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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Rev. John C. Garrett, Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows-St. Anthony, Hamilton, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

God, Creator of heaven and Earth, the Founders of this great Nation recognized the basic principle that You are our Creator and we are Your noble, yet humble creatures. As such, all men and women are loved and treasured by You. Send Your blessings on the women and men of this honorable House so that they will be guided by Your divine law in their deliberations. Grant them the wisdom to seek the common good for all people. May all their actions demonstrate respect and reverence for all people; each made in Your divine image and likeness. Let all this be done for Your greater glory. We ask this in Your divine name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute requests on each side of the aisle.

BRING DOWN PRICES AT THE PUMP TODAY

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, every day Americans are struggling to drive their kids to school or run important errands. Every day Americans are struggling to fill up their gas tanks. And every day President Bush opposes a different Democratic solution to bringing down prices at the pump.

Today is day 9 of our efforts urging the President to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a move that has a history of real results. But the White House has slammed the idea, saying it has been ineffective in the past.

I guess President Bush doesn't remember when his father released oil from the Reserve in 1990 and oil prices dropped 33 percent immediately. Or when President Clinton took action in 2000. Real relief was apparent before oil even reached market. He also forgot when he himself released oil from the SPR only 2 years ago, and a barrel of oil dropped \$5.

This is action Americans are demanding; relief at the pump now.

Madam Speaker, releasing oil from the reserve is a tested and proven solution to providing struggling Americans with relief today. It is time President Bush stands up for consumers and taps into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

DESTROY THE BOOKS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the elite Cambridge University Press of the United Kingdom is destroying controversial books, reminiscent of the Berlin book burnings of 1933.

In an effort not to offend wealthy Saudi banker Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, the timid publisher cowered in fear and is pulping and destroying all known copies of its book “Alms for Jihad” that alleges the Saudi banker's ties to charities that fund terrorist organizations. The writers of the book stand by their work, however.

Mr. Speaker, here is the real problem. In the United Kingdom more and more frivolous libel suits are brought against writers and publishers by people with connections to terrorist groups because the United Kingdom court system is weighed in favor of suppression of controversial free speech in the marketplace of ideas. So many publishers like Cambridge are intimidated and are afraid to publish controversial topics. After all, the British court system is just too sophisticated to allow books to be printed that might offend someone.

The writers of “Alms for Jihad” should publish their book in the United States because we thrive on controversial speech, whether alleged terrorist sympathizers like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

UNITED WAY OF HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the good work of the United Way of Hudson County, New Jersey. They have a distinguished history of working with their partners to help the homeless in Hudson County.

I would like to highlight just a few of the good things that United Way of

□ 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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Hudson County is doing in my district. They are, in part, responsible for a Bayonne facility for homeless men, a program for the elderly in Jersey City, a training program for 59 shelter residents, housing for Hudson County individuals with HIV/AIDS, meals, soup kitchens, and educational services for homeless persons.

In 2005 the United Way of Hudson County created an emergency shelter system for the homeless that was widely honored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of New Jersey, and the State Association of Community Development Directors.

In 2006 they were awarded the County's first "Housing First" grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant provided housing for social services for 26 disabled individuals. Their Housing First focus, championed by the United Way and the County Executive, Tom DeGise, will provide housing and hope for a better future for the homeless of Hudson County.

Please join me on July 30 for the second congressional reception honoring the United Way.

TRIBUTE TO THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an organization that has contributed to our community in my district in Michigan for something like 40 years, and has inspired us in many ways.

The Special Olympics is a beacon of opportunity and support for people with intellectual disabilities, providing training and athletic competition in over 100 countries.

Michigan's 9th district, my district, is no exception. We have been blessed with a dedicated and vigilant local organization there that has established a successful program with amazing results.

More than 400 athletes participated in this year's Oakland County Spring Games this past May, including Charles Howard from Farmington and Jaime Bonneau from Clarkston, who have been selected to compete in the World Games in 2009. I extend my best wishes to their respective competitions.

On the 40th anniversary of this extraordinary organization, I wish to honor them for their efforts and their contributions to our community and the communities around the Nation.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I speak on behalf of immigrants. Sometimes he-

roes come from the least expected places. Such is the case of Edwin Ramirez from Pacoima, California. Ramirez, despite his obstacles, successfully built small businesses with his brother.

In 1990, as a parent and a leader with a vision, he quickly rose as a leader in his local PTA and within Los Angeles Unified School District. Ramirez also founded and became president of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council to voice concerns of his community.

Edwin Ramirez is an example of the American dream and a hero in the community. Edwin is an immigrant. It is because of Edwin Ramirez and other role models like him that our country has always welcomed immigrants.

For those reasons, on behalf of the American dream, I urge my colleagues to support comprehensive immigration on behalf of the 12 million to 14 million people here in the United States.

COMMONSENSE SOLUTION

(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, it is a basic rule of economics that when demand goes up, but supply remains stagnant, prices go up. That is the primary cause of the recent rise in gas prices.

Energy costs affect our transportation costs, our food costs and our national security. If there were a silver bullet, an alternative energy source that could replace oil tomorrow, we would all be for it. But there isn't. So while we are working with oil, it makes economic and national security sense to reduce our dependence on foreign imports.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to invest in alternative energy, good. So do we. If they want to promote conservation, good. So do we. But if they continue to stand in the way of opening up new areas right here at home for oil and natural gas exploration, then they will stand alone.

House Republicans are ready to act because Americans want an all-of-the-above energy policy. When will House Democrats stand with the American people, rather than in their way?

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

□ 1015

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in Washington this week, there are thousands and thousands of African American women who are members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. That was the first Greek letter African American sorority in this country. It's been a sorority that's been intertwined with all

of the activities of this society. In the last 100 years through women's suffrage and the civil right's movement, there have been active members.

Service and scholarship are the bywords of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Their members have included Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks, and honorary members have included Eleanor Roosevelt, and announced yesterday, Michelle Obama.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha women are doing good works in this country, and I appreciate their including me. I will be joining them at a luncheon today. And I congratulate them on 100 years of service started at Howard University here in Washington, D.C.

CONGRESS MUST LIFT THE MORATORIUM ON DRILLING

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the energy crisis gripping our country. The time has come for America to unite behind an aggressive campaign to reduce our dependence on foreign energy. Failure to act now will only drive up energy prices and destroy good-paying jobs.

Solving this crisis requires producing more American energy. We must lift the moratorium imposed by Congress on offshore drilling. Also, we must remove the roadblocks preventing leasing programs for oil shale on public lands. Finally, we must allow responsible drilling in ANWR. Doing these things will have an immediate impact on gasoline prices.

President Bush this week lifted the executive moratorium on new oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf. This is an important first step but must be followed by action from Congress to finish the job. Billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas are available to America if we do this. We are the only country in the world not using the energy at its disposal.

Congress must act immediately to help lower gasoline prices for all Americans.

REPUBLICANS' ENERGY SOLUTION IS WORKING FOR BIG OIL BUT NOT FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when the President took office, gasoline cost less than \$1.50 a gallon, and a barrel of oil was selling for \$30. So they had a planning meeting down at the White House, and gas has jumped to \$4.50 a gallon and oil is nearly \$150 a barrel.

Despite these facts, the President would like the American people to believe that he has proposed a credible