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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Richard Estrada, Executive Director, Jovenes, Inc., Los Angeles, California, offered the following prayer:

Let us begin this morning by acknowledging the presence of God the Almighty. Lord, we praise You for having given us this good Earth and having called us to take care of her resources. Lord, you have blessed us with opportunities and freedom for people of all backgrounds.

Lord, inspire our Nation's leaders to seek justice, defend liberty, and unite diverse cultures and languages. Lord, bless our Nation's Representatives here today. Fill them with Your wisdom to make laws that will provide for all.

Lord, You made us in Your own wonderful image. Look with compassion on families. Remove the arrogance and hatred that infects our hearts. Break down walls that separate us. Unite us in bonds of love. Work through our struggles to accomplish Your purpose. In time, all people will serve You in harmony.

Lord, God Almighty, we humbly ask You to bless us now and forever. 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.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present

and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1124. An act to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.558. An act to provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND RICHARD ESTRADA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. SOLIS. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good morning to all.

It's a privilege and honor today to welcome a dear friend of mine, Father

Richard Estrada, who traveled from Los Angeles to be here to provide the House with its opening prayer. I am delighted to present Father Estrada to my colleagues, and I want to thank him for taking the time to be here.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, it is fitting to have Father Estrada serve as guest chaplain. Father Estrada has dedicated his entire life to serving those less fortunate than us, particularly the homeless and at-risk youth.

He is the founder and executive director of Jovenes, Inc., a nonprofit organization which serves the homeless and at-risk immigrant youth and other disadvantaged individuals from the East Los Angeles area. He is the associate pastor at Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church, La Placita, the oldest church probably in the country.

Father Estrada received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of San Francisco and studied theology and pastoral counseling at the Graduate School of Theology in Berkeley, California, the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas, and the Fred C. Neiles School in Whittier, California.

In addition to his advocacy on behalf of the homeless and young people, Father Estrada is a champion for the humane treatment of all immigrants and their families. In fact, I recall him asking me to go with him across the border to place bottles of water for those immigrants that were dying in the fields and in the desert.

I ask my colleagues to welcome Father Richard to the House today. We have before us a great man of honor and compassion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute speeches on each side.

□ 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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