

(Laughter)

Tony Hall, it is wonderful to hear of your life, and the message that you have given us. It is wonderful to have a president and a first lady who give us spiritual leadership. Jo Ann, you have done an outstanding job in the last year for that special hour that we each meet on Thursday morning, as our president and as the chairman of this event today. And for all of us who have gathered here today, as we give praise to God, there is a blessing that we all have received. Since the dawn of the age of civilization, man has turned to our creator, through prayer for guidance in the times of difficulty. Today in modern day America, we are no different. In fact, thanks to our founding fathers, one of the oldest traditions of the United States Congress is to begin each day with prayer so that we may have spiritual help in making decisions that affect our country, and our world.

On June the 28th in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention was lost in a sea of confusion and could not agree upon a course of action, Ben Franklin rose and addressed then-president George Washington. I quote what he said,

"We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, 'except that the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided in our little, particular, local interests, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down the future ages. And what is worse, mankind may, hereafter, from this unfortunate instance despair of establishing the government by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war or conquest. I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its' blessing on our deliberations be held in this assembly each morning before we proceed in business, that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

Each morning we still pray when we start our actions in Congress. These words are as relevant today as they were over 200 years ago. Following in the tradition of Ben Franklin's request, rise please, and let us pray.

Father, we ask that you look down upon us today, and instill in our hearts and minds the faith and perseverance to do your will. We ask for courage and wisdom as we look toward the future and aim to establish a world where your children will not suffer from the actions of man. In these trying, uncertain times, your inspiration and love is desperately needed. Bless our endeavors and guide our steps so that we may truly do your work. Too often in today's world man's vision becomes cloudy with constant temptation. When this occurs, man can easily become lost in a Godless wilderness, void of spirituality. Sin thrives in this wilderness, and selfishness abounds. Lord, free us from temptation and give us strength. Please allow your light to shine upon our paths and bless us with the compass of your will so that we will seek to do what is best, just not for ourselves, but for others. Let us know the beauty of Godly deeds.

Lord, I have often turned to you for aid and strength in making difficult decisions. I ask divine help for each of us to continue to seek the satisfaction found only in a spiritual life. Today I ask for you to continue to bless the lives of all your children, and give today's attendees the strength to lead morally and ethically as we embrace the challenges of achieving lasting peace in the face of an unknown future.

Lord, you have blessed our country. Let us realize that it is only through your grace that we receive these blessings. Burden us to continue to give our hearts to you. Give our nation and the nations of the world the passion to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to quench the thirsty, heal the sick and help the oppressed break free from the torments of their oppressors. Let our passion for a Godly world never fade.

Lord, for our America, give the leaders the courage to ask for your stewardship through faith. Give our leaders peace of heart and assist us in our endeavors so that we may positively impact America and the rest of the world. Allow our spirits to feel your guiding hand. Bless all the nations of the world and fill their leaders' hearts with hope for a better tomorrow. Shepherd them through their daily challenges toward the goal of everlasting peace. Help these leaders strive to make decisions reflective of your resolve, for if we enact your will, we can know a blessed life.

Lord, help us recognize the value of mankind throughout the world. Help us to continue to thirst for peace and an end to anguish. Help us embrace our differences as we work to achieve the goals of common good. May peace, hope and God's love burn in our hearts. These things I only ask in Jesus' name, amen.

(Applause.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, personal business in my district prevents me from being present for legislative business scheduled for today, Monday, June 13, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on S. 643, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to authorize State mediation programs (Rollcall No. 241), and "aye" on H.R. 2326, a bill designating the "Floyd Lupton Post Office" (Rollcall No. 242).

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROCHE

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Roche, one of the leading healthcare innovators in the world. Roche is a specialty care company that employs over 10,000 people in America and 60,000 globally. I am pleased to represent Roche Molecular Systems, which employs hundreds of people in my District, all of whom are dedicated to improving the quality of health care for millions of people.

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office in 1905. From its start in Manhattan in 1905, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States, in California, Indiana, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Colorado.

As an industry leader in the field of diagnostics, Roche's products help patients manage their diabetes, give physicians and hospitals the ability to identify illnesses more quickly and more accurately, and tailor treatments in a way that best suit an individual's personal medical condition. These inventions are part of why we are proud that Americans enjoy the highest quality medical care in the world.

I commend the people of Roche Molecular Systems in California and Roche employees worldwide for their impressive achievements, and congratulate them again on this very special 100th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE OF DAVID LEWIS MOORE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend David Lewis Moore for his important work in North Carolina. Reverend Moore was recently chosen as one of 10 national recipients of the 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award. This honor includes a monetary award of \$105,000 which Reverend Moore can utilize to assist him with his work in the community.

Reverend Moore's efforts in rural Beaufort County, North Carolina have transformed the lives of hundreds of residents and provided health care to thousands struggling with poverty and illness.

After attending Seminary and receiving a Master's Degree at Yale University, Rev. Moore became Pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Beaufort County and immediately set out to improve the quality of life of the region's low-income residents, most of whom are African-American. The county, which is also home to a small but significant number of Latino farm workers, has the highest rates of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and heart disease in North Carolina; and we should commend Rev. Moore's diligent efforts over the years to combat these very serious and detrimental conditions.

Rev. Moore founded Metropolitan Community Health Services in 1990. One of its core programs is the Agape Community Health Clinic which offers health care to some 4,000 low-income people every year. Initially, the clinic operated with little financial support, but it grew in size through grants that Rev. Moore obtained, including one that paid for a doublewide trailer to serve as the clinic's headquarters. Soon the clinic will expand to a renovated bowling alley, thanks to funds raised by Rev. Moore.

Not stopping at improving health care for the region's poor, Rev. Moore also mobilized area churches from across the U.S. and Canada to assist in the reconstruction of homes following Hurricane Floyd. As a result, 43 new homes were constructed.

Rev. Moore has also helped to develop more than 500 units of housing for families, single mothers, senior citizens, victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities and migrant workers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Rev. David Lewis Moore on receiving this