

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 25, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Thomas A. Cappelloni, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Scranton, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Father, all powerful and everloving God, we praise Your oneness and truth.

We laud You as the God of creation and the father of Jesus our Saviour. He enriches us with His witness of justice and truth. He lived and died that we might be reborn in the spirit and filled with love for all people.

Once You chose a people, gave them a destiny, and when You brought them out of bondage to freedom, they carried with them the promise that all nations would be blessed and all people could be free. What the prophets pledged has come to pass in every generation. Our fathers came to this land as of out of the desert, into a place of promise and hope. In our time You still lead us to a blessed vision of peace.

You guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayer we offer for our Nation. By the wisdom of our representatives and the integrity of this Congress, may harmony and justice be secured in lasting prosperity and peace.

These men and women stretch out their hands to share with You the government of Your holy people. Protect them by Your grace. Look upon this assembly of our national leaders and give them Your spirit of wisdom. May they always act in accordance with Your will and let their decisions be for the peace and the well-being of all.

We ask this through the holy name of our Lord. 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. PUTNAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PUTNAM 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 announces that there will be 10 one-minutes on each side.

### WELCOMING THE REVEREND THOMAS A. CAPPELLONI

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

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome as our guest chaplain Father Thomas Cappelloni of the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank him for that wonderful invocation as well as to offer the Father my congratulations. This year marked 25 years since Father Cappelloni was ordained as a priest and gave his life to God and the community.

Father was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he attended high school and continued his education at the University of Scranton. Then he continued his studies and his desire to become a priest led him to Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary where he earned a master's in systematic theology and in theology in counseling.

When Father Cappelloni returned to northeastern Pennsylvania, he spent time on the faculties of several schools and took the time to guide and counsel young students. He received his first pastoral assignment to St. Martin of Tours in Jackson, Pennsylvania, where he restored the church into a beautiful house of worship and served there until recently when he was transferred to Holy Name of Jesus in Scranton.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to say that not only has Father Cappelloni earned the respect of his parishioners for his altruism and kindness but also his peers have recognized his intelligence and wisdom by naming him the Dean of Catholic Clergy for all of Susquehanna County.

Mr. Speaker, the good Father is an accomplished chef, an excellent musician, a host without par and a humanitarian above all. I thank him for being here today. His presence and blessing on this House means so very much to me and the people I represent.

### THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in the next couple of weeks, Americans will be re-

ceiving a tax refund of moneys paid to the Federal Government. The other side of the aisle claimed America could not afford it, we should not do it, it is not right.

Ladies and gentlemen, when that check arrives in the mail of those millions of Americans, I think they will thank the House of Representatives for their efforts in restoring faith in government. We are returning surplus to them and making certain our economy can be reinvigorated by that \$55 billion of revenue we are sending home to them. Not our money, not our money here in Washington, but the money of the hardworking taxpayer.

The minority leader recently said if he had a chance to do it again, he would raise your taxes. Ladies and gentlemen, that is the difference of the political parties in power. Republicans would like to give you your money back. Others on the other side would like to take more and waste more of your hard-earned cash. The economy is struggling. Unemployment, layoffs are occurring throughout America. Let us signal to our constituents whose side we are on.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are on your side, hardworking Americans, giving you faith in government, restoring freedom, and making certain your hard-earned dollars are not wasted in the Capitol. If we keep it here, you can be assured it will be wasted. If we send it home, you will buy clothes for your kids, take your summer vacation, put your money in your savings account, but, after all, God bless you, it is your money.

### RECOGNIZING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THOMASVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Thomasville, North Carolina, part of which is located in my congressional district, as residents begin to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of their city. The name Thomasville might sound familiar to my colleagues, because the Thomasville Furniture Company was established there and still has its headquarters in the Chair City. This fine company has made the city's name famous around the world. The 18-foot-

□ 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.

high chair downtown serves as a symbol of the industry's importance to the city.

While Thomasville is synonymous with furniture, it is a city of around 20,000 people and a thriving community in North Carolina's Piedmont Triad region.

Thomasville is named for State Senator John W. Thomas who helped pioneer the construction of the first railroad across North Carolina. He founded the town of Thomasville next to the railroad in 1852.

