

care. As we all know, in America, the sicker you are, the more you must pay in out-of-pocket costs. Passage of this bill means veterans and their caretakers will be able to live with less financial stress.

This bill also increases funding to expand VA clinics in rural areas where VA programs currently do not exist. Veterans living in rural areas must often travel hundreds of miles in order to receive care at a Veterans hospital—a crushing burden for veterans who need frequent health care services, and must pay for expensive travel due to increasing transportation costs.

The bill will also help address the many hardships and sacrifices associated with the lengthy recovery and rehabilitation associated with severe injuries. In particular, the bill improves access to counseling and mental health services. S. 1963 also provides health care and a stipend for caregivers living with severely wounded veterans of the wars Iraq and Afghanistan. This stipend should help reduce the enormous financial pressures on caregivers who are providing food, clothing, transportation, and housing to their wounded loved ones during one of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression.

Again, I thank the Democratic leadership for introducing this important bill, which will go a long way in improving the lives of scores of veterans and their caregivers for years to come. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. FILNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1963, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND DANIEL P. COUGHLIN ON 10TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS HOUSE CHAPLAIN

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1216) congratulating Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin on his 10th year of service as Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1216

Whereas Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin has served honorably and faithfully as Chaplain of the House of Representatives since being sworn in as the 59th Chaplain on March 23, 2000;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin was born on November 8, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin graduated from St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, Illinois, becoming a Licentiate of Sacred Theology in 1960, and from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, with a degree in Pastoral Studies in 1968;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin was ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 3, 1960;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin was appointed the first Director of the Office for Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Chicago;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin spent a year-long sabbatical in residence with the Trappist monks of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, and served the poor through the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, in 1984;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin served as scholar-in-residence at North American College in Vatican City;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin was pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in La Grange, Illinois, from 1985 through 1990;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin worked as Vicar for Priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago under both Joseph Cardinal Bernardin and Francis Cardinal George from 1995 through 2000;

Whereas the Office of the Chaplain of the House of Representatives has served the House since May 1, 1789;

Whereas Reverend Coughlin is the first person of Roman Catholic faith to hold the Office of Chaplain of the House of Representatives; and

Whereas Reverend Coughlin opens proceedings in the House of Representatives with prayer, and additionally provides pastoral counseling and arranges memorial services for the House and its staff: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin on his 10th year of faithful service as Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous matter on House Resolution 1216.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes the Reverend Daniel Coughlin. Where is he?

Come on, Father. Come on up if you're watching. We want to see you.

This resolution recognizes the service of Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin as the Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rev. Coughlin was sworn in as the 59th Chaplain of the House of Representatives on March 23 of the year 2000. The passing of that date this year marked a decade of providing spiritual counseling and prayer to both Members and staff. Rev. Coughlin follows in a

tradition that has served this House since May 1, 1789, when Rev. William Linn was elected Chaplain of the House.

I urge all Members to support this resolution and to support Father Coughlin.

I would like to mention that Father Coughlin is the first Roman Catholic to serve this House, and as not necessarily the best Roman Catholic in the world, I will tell you that I have the deepest appreciation for what Father Coughlin has done for this House as our Chaplain, as a friend and also in service to this country. I've had many personal discussions with him, and I will tell you, in my opinion, if more of our religious leaders had the same demeanor, the same personality, the same openheartedness, the same attempt to understand the differences between us, and the same obvious willingness to forgive our differences and our difficulties, I think this world would be a much better place.

I will tell you that I not only want to congratulate him on his 10 years, but I also want to personally thank him for the many services rendered to so many Members of this House and for his ability to stand in such an esteemed position and to earn the respect of the Members here.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join others in expressing our support for House Resolution 1216, congratulating our Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel Coughlin, on his 10th year of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. I think the only thing Father Coughlin is going to be upset about is that we're going to reveal his age here on the floor today.

Since the very first Congress, Members of the House have benefited from the services of chaplains and ministers. Throughout history, they have helped all of us, the individuals serving in the Congress. They have helped us navigate our responsibilities to the American people, and they have aided us in our quest to integrate faith and reason in our execution of the law.

