

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

At this time of the year from across the world arises Handel's Song of Isaiah's text. Today the same vigorous words are laid tenderly, like the music, upon this House of Representatives:

"Comfort my people. Give comfort to my people, says your God. Cry out to the nation that her warfare is accomplished; that her iniquity is pardoned. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Lord, may this seasonal song strengthen Your people in their desire for lasting peace, and may justice and right judgment in this Chamber be a comfort to Your people now and forever. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KLINE 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 Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4012. An act to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to reauthorize for 5 additional years the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 29, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 24, 2004 at 6:10 p.m.:

That the Senate Concurs in House Amendments to Senate Amendment to H. Con. Res. 529.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk of the House.

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Washington, DC, November 29, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 24, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 115.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk of the House.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker Pro Tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled joint resolution on Monday, November 29, 2004:

H.J. Res. 115, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

## TRIBUTE TO JEFF OLSEN ON OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS MINNESOTA COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Jeff Olsen, on the occasion of his retirement.

Jeff Olsen was appointed Commissioner of Veterans Affairs by Governor Ventura in January 2001 and has continued to serve the veterans community proudly. Throughout the past 4 years, Jeff has been a tireless advocate and representative for Minnesota's 450,000 veterans. By working closely with groups such as the Veterans Service Organizations of Minnesota and the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Jeff has remained constantly in touch with the issues of concern to the men and women he represents.

No stranger to those issues himself, Jeff began his career as a member of the United States Army, attached to the United States Armed Forces Courier Service, a joint services mission responsible for the preparation and transportation of top-secret materials

throughout the world. This experience has continued to inspire Jeff and motivate him to serve his fellow veterans with honor and respect.

Jeff's dedication to the veterans community will continue to shine through the legacy of his accomplishments. Thank you, Jeff, for the example you have set. Your fellow veterans will miss you. We wish you the best in your next chapter of life.

## HOUSE MUST PASS 9/11 LEGISLATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House today and tomorrow has one, one, simply one chance to do what is right, and that is to pass the 9/11 Commission report legislation. It is not a question of whether this is a bad bill; it is a question of whether or not we can put aside special interests and do our jobs.

Frankly, the issues that are standing in the way now are issues that can be addressed very well in the 109th Congress. In fact, I look forward to comprehensive immigration reform. I am delighted we are working through the issues concerning our military. And in fact, we have been informed by those in charge of the military in the Pentagon that these issues are resolved.

It is a shame when we hear the former, or soon-to-be former, Secretary of Health and Human Services tell us that our food supply may be in jeopardy. Human intelligence is vital. The 9/11 Commission legislation will address that.

With homeland security as the backdrop of our work, we need more work with the Transportation Security Administration, more training and testing of cargo on airplanes. There is so much work to be done. We must pass the 9/11 Commission legislation now. Only then can we begin the work of securing the homeland seriously.

## MR. DENTON GOES TO SENATE

(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, with the conclusion of a session, there is a normal shuffling of staff positions, and for the office of the Second District of South Carolina we will miss Wesley Denton, who has served for 3 years as communications director.

I have mixed feelings, personally, about this move; but I am thrilled Wesley has been selected to serve with Senator-elect JIM DEMINT of South Carolina. Congressman DEMINT is a person of high integrity and competence, which is reflected by his choosing Wesley.

Wesley will be a part of history, in that South Carolina has not had two