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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, Pastor, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we call upon You this cold December morning. You are Light of Lights and Light From Light. You are the Light who pierces the perennial darkness of our world, the darkness of our mind and soul, the darkness of a world at war. Because of You, O living and true God, we live, walk, and have our being. You are Emmanuel, God-with-us.

We pray to You this day that passage from the Advent prophet Isaiah: "Let justice descend, O heavens, like the dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it down. Let earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up."

We pray also for peace. Peace in our world begins with peace in our hearts. And peace in our hearts comes from You, Almighty Father. Draw near to us and grant us Your peace.

Encourage us, O Lord, in this holy season in all our humble efforts carried out in Your life-giving name, O Prince

of Peace and Light, Lord of Justice. 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MYRICK 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.

INTRODUCTION OF REVEREND MONSIGNOR PETER VAGHI

(Mr. FERGUSON asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monsignor Peter Vaghi for his dedicated service to St. Patrick's Church here in Washington, D.C.

Monsignor Vaghi was born here in Washington, D.C., and attended Gonzaga College High School and the College of the Holy Cross, where he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the University of Salzburg in Austria.

Returning home to America, he went on to get his juris doctor at the University of Virginia Law School and worked in Washington, D.C., before he answered a calling to the priesthood and attended the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy.

Monsignor Vaghi was ordained a Catholic priest on June 29, 1985, and designated a "Prelate of Honor" by Pope John Paul II on November 13, 1995.

NOTICE—DECEMBER 20, 2001

A final issue of the Congressional Record for the 107th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on January 3, 2002, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the office of the Official Reporters of Debates, Room 1718 Longworth House Office Building by noon January 3, 2002. The House Office of the Official Reporters will be open in 1718 Longworth House Office Building December 26, 27, 28 and January 2 and 3 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The final issue will be dated January 3, 2002, and will be delivered on Friday, January 4, 2002.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event that occurred after the sine die date.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

MARK DAYTON, *Chairman*.

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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Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to welcome Monsignor Vaghi to this House. He is not only a family friend, but he also gave my wife Maureen and me the honor of officiating at our wedding in 1996. I thank him for being here today. His presence and his blessing on this House and on our work here means so very much to me and to every Member of this body.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3338, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 324 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 324

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and granted a normal conference report rule for H.R. 3338, the Fiscal Year 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. In addition, the rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, this should not be a controversial rule. It is the type of rule we grant for every conference report we consider in the House. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), who is managing this rule for the minority, understands the importance of a strong national defense, and I am sure I do not need to convince him or anyone else that this bill is important, now more than ever before.

At a time when we are facing terrorism at home and engaged in combat abroad, we need to give our government the tools to defend us overseas and at home. This bill does just that. It provides our military with \$317 billion in much-needed support, including a 4.6 percent pay raise; and the supplemental portion of the bill will bolster our fight against terrorism by providing much-needed funding for border

patrols, port security, bioterrorism prevention, and the FBI.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, this bill contains our strong support for the people of New York by providing another \$8.2 billion in disaster assistance, including \$2 billion in community development block grants.

Mr. Speaker, we are about to go home for the holidays and after the events of this fall, I cannot think of a better thing to do before we leave town than to provide for our armed forces, for our fight against terrorism, and for the victims of September 11.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the brave men and women of the U.S. military are halfway around the world waging and winning the war on terrorism. Their courage and professionalism are a fitting tribute to the strength and unity of the United States of America. Meanwhile, here at home, domestic security has become our top priority, and thanks to the funding priorities in this conference report, America will now be better prepared to prevent, defend against, and recover from any future terrorist attacks.

I am very pleased that the conference report more closely reflects Democratic priorities on homeland defense than was provided in the House-passed bill. Specifically, it provides more funding for nuclear, border, port, aviation and bioterrorism priorities. On bioterrorism alone, Democrats were able to secure \$2.5 billion, \$1 billion more than the President requested. While additional funding will be necessary to fully address other domestic security needs, this conference report is a good start.

Mr. Speaker, here in Congress, there has always been strong bipartisan support for America's armed forces. The history of this defense appropriations bill reflects that fact.

Last month, the House Committee on Appropriations reported its original version of H.R. 3338, and the full House passed it by a vote of 406 to 20. I am confident that another large bipartisan majority will pass this conference report today. That is because Democrats and Republicans are strongly committed to America's national defense and to a first-rate military that carries it out. As the President said yesterday in addressing House Democrats, security of the United States is not a partisan issue.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good conference report, and I support it. I would like to commend the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG); the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking Democrat; the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS); and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, for the tremendous job they have done to support America's troops and to protect Americans here at home.

This conference report provides \$478 million to combat chemical and biological attacks against the military and \$404 million for the Nunn-Lugar nuclear nonproliferation program. It provides for a significant military pay raise and for substantial increases in critical readiness accounts; and it strengthens research for tomorrow's weapons and equipment while providing the weapons and equipment the U.S. military needs today.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased by the substantial quality-of-life improvements funded by this conference report. It includes funding for a significant pay raise of between 5 and 10 percent for every member of the military. And to boost critical midlevel personnel retention, much of the pay raise will be directed towards junior officers. It also significantly increases funding for health benefits for service members and their families.

I am also pleased that this conference report continues to fund the wide range of weapons programs that ensure our military's superiority throughout the world. For instance, it includes more than \$2.6 billion for the initial production of 13 of the F-22 Raptor aircraft, the next-generation air dominance fighter for the Air Force. The conference report also provides \$882 million for research and development for this aircraft.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the conference report provides \$1.5 billion for continued development of the Joint Strike Fighter, the high-technology multirole fighter of the future for the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marines. It also includes \$1.04 billion for procurement of 11 MV-22 Osprey aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, all of these aircraft are important components in our national arsenal, and moving forward on the research and production sends a clear signal that the United States has no intention of relinquishing our air superiority.

The first duty of the Congress, Mr. Speaker, is to provide for the national defense and the men and women who protect it. This conference report does a great deal to improve military readiness and to improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform as well as their families. It is a good first step at providing the needed funding to ensure that attacks like those that occurred on September 11 will never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I wish we could have done more, but Republican leaders insisted that many homeland security priorities wait until next year. I hope they will allow us to address the remaining priorities as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this rule and of this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.