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No. 203

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Dr. Yancey C. Arrington, Clear Creek Community Church, League City, Texas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, high and mighty King of kings and Lord of lords, who from Your throne reign with power supreme and uncontrolled over all kingdoms, empires, and governments; look down in mercy, we implore You, on this, our country, the United States of America, and upon this body who have been given charge of governance.

May they overcome appeals tempting them to rule in favor of the oppressor over the oppressed, the wicked over the righteous, and the guilty over the innocent; on the contrary, knowing that "the Lord," Yahweh, "the most high God, is to be feared, a great king over all the Earth," and that, "God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne," may these honorable men and women "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with" Your lordship in the wise and peaceful exercise of their duties.

All of this, we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son and the Savior.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS 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.

WELCOMING DR. YANCEY C. ARRINGTON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, what a joy and honor it is to hear the voice of my older brother leading the people's House in prayer this morning, continuing the sacred tradition since 1789 of calling on Almighty God to consecrate our service for the good of the American people.

Dr. Yancey Cook Arrington is an eighth-generation Texan who, for over 25 years, has served as the teaching pastor at Clear Creek Community Church in the bay area of Houston.

He is joined today in the Chamber gallery by his lovely wife, Jennefer. They are proud parents of my three nephews, Thatcher, Haddon, and Beckett.

Mr. Speaker, I am eternally grateful for my brother's spiritual influence over the years and have always been inspired by his unwavering devotion to God's Word, to God's people, and to God's only begotten Son, Jesus, our Lord.

Thanks be to God for men like Yancey, pastors and preachers throughout these United States, who have dedicated their lives to reminding us that America is great because God is good, and only—and only—if we continue to trust in Him, the sovereign and eternal source of that goodness, will America continue to be great.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Mr. Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections with the Tennessee Office of the Secretary of State, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on December 2, 2025, the Honorable Matt Van Epps was elected Representative to Congress for the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE,
TRE HARGETT,
Nashville, Tennessee, December 3, 2025.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: Per your request, the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, for Representative in Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee, are as follows:

Matt Van Epps, 96,988.
Aftyn Behn, 81,044.
Jon Thorp, 932.
Teresa "Terri" Christie, 610.
Bobby Dodge, 196.
Robert James Sutherby, 129.

Your office has asked if we know of any contest of election. As of 1:00 p.m. Central on the date of this letter, we are not aware of one.

As soon as the official results are certified, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

MARK GOINS,
Coordinator of Elections.

□ 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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