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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. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON 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 of light and majesty, a few weeks ago this Chamber prayed for Your blessing and protection upon the Olympic Winter Games before the torch was lighted. We confess that often enough we cry out to You when in need, and sometimes forget to return to You to offer thanks.

Today, Lord, we praise and thank You as the Lord God who made heaven and Earth, who granted peace and security to the Olympics in Salt Lake City.

We know You will bless and provide a just reward to the God-fearing people of Utah for all their labor in hosting the Olympics. We are grateful You have granted safe travel to all who attended the games, and brought them home to be received with joy and peace.

During the games, many young people around the globe came to see themselves as children of light, bringing new life and reconciliation to an aching world. May the Olympians throughout their lifetime be ambassadors of friendship and fair play beyond national borders. Knowing the importance of good order and abiding by the

rules, and having glimpsed the glory of a community born of freedom and excellence, may they bring to people of all ages a spirit that will build upon yesterday's joys and tomorrow's hopes for a world free of drugs, addictions, and compulsions, even that of always winning or being first.

We seek such freedom from You, 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 Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GANSKE 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.

DEFENDING THE TRADITIONAL VALUES COALITION

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last month we saw a clear example of irresponsible journalism. In January, National Public Radio aired a story that inappropriately linked the Traditional Values Coalition to the anthrax terror attacks against the Senate, but the NPR story did not present any credible evidence to support the awful association they suggested.

NPR's conduct is outrageous and ignores their basic responsibilities as

journalists: presenting the facts to the public accurately and without bias. There was no legitimate justification for including TVC in the story describing the anthrax investigation. The only plausible explanation is an attempt by NPR to practice guilt by association.

I have worked with the Traditional Values Coalition for many years. They are a principled, compassionate, Christian organization which speaks for 43,000 member churches from across the United States. The Traditional Values Coalition is dedicated to defending the sanctity of life and upholding the dignity of every individual.

NPR needs to hold itself to far higher standards. By inserting a group without any possible connection to the anthrax attack into its report, NPR raised serious questions about their presentation of the news. NPR should be cautious about the damage that can be done to a group's reputation by similar association.

The public should expect responsible reporting from NPR, and they ought to demand it of themselves.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF DANIELLE VAN DAM, AND URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children to express my condolences to the family and the friends of Danielle van Dam. As an activist on the issue of missing kids, far too often I have seen parents who have had to deal with this tragedy. I have seen communities mobilized to search for a child who has not come home from school or disappeared from home.

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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