

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 6, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Ronald Auch, Pastor, Prayer House Assembly of God, Kenosha, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, I thank You for this day that You have given us. We hold Your name in reverence. As we look at our world with its various needs, we realize how wonderful it would be for Your kingdom to come into the hearts of all men. We pray for Your will to be accomplished. We are a needy people. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us also as a Nation for the times we trespassed others' rights. Make us willing to forgive those who have done the same to us. Keep us from truly evil activities so that we can be a moral standard to our children, our families, our Nation and the world. I pray that You would bless each of the Members of the House of Representatives this day. In Jesus' name. 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 New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SUNUNU 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.

REVEREND RONALD AUCH

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure of mine to be here to hear the words from Pastor Ron Auch from the Prayer House Assembly of God Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

It is a pleasure to celebrate the things that he has done on behalf of the residents of Kenosha County, and the fact that he was able to address the Nation in prayer this morning is a tribute to the sacrifices that he and his family have given to all of the folks in Kenosha.

Mr. Speaker, I know first hand the kinds of healing and gifts that he has done for constituents. He has helped friends of mine in their problems. He has brought the Savior into their lives and brought hope and spiritual healing to countless people.

Now he is building a new church, the Prayer House Assembly of God. It is 2 years old in Kenosha and up and running quite well. He has brought spiritual healing to the people of Kenosha, Wisconsin. I thank Pastor Ron for giving us a wonderful word to start our day's business today.

MARCUS BARTLETT HAS MADE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARTS AND MUSIC CULTURE

(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, I would like to thank Mr. Marcus Bartlett for his invaluable contributions to the arts and music culture in the South. Mark has been a long-time friend of Mary Plumer, a community activist in my congressional district. Involved in music and entertainment during his 50-year career, Mark has contributed to our American cultural and artistic heritage. He is viewed as a pioneer in radio, television, and cable. Mark is the former executive vice president of Cox Broadcasting Corporation.

In 1924, young Marcus went to Atlanta and began providing piano accompaniment for choral groups and orchestras that performed each day on "The Voice of the South."

Today, still guided by genuine generosity, he continues to dedicate his time to entertain senior citizens at retirement homes, hospitals, and churches in Atlanta.

I thank Mark for truly being in tune with the community spirit, and I wish him many more years of happiness and harmony.

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Post, President Bush was quoted as saying those who disagree with his faith-based initiatives "do not understand the power of faith." He then referred "to the skeptics of faith in our society."

Mr. Speaker, I personally respect the President and his right to offer his proposals. However, I do not think it is fair to question the religious faith of decent Americans who happen to disagree with his policy proposals. Challenging people's religious faith because of public policy differences is not a way to bring Americans together; rather it is a prescription for religious divisiveness.

Numerous groups such as the Baptist Joint Committee and the American Jewish Committee differ with the President on faith-based initiatives, not because they question the power of faith, but because they want to prevent government from regulating our faith.

As we proceed in the debate on faith-based initiatives, I urge all sides to focus on the specific issues at hand and not to challenge the religious faith of those with differing views of conscience.

REMEMBERING THE SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR SOLDIERS ON JUNE 6, 1944, D-DAY

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind our citizens of the sacrifices made by our soldiers on June 6, 1944, D-Day.

Mr. Speaker, on that day the war in Europe reached a dramatic turning point. The Americans and British invaded France from the air and sea. They brought with them a respect for the law, human rights, and democracy. Only through their sacrifice was France and later Europe freed from the grips of an evil tyrant.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fitting tribute on the eve of D-Day's 57th anniversary that the President signed The Veterans Opportunities Act of 2001. I was honored to have my language included from H.R. 1015 to retroactively increase the maximum benefit for SGLI coverage, and I am grateful that on this day when so many soldiers gave their lives to secure freedom for Europe, that we were able to help the families of those killed in tragic accidents.

Mr. Speaker, this would not have been possible without the critical support of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

□ 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.