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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein, Central Synagogue, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Dear friends, we gather during this festival of Hanukkah when Jews celebrate the blessing of light and rededication and renewal. Long ago, those enemies who would have destroyed us profaned our sacred alters. They wished to rid the world of the fundamental teachings of our faith: that peace is founded upon justice, that all human beings are God's creation deserving of ultimate decency and goodness, and that the loveliness of light will always, in the end, obliterate the suffocating specter of darkness.

So, again, as we battle for the vision of light and peace, we ask You, O God, to bless us today in our gathering. Send healing to the sick, comfort to all who are in pain, and tender love to the sorrowing hearts among us. Deepen our love for our country and our desire to serve it. Let Your blessing rest upon us so that our Nation may forever be to the world an example of justice and compassion. As well, may all that we do be a blessing and in Your service, O God and let us say, 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.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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.

WELCOME TO RABBI RUBINSTEIN

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome to this Chamber Rabbi Peter J. Rubinstein, senior Rabbi at Manhattan's Central Synagogue.

Built in 1872, Central Synagogue is a national and city landmark that was nearly destroyed by fire in 1998. But thanks to Rabbi Rubinstein and others, the Central Synagogue rose from the ashes not only restored, but improved.

New York would do well to follow its example.

On September 9, along with thousands of New Yorkers, I was pleased to attend a glorious celebration when the synagogue reopened. But the joy was shortlived. Just days later, Central Synagogue was hosting memorial services for World Trade Center victims. In retrospect, the renovations were completed just in time.

The Central Synagogue and Rabbi Rubinstein have been there for New Yorkers in times of joy and sorrow alike, and the synagogue was ready for the most sorrowful day in our city's history.

It gives me great pleasure that a man who has meant so much to so many was able to lead us in prayer today.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

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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