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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Very Reverend Ernesto Medina, Provost, Cathedral Center of St. Paul, Los Angeles, California, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, in Your word You have given us a vision of that holy city to which the nations of the world bring their glory. Behold and visit, we pray, the communities on this Earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity.

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious and whose law is truth: We pray You so to guide and bless our Representatives in Congress assembled, that they may enact such laws as shall please You, to the glory of Your name and the welfare of this people; in Your holy name we pray. 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 California (Mr. BECERRA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BECERRA 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 with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1588. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 1588) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. PRYOR, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

S. 1047. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1048. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 1049. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for defense activities of

the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING THE VERY REVEREND ERNESTO MEDINA

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to introduce our guest chaplain, the Very Reverend Ernesto R. Medina of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Los Angeles, California. Reverend Medina is an ordained minister and a graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific as well as the University of California at San Diego.

Reverend Medina is more than just the pastor of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul. He is neighbor, friend, and indispensable spiritual leader in the community of Echo Park in Los Angeles. He is the first Latino to be appointed as a provost within the Episcopalian Church in this country. Reverend Medina has demonstrated a leadership style that has endeared him not only to the members of his congregation and the community of Echo Park but also to those throughout the community of Los Angeles who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

Not long ago, there was a collapse of an apartment building not far from the Cathedral Center where, were it not for the efforts of Reverend Medina, several families would have been left homeless. But quickly, Reverend Medina and the parishioners of the Cathedral Center came forward and offered families with small children a place to stay and a place to eat. Today the parish of Cathedral Center is much blessed by the work that has been done by Reverend Medina. His compassion not only for the residents of Echo Park but for all of Los Angeles has exemplified the type of work that is done by the Episcopalian Church. I am very proud to

□ 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.



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