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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Reverend Don Borling, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church, Orland Park, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

O God of goodness and grace, it's another day and maybe just an ordinary moment.

We are here in the very heart and soul of our Nation, a place committed always to the very goodness and power of the human spirit, a spirit binding us together in a world that is too often divided by things that really should bring us together: our diversity, our varied colors and religions, our cultures and backgrounds.

O Lord of all life, we call You by many names, we worship You in styles and ways that reflect the humanity with which You create us, we debate and we argue, we vote and we compromise, we come together in this sacred Chamber with so much at stake, with so many people counting on us and needing the very best of what we have to offer.

Please watch over us today. What we do here is sacred. Please give us the humility and grace to live up to our calling.

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 Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NUSSLE 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 THE REVEREND DON BORLING

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

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me acknowledge and welcome so many of our former colleagues back to the House Chamber here today. We welcome you. We thank you for your many years of service, and we look forward to the opportunity to renew old friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome our guest chaplain here today, Don Borling, who is the pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Orland Park, Illinois. He has been the pastor there for over 30 years. You might wonder why a guy from Iowa is introducing a minister from Illinois. Well, when I went to high school there, this was my home church. It is still my parents' home church. Don has been a good friend for many years. It is a pleasure to be able to welcome him and his wife, Jude; his son, Quinton; and his extended family who are here today.

For many years Don has taught me and so many members of our church on the south side of the Chicagoland area about the living God that is with us here today, that is in our hearts, in our minds, is in the great moments of a Chamber like this where we come together with the spotlight of history and the television cameras, but also the kind of God that is there in the small moments, when no one is watching and when it really matters. He has taught us not only about the God that we worship on Sundays but the God that needs to be there every day, Monday through Saturday, in our lives. He has been a minister to me; but he has also been a mentor, he has been a brother, he has been a friend.

We welcome Pastor Don Borling and his family, and we thank him for opening our House today in prayer.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 25, 2006, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker of the House presided.

The SPEAKER. On behalf of the House, I consider it a high honor and distinct personal privilege to have the opportunity of welcoming so many of our former Members and colleagues as may be present here for the occasion. We all pause to welcome you.

I want to say personally, good morning. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I am pleased to welcome back all of you. It is always good to see so many familiar faces, and for me who has been here 20 years, even a few unfamiliar faces. I see my former leader, I see people who I have served with, so many people I have come into Congress with and have continued to serve this Nation well. I am especially glad to see my friend from the great State of Missouri and your president, Jake Buechner. Jack, I know of the loss of your dear wife, Nancy, this year after a courageous fight with cancer. I just want to let you know on behalf of all of us in the House of Representatives, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Matt McHugh is a worthy choice for the Distinguished Service Award, and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Matt. Matt served in the House while I was here, a great

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