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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Reverend Kyle Wright II, Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Collinsville, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, amen.

I thank and praise You, Heavenly Father, for moving each and every one of these men and women to serve this country which You sustain in Your mercy. Watch over them this day that Your will be done in their discussions, decisions, and, most of all, their actions.

You are the God of all power and might who, out of love for Your creation, established order from chaos, peace from discord, and life from death.

For the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord, forgive us of our pride, our disobedience, and our poor stewardship of what You have placed into our care. According to Your mercy, open the eyes and hearts of Your people so they may know the depth of Your love found only in Christ Jesus.

Dear Lord, I commend to Your care our Congress, our government, and our Nation, as You judge and keep us according to Your just mercy.

In Jesus 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 Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STAUBER 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 REVEREND KYLE WRIGHT II

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank and welcome Pastor Wright. Pastor Wright serves as pastor of my home congregation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Collinsville, Illinois.

He received his undergraduate degree from Concordia University in Austin, Texas, and a master of divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is currently pursuing a master of sacred theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

He has served as a pastor for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod since 2006. During that time, he has also served as a resource hospital chaplain, hospice chaplain, and on multiple boards.

His wife, Keri, is the help, support, and love of his life. They have four beautiful daughters. Katie is 12; Gwen, 10; Lilli, 10; and Magie, also 10.

Yes, you heard it right, triplets.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, MERRIMACK VALLEY GAS EXPLOSIONS

(Mrs. TRAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a tragic anniversary that the residents of the Merrimack Valley will never forget.

Tomorrow marks 1 year since a cascade of explosions in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover, Massachusetts, damaged over 130 homes and businesses, burning several to the ground.

At least 20 people were sent to the hospital. A Lawrence police officer, Ivan Soto, lost his home while aiding his community. Shakira Figueroa was seriously injured, and a young man, Leonel Rondon, lost his life.

An NTSB investigation revealed a series of failures by the gas company as it replaced pipelines in the area. Oversight allowed the full flow of high-pressure gas to enter a low-pressure distribution system.

In April, I introduced the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act to prevent this type of disaster from ever happening again. We owe it to the Sotos, the Figueras, the Rondons, and the many other families who suffered on September 13 to pass strong pipeline safety legislation this year.

THANKING THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, located in northern Minnesota, and their quick response to an emergency that took place in my district a little over a month ago.

□ 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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