midst.

It is not only our children who live with dreams and take delight in this season filled with blessing. Lord, all Your people look to Your visitation which takes away the dark days and fills them with light. Older and wiser, understanding, Your full embrace of our humanity, we seek deeper truth and lasting gifts.

Stir again within us the longing for family life secure in faithfulness. Give us brazen dignity in the work undertaken and achieved. Freed from the discontent of false expectations, bless us with the contentment that the reality of Your love reveals to us.

Let the feast begin when heaven and Earth are united in the song "A Child is born for us." "The Word becomes flesh." Divine presence is found in our midst.

Promises and oaths fulfilled, You prove Yourself our lasting hope, Lord. For You are the Lord our God and have become all in all, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOOZMAN 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 Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 366. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2135. An act to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, and for other purposes.

S. 2260. An act to extend the existing provisions regarding the eligibility for essential air service subsidies through fiscal year 2008.

S. 2436. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution condemning the kidnapping and hostage-taking of 3 United States citizens for over 4 years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and demanding their immediate and unconditional release.

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution providing for conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

S. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 660.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

A GREAT YEAR IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, this Congress will adjourn. I want to thank the people of the Ninth District of Tennessee for giving me the honor to represent them in this Congress.

From the first vote that we, as freshmen, took to break the glass ceiling and elect Speaker PELOSI to whatever the last vote is today, during this year we passed historic legislation on energy, on ethics, and the environment. We've done things on children's health care that hasn't come to fruition, but we've tried, and the same thing in ending the war.

This has been a Congress that has tried to accomplish a lot, has accomplished some, brought change for the American people, and will continue to do so next year.

I have had the honor to stand up in my district for The MED, for LeMoyne-Owen College, for the COPS program, for Blue Cross at the University of Memphis, and for our largest employer, Federal Express.

Madam Speaker, it's been a grand year. I am proud to be a Member of this United States Congress and to represent this great country.

God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE HARPER

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

☐ 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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