As has been mentioned, Father Coughlin is the first Roman Catholic House Chaplain. Following after the Reverend James Ford, Father Coughlin has diligently, humbly, compassionately, and intelligently served this House, its Members, our families, and this Nation.

Born during the Great Depression, Father Coughlin has a prestigious record, one that demonstrates his deep desire to heal a broken society. A graduate of St. Mary of the Lake University in Illinois, he was ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago in the spring of 1960. In addition to serving as a pastor and as a director in various offices within the Chicago diocese, Father Coughlin has studied world religions, has lived with Trappist monks, has

worked with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, and has served as scholar-in-residence at the North American College in Rome.

We wouldn't ask him which of those he enjoyed the most and whether it was more difficult working among the Members of Congress or living with the Trappist monks. As a matter of fact, I recall that no one has ever compared us to the Trappist monks.

In March 2000, he was sworn in during the 106th Congress as the 59th Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Father Coughlin has brought a wealth of experience, education, and discernment to this House. We have all benefited from his wisdom, from his patience, and from his kindness. We are right to honor the 10 years of service that Father Coughlin has given us thus far, and I believe that we all wish him many more days with us as we deliberate in the people's body of this soft-governing Republic. There is no doubt we need his help.

I thank the sponsor of the resolution, Congressman LIPINSKI, and I thank the chairman of our subcommittee for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I would urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution. Hopefully, we will get a unanimous vote.

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for yielding as it is an honor for me to join my colleagues in honoring Father Daniel Coughlin on his 50th year in the priesthood and 10 years as our House Chaplain.

□ 1130

Father Daniel Coughlin was honored last weekend by the Archdiocese of Chicago marking 50 years since his ordination, the last 10 years of which he has served as Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am pleased to join as a cosponsor with Mr. LIPINSKI and the rest of my colleagues in the House to recognize Father Coughlin on this achievement.

Father Daniel Coughlin is the first Roman Catholic House Chaplain since the position was created in 1774. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 3, 1960, and for the next 5 years served as an associate pastor for St. Raymond Parish in Mount Prospect, Illinois, before becoming an associate pastor at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral. In 1969, he was appointed as the first director of the Archdiocese's Office for Divine Worship.

In 1984, Father Coughlin took a year-long sabbatical, as my colleagues have noted, which sent him to serve with the Trappist monks in Kentucky, counsel the poor in Calcutta, and serve as a scholar-in-residence at North American College in Vatican City in Rome.

Following his sabbatical, Father Coughlin served as pastor of St.

Francis Xavier Parish in La Grange, Illinois, and became Director of the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein, Illinois. Father Coughlin worked as Vicar for Priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago under both Cardinal Bernardin and Cardinal George, a position he held until he became House Chaplain.

When former Speaker Dennis Hastert looked to Cardinal George as he searched for the next House Chaplain, one of the names that Cardinal George kept mentioning was Father Coughlin. First interviewed on March 13, 2000, Father Coughlin was sworn in just 10 days later.

Just as there were those who questioned whether President Kennedy, as the Nation's first Catholic President, could govern without forcing his Catholicism on the Nation, there were those who questioned whether a Catholic Chaplain could appropriately serve the House. Father Coughlin has proven through his counsel of Members and the staff of many different faiths and varying degrees of spirituality that those concerns were and are unfounded. Many have benefited from his ecumenical approach as House Chaplain. Father Coughlin goes beyond the requirements of House Chaplain to make sure the spiritual needs of all Members, regardless of their faith, are met.

In addition to the Members of this Chamber, Father Coughlin has provided support to countless House Members, their staffs, and families during their time of need. In fact, right after Father Coughlin was sworn in as the House Chaplain, unfortunately, I lost my son, and Father Coughlin, who really didn't know me or my son that well, certainly provided great comfort to us in a great time of distress for us. And a few years ago, my Chief of Staff's mother was battling cancer, which took a toll on him and their family. Father Coughlin not only kept Scott and his mother, Pat, in his prayers but went above and beyond that, often writing heartfelt notes to both of them. Neither of them Catholic, the gesture from Father Coughlin meant a great deal to Pat in her final days and still means a great deal to Scott to this day.

