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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. BRADLEY of New Hampshire).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEB BRADLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Edward D. Johnson, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Ocala, Ocala, FL, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, I thank You for each Member of the House of Representatives. I thank You for the sacrifice they give in order to represent our communities; time spent away from their families, time spent here in Washington and time spent in serving others. I am aware of the enormity of their responsibility in making decisions about issues that not only affect our incomes, but also affect our national security, our moral well-being and our precious freedoms as a nation.

I pray that You would bless these men and women with physical health, mental acuity, moral toughness and spiritual peace. You have established us as a ''nation under God.'' You have reminded us that in Your Word, ''Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.'' Heavenly Father, we ask for Your continued blessing on our Nation and for peace and prosperity to abound through our land.

As a Christian, while I make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, I know that many others approach prayer in a different manner. We all ask for Your blessings and for Your grace for our lives. 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 New York (Mr. NADLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NADLER 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 DR. EDWARD D. JOHNSON, SENIOR PASTOR, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OCALA, OCALA, FL, TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of delight and an honor for me to have my pastor, Dr. Ed Johnson, provide the opening prayer for the House of Representatives this morning. We were privileged today to hear his brief words of inspiration and guidance.

Dr. Johnson is the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ocala, FL, my hometown. This is a thriving church, and one of the largest in Marion County. My wife and I attend with our family, and we enjoy the warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Pastor Johnson has been with the First Baptist Church for 22 years, where he and his wife Hilda remain active in helping throughout our community. Before arriving in Ocala, Dr. Johnson served in churches in Texas, Tennessee and West Virginia.

While attending to the needs of his flock, Pastor Johnson has served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention, chairman of the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions and the chairman of the Board of Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Although this is a distinguished record of service, more importantly, he is a respected man of the Lord.

I appreciate this opportunity to share Pastor Johnson's wisdom with my colleagues this morning, and I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to taking him to the White House for the picnic.

HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES BY KEEPING REGULATIONS FAIR

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today seeking support for H.R. 1167, which I introduced to enable Congress to better scrutinize laws and regulations imposed on America's small businesses.

In New York's Hudson Valley I represent small business owners who tell me time and again that unnecessary paperwork and unreasonable government regulations are the most severe problem they face at work each day.

Our Nation's small businesses create 7 out of 10 new jobs and are the primary engine of economic growth for our communities. However, the burden of regulatory compliance on these same small businesses is as much as 50 percent greater than it is for larger companies. It costs the average small business almost $7,000 per employee each year. Small businesses should be

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