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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Guillermo Maldonado, King Jesus International Ministry, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Let's bow our heads and pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You for this opportunity for the religious freedom that we enjoy in this country. We are grateful to our Founding Fathers who fought and died for us to have this freedom.

Today, I lift up a prayer for each Member of Congress, and I ask You to give them the wisdom they need to govern and pass laws in favor of Your people.

Lord, You are who places and removes kings from their throne, and You ask us to pray for all those in positions of authority so that we may live peacefully in this Nation.

Lord, let Your will be done in this House as it is in heaven, for it brings peace and justice to this country. Let Your Holy Spirit guide each one of these men and women and rest upon their hearts and mind.

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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KIRK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR GUILLERMO MALDONADO, KING JESUS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY, MIAMI, FLORIDA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Pastor Guillermo Maldonado is the founder of Rey Jesus International Ministry in Miami, Florida. It is recognized as the largest Hispanic church in the entire country.

He, along with his wife, Ana Maldonado, who is joining us today in the gallery, are spiritual leaders for so many in our community. His dedication and commitment to serving God and to serving his fellow man is, frankly, unparalleled.

It's a great honor, a huge honor to have Pastor Maldonado as our guest chaplain in the House today, for he is truly an inspiring figure. I am so glad that this House is able to benefit from the spiritual guidance that so many of us in south Florida have been able to do over the years.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

WHITTEMORE PETERSON INSTITUTE SCIENTISTS DISCOVER SIGNIFICANT LINK BETWEEN XMRV AND ME/CF'S

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, a recently identified retrovirus called

XMRV has been linked to the debilitating neuroimmune disease that affects more than 1 million people in the United States. Scientists from the Whittemore Peterson Institute, located at the University of Nevada, Reno, and their collaborators from the National Cancer Institute and Cleveland Clinic have discovered a retroviral link to chronic fatigue syndrome. This is a major breakthrough in understanding the origins of this debilitating disease.

I rise in order to congratulate Harvey and Annette Whittemore. Ms. Annette and her husband, Harvey, have a daughter that was diagnosed with chronic disease syndrome. They have worked tirelessly and relentlessly to fund and ensure that they can find a cure to this disease.

I rise also to tell people that the money to purchase the equipment used to discover this medical breakthrough was funded by an earmark by the United States Congress. This is a good expenditure of taxpayers' dollars and will ultimately save millions of our fellow Americans' lives.

I congratulate the Whittemores and the institute. I look forward to working with them, not only to identify and isolate this enzyme that causes this disease, but to actually cure it.

YOU AMERICANS ARE RUNNING OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, in medicine, the rule is do no harm. But look at these Medicare cuts just approved by Speaker PELOSI. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the bill cuts Medicare, nursing, wheelchairs, home health, even hospice. Hospice? Yep. Medicare hospice is cut.

Another principle is this: the right hand of government should know what

□ 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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