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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Dr. David O. Dykes, Pastor, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Our Father, as the Psalmist prayed, we proclaim that ''the Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped.''

Father, on this very day 7 years ago, we were not prepared for how our Nation and our lives would change within a single day. But since that day, we have found that Your grace is enough. We desperately depend upon Your future grace. We praise You that You are not a spectator God who sits in heaven uncaring and unconcerned. You are a loving Father who has numbered the hairs on our head. Your wounded feet still walk with us on the road of suffering. Your heart that was broken on the cross still feels our every pain.

And so, Father, give to Your servants wisdom and grace. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done. We humbly ask in the name that is above every name, Your Son, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. 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 New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIRES 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. DAVID O. DYKES

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Dr. David O. Dykes has been pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church for about 17 years while being a true leader, spiritual guide, and dear friend.

In Tyler, Texas, Green Acres has over 14,000 members and is the most mission-minded church anywhere. Recognized this year with the highest award of the Southern Baptist Convention, Brother David, as his church knows him, has taken seriously the admonitions of Jesus to feed His sheep, minister to their needs, and take the Gospel into all the world.

As I heard here from a Florida pastor yesterday, Brother David is truly an inspiration and a blessing because of his evident burden for reaching out to help others. He faithfully serves our church, the local community, our country and world. He dearly loves his amazing wife, Cindy, their daughters Jenni and Laura Grace, and their husbands Jason and Jim. He and Cindy are now the proud grandparents of Lizzi and Caroline. God's love is evident in the life and love of Brother David as today's congressional chaplain.

Madam Speaker, though I am allowed only 1 minute, it would take many times more than that to adequately extol the virtues of this great American pastor.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 2403) ''An Act to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the ''Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse.''.

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.

JERSEY CITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the good work of the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency in the 13th District of New Jersey, which I have the honor of representing.

The Jersey City Redevelopment Agency has a distinguished history in the fight to eliminate blight, to create opportunities, and to attract residential, commercial and industrial real estate projects in Jersey City.

Since its inception 60 years ago, the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency has been responsible for the direct reinvestment of billions of dollars in Jersey City and tens of thousands of jobs. The agency is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Jersey City by guiding responsible development and reinvestment in all neighborhoods and communities in Jersey City. They work daily to enhance the quality of life of their residents and improve economic and housing opportunities while building strong, viable partnerships with the Jersey City community.

Please join me in honoring the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency as they celebrate their 60th year in business and as they continue to build a better Jersey City for all residents.

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