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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Pastor Tony Perkins, Greenwell Springs Baptist Church, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Father, we thank You for today.

I thank You for the men and women in this distinguished body, whom You have given the privilege of serving the people of this country. May they understand the unique, but fleeting, moment they occupy in the history of man.

The challenges of our day are certainly many, and, as a result, the burden that those in this Chamber carry is very heavy. May they look to You as the Apostle James encouraged when we need the wisdom to face challenges and solve problems.

As citizens of this country, we pray for them, that You will give them wisdom, wisdom which is from above.

I ask that the Holy Spirit guide them like the pillar of fire and the cloud that led the children of Israel.

I pray they will recognize and declare dependence upon You, governing with an understanding of the Psalmist's words: "Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord."

In Jesus' name, we 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 Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CAPUANO 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of International Women's Day, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of two women from Cincinnati.

Long ago, Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in Cincinnati. When she later met Abraham Lincoln in the White House, he reportedly said: "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war."

More recently, Elina Govil, a high school student from Indian Hill, is fighting to provide at-risk girls in conflict zones with access to a proper education.

To assist Elina in her efforts, as a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I introduced the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, bipartisan legislation that could help millions of young girls across the globe.

Children who are denied an education, because they live in an area that is torn by chaos and war, have little chance of ever attaining a stable existence. Girls, in particular, are subject to exploitation and the pitfalls of human trafficking, violence, and poverty.

Thank you, Elina, for helping girls everywhere to have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am here to recognize International Women's Day.

We all know that women have made some progress over the years: the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Lilly Ledbetter Equal Pay Act. We have made progress, but we know there is more to do.

This Congress and this President have to improve the Family and Medical Leave Act. We have to make sure the laws that we have are enforced, equal pay is made, and equal actions happen in the workplace. We are not doing it, and we all know that.

And the truth is—when I am home—I tell people, when you look to Congress to lead, it is always a mistake. Most of the progress in this country comes from the bottom up. We are almost always last. I will give you an example.

Years ago, George Bush vetoed the Family and Medical Leave Act four times. I was the mayor of my city, we did it on our own. The Federal Government didn't make us do it, and the State didn't make us do it.

So I am here today to simply ask all Americans, at every level, to do what you can to equalize opportunity and treatment in this world. We don't have to wait for our government. There are people like me, ROSA DELAURO, and others who are going to continue to push, and we will make progress. But we all have our own individual responsibilities, and I call on all Americans to do that.

□ 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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