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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Michael J. Easley, Senior Pastor, Immanuel Bible Church, Springfield, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Creator, Sovereign, Lord of all, help us. Though we do not deserve it, we humbly ask for Your mercy; that You bless this country we dearly love.

Protect us from our enemies. We ask not merely for ourselves but for our children. We ask not merely for our children but for their children.

Protect us from ourselves. May we never exercise the strength of tyrants, misuse talents entrusted to us, or lord over those allotted to our charge.

We pray for this House and all it represents; for our men and women overseas, keeping an oath that they swore; for their families who keep watch and pray; for all who lead, govern and serve; for our marriages, our families; for common sense; for moral restraint to keep Your covenants.

Faithful God, we thank You. Thank You that You look at us and see Your son's work, and thank You that You even hear our prayers.

In Jesus' 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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY 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 one 1-minute at this time.

WELCOMING DR. MICHAEL J. EASLEY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Michael J. Easley to the floor of the Congress today to open what will be a very important session day in the life of this Congress in prayer.

Dr. Easley is senior pastor of the Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Virginia, and has been in that role for over a decade. He came to the region of the Nation's Capital, however, from Grand Prairie, Texas, where he served in ministry. He recently obtained his Doctorate of Ministry from Dallas Theological Seminary, where he also received a Master's of Theology in 1985.

Dr. Michael J. Easley, Michael to his friends and to the members of his church, is a man after God's own heart. He preaches the word of God with conviction and with sincerity and with clarity. In every sense as a family on the occasions we find ourselves in the Nation's Capital and find ourselves in the pews of his church, on those weekends I can testify, Mr. Speaker, that Dr. Michael J. Easley is, as the Scripture says, a workman approved, rightly able to handle the word of truth.

It is my profound honor to welcome him and to thank his wonderful wife, Cindy, and his four children, Hanna, Jessie, Devin, and Sarah for their contribution to the life and Ministry of Christ in this region of our Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation with the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent and approval, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Jose Maria Aznar, President of the Government of Spain, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his 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 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 placing placards will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, January 27, 2004, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 10:52 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 1052

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOSE MARIA AZNAR, PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN

The Speaker of the House presided.

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