I salute my good friend Mayor Hubert Leonard and wish all the best to the residents of Thomasville as they celebrate the city's 150th anniversary.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LIDSKY FAMILY AND THE FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Lidsky family from my congressional district has inspired me to work toward a cure for eye degenerative diseases. Three out of the four of the Lidsky children—Ilna, Isaac and Daria—suffer from retinitis pigmentosa, a disease which in time will lead to blindness.

The Lidskys fight valiantly each and every day by broadening their network, working closely with scientists and organizing events to help raise research funds. On Sunday, September 9, together with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the Lidskys will host the Generations Luncheon and Bazaar. The Foundation Fighting Blindness is rated by the National Health Council as the leading charity for the percentage of program dollars spent on research.

At present, 80 million Americans are at risk for developing diseases that can potentially lead to blindness. But fortunately through the efforts of the Foundation and of families like the Lidskys, the pace of research has accelerated. As a result, the once distant goal, a cure for blindness, is now within sight.

I ask that my colleagues help me in congratulating the Lidskys and the Foundation for their dedication in fighting eye degenerative diseases.

#### JUDGE RULES BONUSES IN ORDER IN WAKE OF CALIFORNIA POWER SHORTAGE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Even though California consumers are suffering the worst power shortage in history and outrageous costs, a Federal judge has ruled that the Pacific Gas and Electric

Company can pay their top managers \$17.5 million in bonuses. Now, if that is not enough to shock your crock pot, the company said, and I quote, "If we don't pay this \$17.5 million, they're going to leave us."

Unbelievable. These fat cats should not be rewarded, they should be fired. Throw these bums out. Beam me up.

I yield back the fact that they should hire a proctologist to perform a brain scan on that Federal judge who is somewhere in Disney World.

#### ARCHER MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton took office, there were 38 million people uninsured. After 8 years, there are now roughly 43 million Americans who have no health insurance. Of those people, more than half of them are small business owners, their families, their employees, their loved ones.

The goal of a patients' bill of rights should be to help these people get good health insurance and truly reduce the number of uninsured. One excellent way to do that is to expand Archer medical savings accounts. Increasing access to medical savings accounts would help those people struggling to make ends meet. Medical savings accounts help people get the care they need from a doctor they know. You choose your doctor. You choose your hospital.

Increase the number of insured Americans. Support medical savings accounts and the Fletcher bill.

#### PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS—DIRECT ACCESS TO OB-GYN CARE

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a key difference between the Ganske-Dingell bipartisan patients' bill of rights and the Fletcher alternative: direct access to OB-GYN care.

During my tenure in the State assembly, I wrote California's law that gives women direct access to their OB-GYN. This is a simple issue. A woman should not need a permission slip to see her doctor.

Women have different medical needs than men. OB-GYNs often have the most appropriate medical education and experience to address a woman's health care needs. Statistics in fact show that if there are too many barriers between a woman and her doctor, she is less likely to get the medical care that she needs.

The Ganske-Dingell bipartisan patients' bill of rights will require all health plans to give women direct access to their OB-GYN. The Fletcher alternative on the other hand includes conditions that could increase the time, the expense, and the inconvenience of a necessary doctor's appointment.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the real patients' bill of rights, the Ganske-Dingell bill, and give their female constituents access to the health care they deserve.

□ 1015

#### WHY UNLIMITED LAWSUITS WILL NOT IMPROVE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has pledged to sign into law the Patients' Bill of Rights that provides a full range of patient protections, including direct access to OB-GYNs, physician choice, emergency room coverage, pediatric care, and a ban on "gag" rules. What President Bush will not support is unlimited lawsuits.

A Washington poll released in early June showed a majority of Americans, 49 percent to 40 percent, prefer a different approach than one of unlimited lawsuits, believing that more litigation will drive up costs of medical care in America.

It must be clear that HMOs are not exempt from lawsuits. Federal courts have ruled 15 times since 1995 that HMOs can be held liable. ERISA does not shield HMOs from medical malpractice liability; it only preempts State laws on coverage of administration of benefits decisions.

Unlimited lawsuits will not improve patient care in America. A recent Harvard University study found that "almost 60 percent of costs to the malpractice system would wind up in bank accounts of lawyers, court administrators and insurance systems."

The goal of patients' rights legislation should be about reducing the ranks of the uninsured and increasing access to health care coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the Fletcher bill.

#### VOTE FOR THE REAL PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Norwood-Dingell-Ganske Patients' Bill of Rights.

For 5 years now, advocates of better health care have advocated for the real Patients' Bill of Rights, only to see that legislation shot down in this