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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Hank Wilkins IV, St. James United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of love and mercy, God of power and God of might, today we pray the understanding to always seek Your wisdom and justice. It is through Your authority, righteously administered, that our leaders are enabled to govern this Nation with laws enacted for our betterment.

And so today we pray for Your spirit, that they might be properly guided by Your divine charity and an unassuming faithfulness.

Give both counsel and courage to the leaders of this great body and its Members, as well as other government leaders of these United States of America.

May they always seek Your purpose and the well-being of this great people. Grant now Your unfathomable protection, that they lead our country with the honesty of providence and the integrity of high ideals.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND HANK WILKINS, IV

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Ross) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize my dear friend, Rev. Dr. and State Senator Hank Wilkins IV, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who just delivered our opening prayer and is our guest chaplain of the day.

Rev. Dr. Wilkins' deep faith and dedication to his community and State is an inspiration to all of us who know him.

Throughout his 31 years in the ministry, Rev. Dr. Wilkins has emphasized the need for faith in our daily lives.

I'm proud to have had the distinct honor to serve with Hank in the Arkansas State legislature. As both senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church and as an Arkansas State Senator, Reverend Wilkins puts the people he represents first and is a true ambassador for Arkansas.

It's been a blessing for me to know Hank and his wife, Phyllis, and their family, and I hope that this message of compassion, this prayer of compassion and respect for others will be one that we all strive to achieve.

As we go about doing the work of the people, let us remember the prayer Rev. Dr. State Senator Hank Wilkins delivered on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on this day.

CALENDAR WEDNESDAY

The SPEAKER. Today is the day of Calendar Wednesday. The Clerk will call the roll of committees.

The Clerk called the committees.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PASS THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, during the past year, I had the high honor of working with Republicans and Democrats alike in the House Agriculture Committee to bring forward a new reform-minded bill, one that would be great for the health of the American people and Wisconsin's agricultural economy.

I'm pleased to be able to say the farm bill has the overwhelming support of Members of Congress, the farming communities everywhere, and business leaders alike.

The new farm bill we intend to pass today will be good for our health and our economy, and as a physician, I'm pleased to say that it will begin to move our children's diets away from carbohydrates and more towards the healthier choices, including fruits and vegetables.

It will also reward work instead of wealth by dramatically reducing income caps for those qualifying for direct payments.

More importantly, this bill will determine what farmers plant, what they grow, and ultimately, what we eat and what we look like.

The new farm bill also rewards the use of cellulosic biofuels which will help ease the strain on rising food prices.

I urge all of my colleagues to support it in the strongest fashion.

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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