Father Coughlin has offered insightful counsel to Members of this Chamber through some of the most difficult events in our recent history. He has provided spiritual guidance to those who sought it as they grappled with some of the biggest issues facing our country.

Therefore, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in supporting this resolution to honor the contributions and service of Father Daniel Coughlin as House Chaplain, as a spiritual leader, and congratulate him on his 50 years of service to the church and to the members who make up the church.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, now it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSEN-

BRENNER), a distinguished Episcopalian Member of this House who is also a heartfelt friend and admirer of Father Coughlin.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of this resolution.

A lot of times people come to Members of Congress saying, Why do you need to have a Chaplain? And I tell them that we need to have a Chaplain here because of the tremendous pressures that are put on Members of Congress and their families, whether it's politically, whether it's spiritually, whether we have family crises and things like that, and in order to keep the Members of Congress grounded so that they can better discharge their duties, we need to have someone to talk to and to counsel us from a spiritual standpoint.

Father Dan Coughlin has done that for the last 10 years. He is the first Roman Catholic priest who has been named as a Chaplain to the House of Representatives, and there was a lot of chatter about that at the time, but I would just remind everybody that most of his predecessors as Chaplain were ordained in specific non-Roman Catholic denominations and they had the same job in dealing with Members of all faiths, and sometimes even no faith at all, and their families when times of crises came, whether it be a personal crisis or a political crisis. And I think that in the last 10 years, a tribute to Father Coughlin's immense talents is the fact that he is universally respected in this House of Representatives and beyond. And I can say personally that I think I am a better person for having known Father Coughlin and having been counseled by him.

Father Coughlin also is respected in his home diocese in Chicago. Last Saturday my wife, Cheryl, and I accepted his invitation to join him and others at a mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. There were many priests celebrating with him, the church was filled, and it was an extremely moving demonstration of the respect that Father Coughlin has both with his colleagues as priests in Chicago as well as the laity that did show up to fill the chapel at the Archbishop Quigley Center. Cardinal Francis George, who is Father Coughlin's ecclesiastical boss, showed up during the reception, and I think that his presence there also is a tribute to the fact that Father Coughlin had done a very, very good job in Chicago before he was plucked by former Speaker Hastert to become our Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

All that being said, this House is in Father Coughlin's debt for the work that he has done with us as an institution, has done with us as individuals, regardless of what our faith is, and has done with our families in helping keep our personal lives as well as our official lives in a proper perspective. We are much in debt to Father Coughlin for

that, and I hope he is with us for many more years, rather than days, to come.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the author of the resolution, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution congratulating and thanking the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin for his 10 years of service as Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

For the past decade, Father Coughlin has admirably fulfilled his duties as Chaplain, blessing this Chamber with his thoughtful, eloquent prayers, conducting prayer meetings and spiritual exercises, and, most importantly, fortifying Members, their families, and congressional staff with his wise and generous counsel.

March 23 marked the 10th anniversary of Father Coughlin's swearing in as the 59th Chaplain of the House of Representatives and, most importantly, as some of my colleagues have mentioned, the first Catholic to hold this position. If you look back to the day that Father Coughlin assumed office, Pope John Paul II was visiting Israel for the first time. Gas was under \$2 a gallon. And a certain attorney from the South Side of Chicago, the newspapers were just reporting on his bid, unsuccessfully, to join this body. It was indeed a long time ago and a lot has changed in those 10 years, but through it all Father Coughlin has responded to the demands of history, tradition, and faith with great devotion.

As many residents of my district in the Chicago region know, Father Coughlin's service dates back far beyond what he has rendered here over the past decade. In fact, just this past Saturday, as Representative SENSENBRENNER was just mentioning, I also had the opportunity, with my wife, Judy, to be a part of the celebration of Father Coughlin's 50th anniversary as a Catholic priest.

Father Coughlin grew up on the North Side of Chicago and knew from a young age he would become a priest. He received degrees from St. Mary of the Lake University and Loyola University.

