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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, September 6, 2001.
I hereby appoint the Honorable John Shimkus to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Roy Mays, III, Southland Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

Dear Gracious Father, for years we have sung “America, America, God shed his grace on thee,” and in this prayer we affirm You have done it and we ask You to do it again.

As the Giver of grace, we need Your presence and assistance; Your good favor and great power. For whatever situation we face today, show us that Your strength is sufficient.

Within the hallowed walls of this Chamber, my colleagues and I gather to attend to the business of this great Nation. Since the beginning of our democracy, we have begun each day’s work petitioning our creator that we might know truth and have the wisdom and understanding to rightfully fulfill our duties. As Reverend Mays so eloquently stated in his prayer, our creator grants us grace and strength sufficient for our duties.

Reverend Mays continues to be a beacon for everyone who has crossed paths with him or who has made his acquaintance, including people in over 40 States where Roy ministered as an evangelist, also among the students, faculty and administration whose lives he has touched during 12 years of service at Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary. For the past 16 years, Reverend Mays has blessed thousands through the congregation at Lexington’s Southland Christian Church as the senior executive associate minister.

Additionally, it is said that the character of a person is reflected in the countenance of one’s spouse and children so it is with Roy and his lovely wife of 28 years, Beth, and his two children, Amanda and Ryan, who reflect the grace and peace engendered by mutual unconditional love.

Even after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer in 1999, Reverend Mays continues to touch the lives of those around him, refusing to allow his testimony to fade and his countenance to dim, even when struggling to overcome persistently failing health. He stands humbly but firm with God, and with God’s help of peace and perseverance during the most trying times of life. Through this example, countless others have received hope.

In this House, we pray alongside Reverend Roy Mays that we might be touched with both our Father’s healing grace and dealing grace. We are inspired by Reverend Mays’ unflagging faith and his steadfast confidence in God’s plan for all.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep appreciation that I recognize Roy Mays, not only for his service to us here today, but for his service to us all.