

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 15, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

Imam Yahya Hendi, Muslim Chaplain, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

A reading from the Holy Koran, the Muslims' Holy Scripture, chapter 5, verses 8 and 9:

"And remember the favor of God unto you, and His covenant, which He ratified with you, when you said: 'we hear and we obey.' Fear God, for God knows well the secrets of your hearts. O you of faith! Stand up firmly for God, as witnesses to fair dealings. Let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just, that is next to righteousness. Fear God for God is well-acquainted with all that you do."

And now let us bow our heads before God and pray:

Loving God!

Source of justice, goodness and generosity!

We ask You to guide the men and women of this Congress with Your divine light, to empower them with Your wisdom, to enable them to be agents of peace in this Nation and around the world.

Help them lead us to act as brothers and sisters. Empower them to help us work out our differences. Help them help us confront hatred wherever it exists that we all may live as one Nation, united, under God.

God!

Receive our thanks and hear our prayers. 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 Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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.

### WELCOMING IMAM YAHYA HENDI

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

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, as we begin Ramadan, we are especially pleased to have a Muslim Imam give our opening prayer to the House of Representatives. I am honored to welcome Imam Yahya Hendi as our guest chaplain this morning, and I thank him very much for those inspiring words and reading from the Koran.

Imam Hendi currently serves as the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, which is where I first heard him. He also serves as spokesman and member of the Islamic Jurisprudence Council of North America and directs the "PEACE" office of the Muslim American Society. Now an American citizen, Imam Hendi was born in Nablus in the Palestinian Territories and educated at the University of Jordan in Amman and the Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. He was one of the Muslim leaders who met with President Bush in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy.

I asked Chaplain Dan Coughlin to invite Imam Hendi to deliver our opening prayer today to mark the commencement of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal. Observance of Ramadan begins tomorrow evening at dusk, and fasting will commence at sunrise on Saturday.

There are 1.5 billion Muslims in the world, including almost 7 million in the United States alone. During these troubled times, I believe it is important to show all Muslims and the world our good will toward the Muslim community and our respect for the Islamic faith.

Again, our thanks and appreciation to Imam Yahya Hendi for offering our opening prayer this morning.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE GARY A. CONDIT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable GARY A. CONDIT, Member of Congress:

NOVEMBER 14, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that my office has been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

GARY A. CONDIT,  
Member of Congress.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There will be 10 one-minutes on each side today.

### WELCOMING IMAM YAHYA HENDI

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join in welcoming visiting chaplain Imam Hendi as we greet the onset of the holy month of Ramadan.

Islam is a way of life for millions of Americans, and we in the Congress want them and all Americans to know of our Nation's view that Islam should be understood as a faith that firmly upholds the values of respect for the individual human being, the value of the family, and justice for all. We join the growing American Muslim community in condemning those who try to tell us otherwise and who commit crimes against humanity in the name of Islam.

Congress has expressed itself formally in condemnation of those who, in the wake of the events of September 11, took illegal actions against people solely because they were, or seemed to be, Muslims. Moreover, we support the President in his forthright expressions against all such illegal actions, his prosecution of those who commit such crimes; and we join President Bush's assurances that our efforts in Operation Enduring Freedom against terrorism are not directed against Islam or against Muslims.

Mr. Speaker, to the contrary, we embrace our fellow citizens who are Muslims and all those of the Muslim faith who are temporary or permanent residents here as adherents of one of the three great religions in the monotheistic tradition.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this holy month, we extend our warmest greetings to the American Muslim community; and we wish them a blessed Ramadan.

☐ 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.