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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for the many blessings of yesterday, and the gracious reminder to us of our political history of democracy, deeply rooted in the mind of the American people. May all our efforts here, and throughout the country, be of service to and the promotion of the good of the human person—based on respect for each person's dignity.

We also thank You for the tremendous outpouring of goodwill, and the extraordinary efforts of so many yesterday, whose service made all that transpired seem effortless. May the memories of the day be an ongoing blessing to all whose day's labor made the day a great celebration for all people of goodwill.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ABRAHAM 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. CALVIN MORET

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Calvin Moret, a true American hero and a Louisiana native. Dr. Moret was the last surviving Tuskegee Airman in Louisiana, and he passed away this month at the age of 90.

Dr. Moret's story is truly remarkable, and he stood up to hate and bigotry with courage and dignity. He fought for this country while overcoming an incredible amount of racial adversity. He broke barriers, and he dedicated his life to service.

I had the pleasure of meeting Calvin in Monroe, Louisiana, and as a pilot myself, I can tell you, he was the real deal. It was the highlight of my life to meet him, a true hero that had been ostracized by society but still believed so deeply in maintaining the freedoms of our country.

May we all have the courage Dr. Moret had to stand up for what is great in this Nation.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, reflecting on Pope Francis' historic engagement with us here in the House yesterday, he opened with gratefulness for our freedom. We know we have that freedom because of the brave that our respective homelands have blessed us

with. He spoke of the responsibility that we, as leaders, are to help grow a nation and the freedom with it. Freedom is essential in that success.

Pope Francis said it is for all Americans—not just its representatives in this room and others like it—to help sustain society with action and the service attitude of organizations that are truly helpful for those truly in need.

Through faith, not its misuse or extremism, but with humility, with that attitude of service, we are a better people. But it requires religious freedom, a cornerstone of our Nation's founding, indeed, important enough to be articulated and underlined in the First Amendment of our Bill of Rights. With that amendment, it has brought us peace and prosperity and helped the USA to be a beacon of hope and service to the world.

Hand in hand with that religious freedom goes the respect of innocent life and preserving the family. As Pope Francis closed his remarks on the legacy for our youth, these ideals of life and family are the spirit we can all endeavor to pass to our youth, their future of a great land filled with freedoms and opportunity, that comes with all of us at that service. For all of us Americans, that is our job.

POPE'S MESSAGE OF CHANGE IN CUBA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1987, I was grateful to be present in Columbia, South Carolina, when Pope John Paul II, as the Polish-born Pope, promoted liberation from communism in Europe. Yesterday, I was grateful to be present with Pope Francis.

□ 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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