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No. 66

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

May 24, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON 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:

Today the House of Representatives prays with the sentiments of the 122nd Psalm:

"I rejoiced because they said to me, 'We are on our way to the house of the Lord.' Even now, at times, I have a sense we are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem, that holy city built as a sign of unity. To it the tribes of the Lord climb up. There all the tribes of the Lord are drawn together. I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Together let us go up to the house of the Lord.'

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray. May all those who love her prosper. May peace be found within and permeate all great endeavors.

"Because of relatives and friends, I will pray, 'May peace be upon you.' Because here is the dwelling of the Lord God, a place holy for Jew, Christian and Muslim, I will pray for your good."

To You, Lord God, be glory and honor 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 her 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. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY 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 desires to make an announcement.

After consultation among the Speaker, the majority and minority leaders, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on her right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, May 19, 2006, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1050

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY EHUD OLMERT, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

The Speaker of the House presided. The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Kerri Hanley, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS);

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE);

□ 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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The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN);

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY);

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN); and

The gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER);

The Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL);

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN);

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD);

The Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN);

The Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON); and

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Jesse Bibiano Marehalau, Ambassador of Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered

the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m., the Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel.

The Prime Minister of Israel, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY EHUD OLMERT, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Prime Minister OLMERT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of the U.S. Congress, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the people and the State of Israel, I wish to express my profound gratitude to you for the privilege of addressing this joint meeting of the U.S. Congress. This building, this Chamber, and all of you stand as a testament to the enduring principles of liberty and democracy.

More than 30 years ago, I came to Washington as a young legislator thanks to a program sponsored by the State Department. I had a chance to tour this building, and I saw then what I believe today, that this institution, the United States Congress, is the greatest deliberative body in the world. I did not imagine then that a day would actually come when I would have the honor of addressing this forum as the Prime Minister of my nation, the State of Israel.

The United States is a superpower whose influence reaches across oceans and beyond borders. Your continued support, which, I am happy to say, transcends partisan affiliations, is of paramount importance to us. We revere the principles and values represented by your great country and are grateful for the unwavering support and friendship we have received from the U.S. Congress, from President George W. Bush, and from the American people.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me, and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

Israel is grateful that America believes in us. Let me assure you that we will not let you down.

The similarities in our economic, social and cultural identities are obvious, but there is something much deeper and everlasting. The unbreakable ties between our two nations extend far beyond mutual interests. They are based on our shared goals and values stemming from the very essence of our mutual foundations.

This coming Monday, the 29th of May, you commemorate Memorial Day

for America's fallen. The graves of brave American soldiers are scattered throughout the world: in Asia and in the Pacific, throughout Europe and Africa, in Iraq and throughout the Middle East. The pain of the families never heals, and the void they leave is never filled.

It is impossible to think of a world in which America was not there in the honorable service of humanity. On Monday, when the Stars and Stripes are lowered to half-mast, we, the people of Israel, will bow our heads with you.

Our two great nations share a profound belief in the importance of freedom and a common pioneering spirit deeply rooted in optimism. It was the energetic spirit of our pioneers that enabled our two countries to implement the impossible, to build cities where swamps once existed and to make the desert bloom.

My parents, Bella and Mordechai Olmert, were lucky. They escaped the persecution in the Ukraine and Russia and found sanctuary in Harbin, China. They immigrated to Israel to fulfill their dream of building a Jewish and democratic state living in peace in the land of our ancestors.

My parents came to the Holy Land following a verse in the Old Testament in the book of Second Samuel: "I will appoint a place for my people Israel and I will plant them in their land and they will dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more."

Distinguished Members of Congress, I come here, to this home of liberty and democracy, to tell you that my parents' dream, our dream, has only been partly fulfilled. We have succeeded in building a Jewish democratic homeland. We have succeeded in creating an oasis of hope and opportunity in a troubled region. But there has not yet been one year, one week, even one day of peace in our tortured land.

Our Israeli pioneers suffered, and their struggle was long and hard. Yet even today, almost 60 years after our independence, that struggle still endures. Since the birth of the State of Israel and until this very moment, we have been continually at war and amidst confrontation. The confrontation has become even more violent, the enemy turned even more inhumane due to the scourge of suicide terrorism. But we are not alone. Today, Israel, America, Europe, and democracies across the globe, unfortunately, face this enemy.

Over the past 6 years, more than 20,000 attempted terrorist attacks have been initiated against the people of Israel. Most, thankfully, have been foiled by our security forces. But those which have succeeded have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of innocent civilians and the injury of thousands, many of them children guilty only of being in what proved to be the wrong place at the wrong time.

These are not statistics. These are real people with beautiful souls that have left this Earth far too soon.