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No. 115

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 14, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK FOLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Steve Houpe, Pastor, Harvest Church, Kansas City, MO, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, in the name of my resurrected Saviour, I come before Your presence to thank You and praise You for Your goodness, mercy, grace, and love that You extend to us every day.

Thank You for the honor and privilege of living in this great country. Thank You for our freedom, for the ability to worship and serve You freely. Allow us to always honor You and Your ways. I pray for the mothers, the fathers, and children of this Nation. I pray for the schools, the government agencies, and businesses.

God, I beseech Your throne this day on behalf of these prominent leaders of our Nation. Give them Your truth, direction, Your wisdom and power. I pray for each of these Congressmen, their families, and the people they represent.

Lord God, I give You praise for what You have done, for what You are doing, and for what You are going to do. 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 Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLEAVER 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 a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1613. An act to amend that Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 to extend the termination date for mandatory price reporting.

WELCOMING AND HONORING REVEREND STEVE HOUBE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of our guest Chaplain, Dr. Steve Houpe, founder and Pastor of the Harvest Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

Soon after his graduation and ordination from Rhema Bible Training Center in 1986, Dr. Houpe began his ministry and founded Harvest Church, one of the fastest-growing congregations in our community.

But this was just the beginning. Dr. Houpe had a strong calling to education; and, in 1990, he founded Harvest Christian Schools, now Faith Academy,

to educate children in a Christian environment with a strong academic emphasis. And, in 1996, he founded Harvest Bible Institute to teach men and women to give of themselves for service in the ministry. Dr. Houpe has also been called to bring the word of God into the homes of people beyond his congregation through his authorship of four inspirational books.

Pastor Houpe further devotes himself to his wife Donna and their six beautiful children.

Pastor Houpe has touched countless lives in our community and across this Nation, and we are pleased to have him here today.

ONGOING EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Congress reconvened early to pass an emergency funding bill to meet the immediate relief and recovery needs of the Gulf Coast communities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Last week, we met the growing humanitarian and economic needs by passing an additional \$51.8 billion in emergency relief.

This week, Mr. Speaker, with the levee repaired, the flood waters receding, and the immediate funding needs met, the House's focus must shift to the broader policy implications of the Katrina disaster.

Millions of our countrymen, men, women, and children, have been displaced all around our Nation. That means communities taking on larger populations, schools seating more students, hospitals seeing more patients, businesses serving more customers, roads and public transportation accommodating more travelers.

The first responders and emergency managers on the ground in the affected

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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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region from all levels of government are in charge of the national response in the coming days.

Congress must look at the coming months and years.

Toward that end, last week, the Speaker and Senator FRIST announced their intention to create a bipartisan, bicameral, select committee of senior Members and Senators to review and report findings about the preparations for and response to Hurricane Katrina. Isolated partisan attacks of the bipartisan committee notwithstanding, it will allow and require the Congress to do its constitutional duty to review the recovery and the policies that govern it.

The joint select committee will work, as even its shrillest critics must know.

Meanwhile, this week, the House is at work developing targeted policies for the ongoing national response, from a bill to protect Katrina's good Samaritans from predatory trial lawyers, to a bill to encourage more charitable giving to the Katrina private relief effort by providing targeted tax relief for the contributors to the recovery.

These and other policies will be brought to the floor as they are ready so that the House can respond as quickly and as effectively as possible.

Our entire Nation has its work cut out for it, recovering from this tragedy. The House will meet its responsibility, in the aftermath of this emergency, to lead.

CREATING A CABINET-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, from our deepest silence, from that place within each of us that knows peace, from our heart of hearts which connects us to the world and to the heart of the world, we know that fear leads to violence, that violence leads to war, that war leads to total destruction. Yet we do not want to fear, we do not want violence, we do not want war, we want peace. We desire peace so intensely that we are willing to do almost anything to achieve it, including spending half of our resources for arms to help feel secure.

We know we cannot continue on this perilous path of seeking peace through violence. We know that this approach offers our children no future at all.

So today we make a new beginning with House bill 3760, legislation to create a Cabinet-level department of peace and nonviolence. In doing so, dozens of Members of this Congress announced that we choose courage over fear and hope over despair. We announce our desire to create a new America and a new world.

CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, sexual predators lurk in the shadows of our neighborhoods and prey on those who are innocent and defenseless. Many sex offenders are living under the radar of local law enforcement and continue to elude the criminal justice system.

But we are bringing forth legislation that strengthens the critical need of protecting the safety of our children. H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act, addresses the growing epidemic of violence against children and enhances their safety from convicted sex offenders through coordinated State sex offender registration and notification programs.

One of the most crucial problems is that over 100,000 sex offenders are "missing." They have not complied with sex offender registration requirements. This legislation remedies this crisis by ensuring compliance and enforcement.

Child exploitation and sexual abuse are a growing predicament. This bill tightens mandatory minimums for crimes of violence against children. It expands the category of crimes to include juvenile sex offenses, possession of child pornography, and a new definition of sex offense.

It is time to shed light on this most egregious crime and tighten the outlets sex offenders use to desecrate our world.

HURRICANE KATRINA ACCELERATED TAX BENEFITS ACT

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as we consider tax incentives for businesses that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina and help them get up and running, we must also help the affected families get up and running. Both are essential endeavors.

Americans have lost their homes and incomes through no fault of their own.

In the coming days, I will introduce the Hurricane Katrina Accelerated Tax Benefits Act. This bill will fast-track the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, and educational incentives such as the Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits to the people in the Gulf Coast, providing these hard-working Americans with much-needed resources. It will stimulate the economy and help rebuild the lives of affected Americans.

These Americans who have lost so much should receive their tax refunds now. They have worked for it, and they have earned it.

There is a precedent for fast-tracking tax refunds during times of crisis. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Congress passed legislation to fast-track the Child Tax Credit refunds.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot undo the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina, but we can begin to restore lives. By taking these steps, we can quickly deliver the funds to these families who have worked hard and paid taxes.

I hope my colleagues will join me in advancing this important legislation.

HOMELAND SECURITY VERSUS FOREIGN AID

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it is the desire to be frugal that led the Base Closure Commission to recommend the retirement of the 147th Fighter Wing from Ellington Field in Houston, Texas.

The removal of these aircraft would severely weaken the military's ability to protect the City of Houston, NASA, the Port of Houston, the Port of Beaumont, and Port Arthur. It is for that reason that I have introduced House Resolution 412 which calls for the President to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that any base closings do not affect homeland security inadvertently.

Mr. Speaker, we should reevaluate our foreign giveaway programs if we want to save money. When homeland security is at stake and the energy capital of the world is potentially without fighter protection, the penny pinchers need to reevaluate their priorities.

Like every mother tells her child, "safety first." So we need to keep the F-16s flying over Southeast Texas and the energy capital of the world.

GAMING INDUSTRY'S RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, as millions of people lost their homes and their jobs, the casino and gaming industry in the Gulf Coast region is helping them in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

I applaud the American Gaming Association for setting up the Gaming Industry Katrina Relief Fund to raise money to provide disaster relief and assistance to gaming employees in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Gaming companies have created programs to help their employees after the devastation of the hurricane. Among other relief efforts, Harrah's Entertainment has established a \$1 million Employee Recovery Fund and is paying employee wages for 90 days, Boyd Gaming is paying employees for 8 weeks, and the MGM Mirage has established a call center and paycheck distribution center in Biloxi.

The gaming industry is taking care of their employees in the areas ravaged by the hurricane. As usual, the industry has stepped up to the plate to help their employees weather the storm and