He was a parish priest before he was named the first Director of the Office of Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1969. His time during his year-long sabbatical, spending 5 months at a Trappist monastery in Kentucky, serving the poor in India, and serving as scholar-in-residence at North American College in Vatican City really shows the breadth and the depth of Father Coughlin's abilities. Upon his return, he spent 5 years as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in La Grange in my district. I know that he is much beloved at his parish at St. Francis. I hear about it very often from many of my constituents and friends. Following this, he became Vicar for Priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield 1 more minute to the gentleman.

Mr. LIPINSKI. After 4 decades of service, Father Coughlin was appointed House Chaplain by Illinois' own former Speaker, Dennis Hastert, on the recommendation of Cardinal Francis George. In announcing his choice, former Speaker Hastert predicted that "Daniel Coughlin will bring to the House a caring and healing heart." The past 10 years has shown that he was undoubtedly correct. I know this from my own time in the House, having seen and experienced this. My own experiences with Father Coughlin range from the opportunity I had with him 5 years ago this week in Rome to be a part of the inauguration of Pope Benedict XVI and also the many conversations I have had with Father Coughlin on what is currently happening in Chicago, including how his ageless mother and her Chicago Cubs are doing. I think this connection, being a Catholic from Chicago, has really especially made our relationship close over these 5-plus years I have been in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield 1 more minute to the gentleman.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, Father Coughlin's devotion to his faith and spiritual welfare of his fellow men and women is an inspiration. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Father Dan, I am glad to see that you have been able to join us, and I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to rise today to pay tribute to our Chaplain, Father Dan Coughlin, whom we honor today in his 10th year of service as House Chaplain and as its 59th Chaplain. On this occasion, I also wish to express my personal deep appreciation for Father Coughlin's steadfast support and wise counsel.

Public service in its essence demands much from those called to responsibility for the future of our Nation. It presents many weighty challenges that call upon Members of Congress to live out the transcendent principles that mark the immutable character of our great republic.

Father Dan works tirelessly to focus our attention on the values that actually do unite us at a time when so many forces seek to divide us. He challenges us to animate our drive for truth with compassion and to fortify our quest for compassion with truth. Members and staff have come to rely upon his insight, his openness, his unique ability to lead people of all faith traditions to thought-provoking introspection, based upon a lifetime dedicated to understanding the profound motivations of the human heart.

Called upon so often to help us and our families shoulder the burdens of state at discordant times in our history and particularly given the challenging time in the history of our world now, Father Coughlin exemplifies what it means to be a selfless servant and a true peacemaker. We are indeed fortunate for the grace of his presence among us, and it is an honor and privilege to acknowledge his 10 years of service to this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by reading an excerpt of the prayer that Father Coughlin delivered on September 12, 2001, which I do believe remains as relevant today as it was then.

"Send forth Your Holy Spirit, Lord, upon all Members of Congress, the President, and all government leaders across this Nation. Free them of fear, any prejudice whatsoever, remove all doubt and confusion from their minds. With clear insight which comes from You and You alone, reveal all that is unholy and renew the desire of Your people to live lives of deepening faith, unbounding commitment, and lasting freedom here where liberty has made her home.

"We place our trust in You now and forever. Amen."

Thank you, Father Coughlin, for your outstanding service.

□ 1145

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the Speaker of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him and Mr. LUNGREN for bringing this important resolution to the floor. It is indeed a joy for us to salute our friend, our Chaplain, but our friend, Father Coughlin.

I am rarely in awe of anybody's opportunity. As the Speaker of the House, I am afforded many. But when Mr. SENSENBRENNER said that he and his wife Cheryl were present at the 50th anniversary of Father's ordination as a priest, I was frankly jealous. What a great honor for you to be there. What a great honor for Father Coughlin that you were there. And Mr. LIPINSKI, the maker of this motion, he was there as well. So we were proud to be represented in a bipartisan way at that celebration. And it was a reflection of the esteem that we all have for Father Coughlin in this House.

Father Coughlin has told me with great pride—now, not usually a proud man, usually a humble man—with great pride that 35 priests concelebrated the Mass that celebrated Father Coughlin's 50th anniversary of his celebration. How proud we all are of you.

