

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, Etchmiadzin, Armenia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Lord and God, light to all nations, help us walk in Your light to advance the cause of freedom and human dignity in America, where democracy has grown strong over two centuries, and in Armenia, a new republic with strong hopes, and to make wise decisions of law on behalf of real people and real pain.

Lord, bless the American people and their servants who bear the privilege and burden of leadership. Also bless the Armenian people who are celebrating the 1700th anniversary of their ancestors' proclamation of Christianity as a state religion in Armenia. Unite the diverse peoples of the world into one sacred family, that we might share our stories and dreams in Your Holy Name.

For to You is glory, power, and honor, always and unto the ages of ages. 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 Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS 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. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1727. An act to amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to provide for consistent treatment of survivor benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty.

H. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the East Front of the Capitol Grounds for performances sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 87. Concurrent resolution authorizing the 2001 District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be run through the Capitol Grounds.

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

S. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the designation of the week of May 20, 2001, as "National Emergency Medical Services Week".

S. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Book Festival.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, reappoints Michael K. Young, of Washington, D.C., to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-554, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, appoints the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) to the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation.

### WELCOME TO HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to come to the floor today and help welcome His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians. Welcome to the U.S. House of Representatives.

I thank His Holiness for offering such a wonderful prayer. I also want to thank the House chaplain for allowing the opportunity to celebrate this very special occasion.

His Holiness Karekin II is the 132nd in a continuous line of pontiffs of the Armenian Church dating back to the 4th century. As the chief shepherd of the world's 7 million Apostolic Christians, Catholicos Karekin II administers the Armenian Church from the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin located in the Republic of Armenia.

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of Armenia's conversion to Chris-

tianity. Armenians throughout America have waited with great anticipation for this special visit in celebration of this extraordinary anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I join all Armenian Americans and Armenian supporters throughout the United States in thanking His Holiness for making this trip to America and being with us here today.

### ARMENIA'S 1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROCLAIMING CHRISTIANITY AS OFFICIAL RELIGION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank His Holiness Karekin II for providing this morning's prayer and for helping this House celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the world's first Christian nation, Armenia. It was 1700 years ago that the leader of the Kingdom of Armenia, the pagan King Drtad III, was baptized as a Christian and made the historic decision to proclaim Christianity as the official religion of the Armenian kingdom. It is the anniversary of this event that brings His Holiness to the United States this month.

I will be fortunate to join him at what should be one of the largest gatherings of Armenian Americans in New York City's Central Park this upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

His Holiness will also be the honored guest at an ecumenical prayer service next week at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank His Holiness for gracing this House with his presence this morning and for making this trip to the United States. It not only means a lot to me but to the millions of diaspora Armenians and Americans of other faiths who will have the opportunity to hear his words during this visit.

### A CHILD'S SUCCESS IS DEPENDENT ON ABILITY TO READ

(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, a child's success in school and, indeed, in life is dependent upon his or her ability to read. Unfortunately, reading scores in most States have remained flat or even

☐ 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.