

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 27, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 27, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG OSE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Michael Caridi, Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, as this venerable assembly of representatives convenes this day to offer guidance and leadership to our Nation, we beseech Your divine presence among us and ask You to send Your blessings upon these men and women who so generously devote themselves to helping and serving others.

We ask that, prompted by Your Spirit, they will make decisions that further the ideals upon which this Nation was founded, decisions which respect the inherent dignity of every human being residing within our borders, irrespective of age, race, creed or social class.

May their work this day be pleasing in Your sight and may it bring about an increase of peace, justice and prosperity, not only in our own land, but throughout the whole world. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MASCARA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MASCARA 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4700. An act to grant the consent of the Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact.

H.J. Res. 72. Joint resolution granting the consent of the Congress to the Red River Boundary Compact.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1658. An act to authorize the construction of a Reconciliation Place in Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and for other purposes.

S. 1865. An act to provide grants to establish demonstration mental health courts.

S. 1929. An act to amend the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend such Act.

S. 2272. An act to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's abuse and neglect courts and for other purposes consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

WELCOME TO FATHER MICHAEL CARIDI, MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH, CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Father Michael Caridi of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Charleroi, Pennsylvania, and his brothers, Gregory and Jamie Caridi, to our Nation's Capital.

Thank you, Father Michael, for your inspiring prayer. I am sure it will be comforting to all of us as we proceed with our legislative business today.

I would also like to extend a special greeting to Father David Dzermejko, pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church. Father David also served as a guest chaplain here several years ago.

I would also like to thank the House chaplain, Father Daniel Coughlin, for making the arrangements for Father Michael's visit.

Father David and Father Michael have been true spiritual leaders of our parish.

I wish to extend my best wishes to the parish family in Charleroi. Be assured, be assured, that I will take good care of Father Michael during his visit to Washington, DC.

VIGIL FOR CAPTAIN NATHAN PECHACEK, LAS VEGAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it is often known that in times of crisis, family and friends join together to support one another, and today that is exactly what is happening in Las Vegas, Nevada, for Captain Nathan Pechacek of the Las Vegas Fire Department.

Earlier this week Captain Pechacek was seriously injured as his car was crushed and knocked on to its side by a drunk driver. Within minutes, fire fighters from Pechacek's own station arrived on the scene to rescue the injured driver from the wreck, not even knowing at first that the injured driver was their own captain.

Now, Captain Pechacek's fellow fire fighters are keeping a vigil at the hospital, during which they have organized a blood drive to help him and others and volunteered to help Captain Pechacek's son with his homework in his father's absence.

We all wish Captain Pechacek a full and speedy recovery and his family strength during this difficult time. And to all those Las Vegas firefighters, we commend you on your heroism and loyalty.

Finally, I would like to end with a comment made by Las Vegas Fire Chief Mario Trevino. He said that they "always treat an accident like it was our mother or father or sister or brother. This time it really was."

JOHN LENNON MURDERER WANTS FREEDOM

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, John Lennon's murderer says he should be set free, and even John Lennon, who was a liberal, would agree he should be set free.

Think about it. Chapman said, "My mental illness is over. I am eating, I am breathing, I am even singing and playing the guitar."

Now, if that is not enough to throw up, let us remember Chapman's testimony. "I asked Lennon for his autograph. He gave it to me. It was a ploy. I killed him. It was not his signature I wanted, I wanted his life."

☐ 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.