But the proudest person in the world is Father's mother Lucille, 95 years old. To see her precious son 50 years a priest of the church, for 10 years the Chaplain of this House of Representatives, the first Catholic. It's really a remarkable achievement.

Every day of those 10 years when Father has opened the House with a prayer we have all listened attentively because we know that we will be guided well, that he will be our anchor, he will inspire us with words that reflect the values of faith and country.

His particular strength I believe springs from a sense of humility that he conveys. After his ordination, he spent time at a Trappist monastery in Kentucky, building strength and his religion and his faith. He spent time working among the poor in Calcutta, India, again living his faith.

St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of my City of San Francisco, has said, "Preach the Gospel. Sometimes use words." While using words or deeds, Father Coughlin has been preaching the Gospel for these many decades. And we have been blessed that his path has crossed ours in this Congress.

Every Sunday in Catholic churches, and I know in other Christian churches as well, we hear the words "Do this in memory of me," the words of Christ at the Last Supper. But I view it as not just about doing what happened at that Last Supper, but doing the good works that Christ performed here and set as an example for us.

And every day in saying the Mass, Father Coughlin does this in memory of Christ. But beyond the Mass, in his personal guidance to us and his work among the poor in India and his prayerfulness in the Trappist monastery in Kentucky, in his stint—is that the word, stint, Father, in Vatican City?—his stay in Vatican City, his enrichment, the enrichment of his faith and religiosity became more intense.

So we are all grateful to Dennis Hastert as Speaker of the House and the committee that worked with him to make the choice of what would be a new Chaplain for us 10 years ago. We were blessed that Father Coughlin had worked with Cardinal Bernardin in Chicago and Cardinal George after that, and he was recommended to our former Speaker, who was from Illinois and was well known to the people in Chicago. That connection is a connection that has blessed all of our lives.

So as we honor his 10 years of service to the Congress, that is a small number of years—I mean it is a long time to be in Congress and to serve as Chaplain—he has seen us through the dark and through the bright. He has helped us personally, and he has helped us understand our responsibilities to God's creation. And he has always understood. His generosity of spirit has given him an understanding so that when he speaks to any of us we know that we are hearing words of wisdom, words of values, words that are faith-based, but words that recognize our responsibilities to this great Nation as elected officials. He knows to render unto Caesar and to render unto God. We could not be better served.

And so it is with great joy that I join our colleagues, some little regret that fate had not placed me in a situation

where I could be where Mr. SENSENBRENNER and his wife Cheryl were last weekend, and Mr. LIPINSKI and 35 concelebrants of the Mass of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the 50th anniversary of—how could it be 50 years, Father?

Congresswoman ESHOO and I were just talking about when we all went together in a bipartisan delegation to Rome for the funeral of Pope John Paul, and what a moving experience that was. And what a force you were for all of us. To have us see the role that His Holiness played in history of course is well known to us. And I just want to mention Paula Nowakowski here, former staff person to JOHN BOEHNER, for whom John Paul II was a hero, as he was a personal hero to many of us. But the guide that you were to us to that funeral, to that liturgy, to that transition is something that we will never forget.

So for this and for every reason every single day that we serve, we thank you. Anyone who cares about the success of our Nation and our ability to work together is deeply indebted to you. Thank you, Father Coughlin. God has certainly blessed America with your service to this House and to our country. We love you. Thank you.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts and the authors of this resolution honoring our Chaplain, Father Daniel Coughlin.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of Father Coughlin coming to the House, I think of the moment 10 years ago when our previous Chaplain had retired and the Speaker and the Minority Leader appointed a committee to come up with a recommendation. There was some turmoil that was a part of that. But I have always believed that the Spirit's hand was in this. And who came forward but Father Coughlin from Chicago?

Everyone has spoken about what he did before he came here. But essentially, Father Coughlin was a parish priest. And so from all of the experience that he had in tending that flock, he came to tend a new one, and that is the United States House of Representatives. And tend this flock he has.

