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House of Representatives

The House met at 1 p.m.

The Reverend Ralph Clay, Christ's Community Church, Portsmouth, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we have gathered here today to seek Your wisdom and guidance as the House convenes. I pray for President Bush as he leads this great country. Give him the strength and courage necessary to perform the duties of his office. Thank You, almighty God, for the blessing of living in a free Nation. May we always be grateful for freedom. May our citizens know peace. May our hurting know compassion. May our leaders discern between good and evil and have the courage to stand for that which is good.

Almighty God, unify us, protect us, and cause us to trust in You with all our hearts.

Bless this House today as they carry out the responsibility of governing this great country, the United States of America. This I 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 Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PORTMAN 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 a bill and a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1053. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S.J. Res. 18. Joint resolution commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years.

WELCOME TO PASTOR RALPH CLAY

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome our guest pastor today, Pastor Ralph Clay. We are very thankful for his presence and for his humble ministry to God.

Pastor Clay joins us today from Christ Community Church in Portsmouth, Ohio. Pastor Clay is a respected faith leader there and also a respected community leader who has made life better for those living in Portsmouth, Ohio, and the surrounding areas. In fact, I just learned this past weekend Pastor Clay and Christ Community Church made life a lot easier for single parents, regardless of whether they were members of his church or not. They offered a variety of free services from financial counseling and diabetes screening to oil changes for single parents, and they had a great response.

As an ordained minister for 38 years and a gospel singer since age 6, and I have heard his voice and it is beautiful; he has been active in his community his entire life. He has been involved with the local housing authority, the public library, the inner-city development corporation, and is a member of the Pastoral Care at Southern Ohio Medical Center.

Pastor Clay has been married to his wonderful wife, Marilyn, who is with us today, for 39 years. They have four children and two grandchildren. He is an outstanding family man, minister, and member of his community. It was humbling for all of us, I know, to hear his inspired message this afternoon in this historic Chamber.

Thank you, Reverend Clay, for joining us.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER AT ANY TIME ON OCTOBER 15, 2003, TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE FOR 30 MINUTES

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that at any time on the legislative day of October 15, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) may be recognized to address the House for 30 minutes.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER AT ANY TIME ON OCTOBER 15, 2003, TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE FOR 30 MINUTES

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that at any time on the legislative day of October 15, 2003, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) may be recognized to address the House for 30 minutes.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

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