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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dan Remus, Senior Pastor, First Assembly of God, Kenosha, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

Father, we thank You for this day. We declare with the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Lord, I thank You for our great Nation. I thank You for the freedoms we enjoy in America.

Today we pray for Your protection for every man and woman serving in our armed forces. We pray for strength for their families. May they know the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Lord, today I pray that You will give wisdom to these men and women who are elected representatives. I know that they want what is best for America. I thank You that Your word tells us, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally, and it will be given to him."

We ask these things in Your precious name. 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 Texas (Mr. TURNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TURNER of Texas 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DAN REMUS

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Pastor Dan Remus of the First Assembly of God Church in Kenosha to the floor of the House today. This is a very special moment for all of us.

Pastor Dan began serving the First Assembly in 1980 as their youth pastor. He became the senior associate pastor in 1985 and the senior pastor in 1997. And yes, as you can see, he is a young man.

The Church of the First Assembly of God supports many community efforts: homeless shelters, prison ministries, shelters for unwed mothers. Two of the ways the church reaches out to the community are school supply hand-outs to the inner city and a Queen For a Day program, a ministry to single moms who are taken in and pampered for a day of women's activities.

I have had the privilege of joining Pastor Dan in worship at the First Assembly of God, and I have got to say it is a wonderful church. It is a church that is growing. Their average attendance at their ceremonies and sermons are about 1,900 people. It is a church that is growing. They have about 790 children in their school.

The First Assembly is a very, very warm place that brings with open arms an invitation to all people to enjoy and worship Jesus Christ our Saviour.

One of the things that I enjoy so much about Pastor Dan's church are the great productions they put on at Easter and the 4th of July. It is something that many people from all around come to enjoy. Most importantly, he has been married to his wife Alexia for 25 years. He has 3 children, Heidi, Heather, and Danny, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity, and I want to thank Pastor Dan

for traveling from Kenosha, Wisconsin to join us and give us such an uplifting prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 10, 1-minute on each side.

SUING THEIR WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE

(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, most people think this election will be close. Already, the Democrat party has assembled a legal team and campaign account to file a series of lawsuits on Election Day. Democrats are again preparing to sue their way to the White House by raising money to challenge election results.

This is not a new tactic for liberals, and that is what JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS are, the first and fourth most liberal Members of the Senate.

This political strategy has been used by liberals for years, to win by litigation what they cannot win through legislation. They have used this method to enact a large part of their social agenda in past years.

Mr. Speaker, it is easier to manipulate words, to dupe a few liberal unelected judges than to collectively fool the American people, but the American people are on to it. We hold elections for a reason: to allow the people to choose their own leaders, not lawyers and judges.

This should not be another ploy to challenge our democratic process.

BAD CHOICES MAKE AMERICA LESS SAFE

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

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

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Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the debate on the 9/11 Commission recommendations today, we must ask the central question: are we as safe as we need to be. The answer is no, and it is all about the choices that we have made.

In the 2 years before 9/11, we secured more loose nuclear material than we did in the 2 years after 9/11. We have yet to install the radiation portals we need at our ports to detect nuclear material. We still do not have a unified terrorist watch list. Mr. Speaker, 120,000 hours of untranslated terrorist-related wiretaps remain untranslated at the FBI. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 illegal immigrants from places other than Mexico were released into our own country last year because of a lack of detention space.

In 2004, we invested about \$20 billion more in homeland security than we did in the year of 9/11, but we granted 4 times that in tax relief to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

It is all about choices, and we have made the wrong choices because our leadership has not committed us to making America as safe as we need to be.

TROOPS VOTE FOR BUSH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a 31-year veteran of the Army National Guard and the parent of 3 children serving in the military, including a son in Iraq, I am glad to report our troops are clearly supporting the reelection of President Bush. According to the independent Army Times, America's troops are voting today for President Bush by a margin of over 4 to 1.

Our troops know firsthand President Bush is courageously leading the successful fight against the terrorists on the global war on terrorism. He is the commander-in-chief to trust with their lives. American service members know in a time of war, we need a clear message to the murderers of children. President Bush has a hopeful vision of victory established by our competent troops who have liberated over 50 million people from Afghanistan to Iraq.

In my three visits to Iraq, I have seen and met the new greatest generation who are making history for democracy. President Bush clearly understands with our troops that the best way to protect American families is to take the war to the terrorists. We must fight at the source to reduce the potential for warfare in the streets of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Mental Illness Awareness Week, an opportunity to educate ourselves and our constituents about mental illness in America.

One of the first pieces of legislation I cosponsored in this body was the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act, which requires parity for mental health services under private insurance plans. But this legislation would do something else. It would move us one step closer to eradicating the undue stigma often associated with mental illness.

As many as 1 in 5 children and adolescents suffer from mental illness in the United States, but many go untreated because of feelings of shame or guilt, or because parents, schools, and communities lack the information and resources essential to prevent the worsening of mental health problems and for early detection, and to improve treatment outcomes.

Many Americans, when diagnosed with a mental illness, confront both a frightening disease and a public that can be uninformed about the nature of their illness. Through educational campaigns like the National Mental Illness Awareness Week and smart, targeted policy initiatives, we can look forward to overcoming the stigma associated with mental illness in our communities and make life a little easier for all Americans suffering from mental illness and for their families as well.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT RUSSELL L. COLLIER

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Sergeant Russell L. Collier from the Third District of Arkansas.

Sergeant Collier, an Army National Guard medic from Harrison, Arkansas, was killed in action in Iraq earlier this week. He died when he came under enemy fire while aiding fellow soldier Sergeant Chris Potts who had been wounded in ambush. Sergeant Collier and Sergeant Potts became the first casualties of the 206th Field Artillery Battalion of Arkansas's 39th Infantry Brigade.

Sergeant Collier spent most of his adult life sacrificing for our country. In 1975 he enlisted in the U.S. Army, later transferred to the U.S. Navy, and then joined the Arkansas National Guard in September 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Russell L. Collier is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. I ask my colleagues to keep Russell's family and friends, especially his wife and 9-year-old son, in their prayers during this difficult time

BORDER SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the State of our Nation's border security. If we cannot secure our land borders where 80 percent of all people enter our country, then we are simply not safe as a Nation.

In 1994, there were 2.7 million truck crossings on the southern border. In 2003, this traffic increased to 4.2 million crossings. In 1994, there were 66 million personal vehicles crossing into the United States from Mexico. In 2003, the number of personal vehicles rose to 88 million, carrying 194 million passengers.

These numbers cry out for a substantial investment in our borders, and what do we get? The administration has failed to meet our security and commercial needs by investing in our Nation's port of entry.

In 2003, the Department of Homeland Security's own Data Management Improvement Act Task Force reported that more than 70 percent of the 166 land ports of entry have inadequate infrastructure. What is the response? More investment? No. Typically, the administration shut down the task force. They are famous for that.

We need a substantial investment in border infrastructure tied to a vulnerability assessment to ensure national security.

HONORING BEN GAMACHE

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ben Gamache upon being named the 2004 Small Businessperson of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Ben is the owner and chief executive officer of Gamache Enterprises, a commercial real estate investment firm in Manchester, New Hampshire. The company has proven its staying power as an established business and presence in the community for the last 27 years. Even though there have been tough economic times, Gamache enterprises has continued to invest in the community and refurbish unused or run-down mill and retail space to become thriving commercial properties.

Ben is a member of the Board of Directors for the Commercial Realtors and has invested thousands of dollars of his own money for revitalization projects on one of downtown Manchester side streets.

Ben has invested himself personally in the community with as much vigor and passion as he invests in himself as a businessperson. His most notable