As Mr. SENSENBRENNER said, there are many constituents that have asked why does the United States House of Representatives need a Chaplain? Look up above the Speaker's chair. It says, "In God we trust." But many times what happens to human beings really shakes that trust. So the Chaplain of the House is the one that tends to each one. How important that is in not only the dark times, the dark periods in individuals' lives where they need the spiritual guidance, the support, the love, the quiet time, the trust with someone that will never break that trust. That is what Father Coughlin

has done on an individual basis with Members throughout the House.

It matters not, as was said before, what faith background any Member comes from, and even if they don't have any faith background. That guidance feeds the soul and it helps to heal each person here that has gone through something traumatic in order to resume the public duties that are filled with burdens and blessings as Members of Congress. But there are national times of stress and burden, and he has been with us throughout those times as well.

Fifty years as a priest. I can't help but think of the words that are said at ordination. "Thou art a priest forever." And 50 years. What a great blessing. An even greater blessing for your mother, Father Coughlin, to be present when you were ordained, throughout your priesthood, and 50 years, 10 years of that priesthood here with the United States House of Representatives. We honor you and we thank you for it.

And as a Roman Catholic, I want you to know that you are a special source of pride. But that pride I think is really felt by the entire House. Thank you for your quiet faith, for your steely faith, for the prayers that you offer here that when each one of us take those to heart it's a road map. It's a road map because it is faith that calls us to everything that we do in life. And today in 2010 in the 21st century those words of faith are our reality. And it calls us to do better for our country and people around the world.

So God bless you and thank you for your 50 years and your 10 sterling years here.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is somewhat ironic that we are recognizing Father Coughlin's service to our Nation and to this House as the Chaplain of the House of Representatives in the same week that a Federal judge has instructed us that the National Day of Prayer is somehow unconstitutional.

I look and I see, Mr. Speaker, over your head the words "In God we trust," the national motto, which indicates that one does not have to be a person of faith to be an American citizen. But the idea of the worth of the individual and the idea that the rights of the individual came from God and not from some monarch is essential to the understanding of the beginnings of this Republic. And from the beginnings of this Republic we have had a Chaplain ministering to the needs of the Members. It is not a new idea or novel idea. It is an idea that is firmly entrenched in the tradition of this institution and this country. Father Coughlin has been a great example of that tradition. And we hope he continues.

I might say that he ministers to all of us no matter what party of which we are a member, but I sort of enjoy the fact that he ministers to those of us on

this side since I found myself in the minority on most of the years I have served here, and therefore by definition the underdog. So when I met Father Coughlin's great mother, who is dedicated to the great underdog of all time, the Chicago Cubs, I felt some kinship.

And I thought it interesting just a couple of years ago when Father told me that his mother, in her nineties, still serves as an usher at Wrigley Field. But to show you the ability that Father has to take a situation that may be fraught with some peril and give guidance, he told me that he finally convinced his mother that she should not be ushering both ends of a doubleheader. So that we do understand that she now goes home after the first game of a doubleheader at Wrigley Field.

□ 1200

It is that type of pragmatic guidance, combined with the great spiritual principles, that makes him such a great friend to all of us here in the House of Representatives, and allows us to do our job with a little more civility than we otherwise would, understanding that what we do is important, maybe we're not that important, even though we might be from time to time in our minds.

He reminds us of transcendent values and helps us through very difficult days with an objective of helping us to do the people's business here in the House of Representatives.

It is a pleasure and a privilege for me to serve in the House of Representatives. It is a privilege and a pleasure for me to have the friendship of Father Coughlin and the assistance of Father Coughlin as he gives that to all of us who serve here.

And so I would hope that all Members would join us in supporting House Resolution 1216.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, we've heard lots of good things about Father Coughlin, but there are still a few mysteries left that he has to help us unravel. I will tell you, Father, with good faith, with a lot of prayer sometime, and a good team, the Cubs will actually win a World Series. As a Red Sox fan, I can tell you it works.

Father, the other great mystery, as a good Irishman myself, you're going to have to explain to me Coughlin versus Coughlin. That will come later.

I wanted to do this today because of my respect for Father Coughlin as a human being and as a priest. But I think to be a good priest you have to be a good human being first. I don't think it's the other way around.

