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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. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY 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 history and Conqueror of evil, empower us to surrender completely to Your spirit. With renewed faith in Your guidance, even in the midst of conflicting inspirations, we commend to You the Members of Congress, the President, his Cabinet, and all who struggle to lead Your people and acknowledge Your sovereignty over all events and times.

When faced with impending decisions or making a deep commitment, Your devout people not only turn to You in prayer but they use every ounce of intelligence and every source of consultation to know Your holy will. Lord, human as we are, often we talk to You as we would a friend or an intimate, wondering what is Your mind.

At a certain moment, we begin to look for signs from You that will confirm the movement in our heart. Lord, send forth Your light that we may discern well the desolations or consolations You give us. If conscience is flooded with anger, resentment, and darkness, we will reexamine their source. If, however, You fill us with a surge of energy borne of inner peace

and freedom, that takes us beyond our ego and is in tune with Your word, we will continue to seek to do Your will 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 gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

BAN PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

(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, today, our colleagues on the other side of the building will vote on a bill banning the barbaric procedure of partial-birth abortion. Partial-birth abortion is one of the most violent and gruesome acts known to mankind.

Despite what its supporters say, several thousand times a year in the United States healthy babies and

healthy mothers in the fifth and sixth months of pregnancy undergo this horrific procedure. As we seek to lead the world against tyranny and in support of basic human rights, we must recommit ourselves to promoting the basic human rights of the most vulnerable among us, the most innocent and defenseless members of the human race. We have a chance to stand up for what is right, to stand against what is wrong. We have a chance to defend those who need it most, to stand against those who seek to harm them.

Partial-birth abortion is not rare, partial-birth abortion is not safe, partial-birth abortion does not foster a respect for human life. It degrades us all. Partial-birth abortion must be banned. Let us pass the bill.

THE CRISIS WITH IRAQ

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I voted for the resolution authorizing the forcible disarmament of Iraq, and I continue to agree with the President of the United States that we should disarm Iraq by force, if necessary, in order to protect American lives. But I also recognize that if we go to war right now, the war will have little legitimacy in the eyes of the world community, and that increases the risks. I, therefore, believe that it is in our security interests to support Great Britain's latest proposal to establish specific unambiguous disarmament benchmarks and a firm deadline. Failure to comply with all requirements would trigger military action without further debate.

If Iraq does comply, we would have achieved our aims without the need for war, everybody's first choice. If Iraq again fails to meet its obligations, our

□ 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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good-faith effort will have helped restore some of the U.S.'s lost credibility, thereby strengthening the coalition supporting the war as well as improving our ability to prosecute the war on terrorism, as well as decreasing the risk and cost of rebuilding Iraq after a conflict.

I urge my colleagues to support this reasonable approach to the crisis.

WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last month we celebrated Heart Month, a time for us to reflect upon heart disease, its effects, and our methods of prevention.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Miami Heart Research Institute for its dedication to the research and the treatment of this life-threatening disease.

Heart disease is the single leading cause of death for American women. Obviously, women make an indispensable contribution to the growth of our culture and must be ensured every opportunity for good health and longevity. It is critical that women be educated on the risk of heart disease as well as on the effective methods of prevention.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the efforts of the Miami Heart Research Institute and that we will all grow in the awareness of the impact which heart disease has on Americans, especially our Nation's women.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN GUS YATRON

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

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I have the sad task of informing my colleagues that my predecessor, Gus Yatron, passed away unexpectedly early this morning.

Gus Yatron dedicated his entire life to public service, first serving as a school director for the Reading School District, and then serving in the Pennsylvania State House and in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He served with distinction in the halls of Congress for 24 years.

During Gus Yatron's years of public service, he helped thousands of people and was respected by all the colleagues that he served with. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Millie; his daughter, Theana; his son, George; and to his grandchildren.

ELIMINATING UNFAIR DOUBLE TAXATION ON DIVIDEND INCOME

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over 250 economists have urged Congress to repeal the unjust double taxation on dividend income. This is an excellent opportunity to dramatically boost our economy and create jobs for Americans.

There is an urgent need to pass President Bush's plan. On March 11, the widely respected Charles Schwab wrote in *The Washington Post*, and I quote, "If we are going to stimulate the economy, we need a tax policy that bolsters confidence, improves corporate governance, unlocks the stagnant capital inside companies, and lifts the stock market across the board. Only the elimination of the double tax on dividends achieves all these goals. Congress ought to act quickly."

That is why I have introduced H.R. 225, the Double Taxation Elimination Act of 2003, and I ask my colleagues to join me in ending this unfair double tax on dividends which has been championed by the House Policy Committee chaired by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and which has been promoted by the Committee on Ways and Means chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS). With this plan we can stimulate the economy and create jobs.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, God bless our troops.

SUPPORT OF TROOPS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our 1-minutes are designed for us to talk about things that are happening in our districts or whatever issues may be important for the day. I wanted to talk about a situation that is happening in east and northeast Harris County.

Mr. Speaker, we have a group that is talking about communities rallying for our troops. Now, our troops are in Iraq and in Afghanistan. We have two groups, the 373rd Support Battalion and also the 450th Chemical Battalion. They are Houston Reserves who are serving our country. What is happening this week in North Shore and Channel View and northeast Harris County and Houston are our communities showing support for those young men and women serving our country everywhere in the world.

Mr. Speaker, we are fighting for freedom and democracy everywhere in the world. My only frustration is that here on the floor of the House today we do not even get an amendment on a major piece of legislation. But we know that we support our troops, whether they are in Afghanistan, Iraq, or anywhere else in the world.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH DOES NOT MEAN DESTRUCTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about a misunderstanding about our Constitution. It has been reported that some antiwar protesters destroyed a 9-11 memorial in La Habra, California, last Saturday. The memorial was on private property and was set up after 9-11 to honor those murdered by the terrorist attackers. The antiwar protesters burned and ripped flags while the local police watched and did nothing.

It is unconscionable there would be Americans who would show no respect for those victims of 9-11. Even more outrageous is that the police department excused this vandalism by citing the first amendment's protection of freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is a God-given right of every American; destroying private property is not.

What would the police officers do if a citizen wanted to exercise his freedom of speech by setting fire to city hall? Can a person express their freedom of speech by punching a speaker they disagree with? Obviously not.

I encourage the La Habra Police Department and all police departments across this country to protect freedom of speech while at the same time not allowing vandals to destroy private property.

NATION REJOICES IN RETURN OF ELIZABETH SMART

(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, the Nation grieved with the Smart family when Elizabeth disappeared 9 months ago. As chairman of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I, and our Nation, are overjoyed at her discovery. This is the light at the end of the tunnel for her family and friends, something that every parent who has a missing child would dream of.

I want to thank the media, the citizens who paid attention and called in leads, and the law enforcement officials who worked so hard on this case. This is the ultimate example of the growing cooperation between law enforcement, the public, and the media. By working together, people become the eyes and ears of law enforcement, increasing their numbers by thousands.

We can learn a great deal from this case. First of all, the parents did exactly the right thing and were prepared with current photos and information of Elizabeth. This is the most important thing for parents to have. Elizabeth's sister was an incredible witness and a