And I will tell that in the 10 years he's been here I've come to consider him a friend. I've come to see him as somebody in my mind who is one of the best representatives of the Catholic faith that I have ever known.

And I will tell you, Father, from my perspective I want to thank you, not just for your service to this House, but

for being such a good person. From somebody who's gone from the streets of Calcutta to the Vatican to the House of Representatives, you have maintained your modesty, you have maintained your dignity. And as far as I'm concerned, you're a fine and wonderful human being that I am proud to call both the Chaplain of this House, but also my friend and someone I look up to.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep appreciation of the ministry of Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the House.

His presence in this Chamber is comforting and supportive. His kindness and concern is evident to all who know him. Father Coughlin's prayers before this Chamber are relevant, beautiful and timeless. I have no doubt his words—captured in the RECORD as a permanent part of the history of the House—will be quoted long after all of us presently serving are gone.

I was co-chairman of the bipartisan chaplain search committee commissioned by Speaker Dennis Hastert 10 years ago.

Unfortunately, a process begun with the best of intentions by the Speaker and all participants, ended up in partisan acrimony and finger pointing with each party believing the other was motivated by intentions highly unworthy of the task at hand—finding a Chaplain for the House.

God's hand must surely have guided Speaker Hastert as he jettisoned the failed selection process and—in consultation with church leaders in his home State of Illinois—picked Father Coughlin to serve as our Chaplain.

Father Coughlin was a parish priest, and we are blessed he accepted the assignment of the U.S. House of Representatives to be his new parish.

He has served us all in a pure ecumenical spirit. He has been a faithful friend, counselor and minister to us all.

I feel privileged to know Father Coughlin and extend my deepest congratulations to him on the twin milestones of 50 years in the priesthood and 10 years as Chaplain of the House.

God bless you, Father Coughlin. Thank you for your wonderful ministry.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution congratulating Father Coughlin on 10 years of service as House chaplain and want to thank my very good friend, Mr. LIPINSKI, for authoring it.

Since 2000 Father Coughlin has been a blessing to us, a presence of prayer, and a reminder of the grace we have to ask God for—beg God for—as we exercise our responsibilities in this House.

He has also been a personal friend to me and I want to thank him for that.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly appreciate Father Coughlin's moving prayers and his Web site where he puts up a "Thought for the Day" and keeps the House informed of spiritual events on Capitol Hill for Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and members of other faiths. I frequently read these prayers and thoughts, and am grateful for his inspiration to me and my fellow members.

Today he has posted, as "Thought for the Day," a quote from Pope Benedict XVI, from his April 18 address to young people in Malta:

God loves every one of us with a depth and intensity that we can hardly begin to imagine. And he knows us intimately, he knows all our strengths and all our faults. Because he loves us so much, he wants to purify us of our faults and build up our virtues so that we can have life in abundance. When he challenges us because something in our lives is displeasing to him, he is not rejecting us, but he is asking us to change and become more perfect. That is what he asked of Saint Paul on the road to Damascus. God rejects no one. And the Church rejects no one. Yet in his great love, God challenges all of us to change and to become more perfect.

Thank you, Father Coughlin, for reminding us of this—we do our work differently, and better, when we carry with us an awareness of God's love.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. LIPINSKI's resolution also draws attention to Father Coughlin's 50 years of service to God, and His flock, as an ordained priest—Father Coughlin's fiftieth anniversary will be on May 3rd, and I want to congratulate and thank him for that as well.

Father Coughlin has also, as this resolution points out, served God with the Missionaries of Charity, in India, and in Rome, as a scholar-in-residence at the North American College. I am sure that his experience in both places enriched his service to the House.

Finally, I note from the resolution, that, while the House chaplaincy was instituted in 1789, in 2000 Father Coughlin became the first Catholic priest to hold the office of Chaplain of the House. He follows many others who have been a blessing on the House—and I have known several of them—and has certainly filled their shoes well.

Thank you, Father Coughlin.

I urge members to support this excellent resolution.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I would urge passage of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1216.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1116) supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows: