

Pastor Bradlee Dean (Old Path Church in Minneapolis, MN)

Minnesota House of Representatives

Speaker of the House: ...prayer by the Chaplain.

Pastor Bradlee Dean: When I arrived at the capitol today, I noticed all the writings upon the inside of the walls – in the Supreme Court chambers you have Moses awaiting the 10 Commandments, God’s Divine Law, you have George Washington quotes, Thomas Jefferson quotes, speaking of unalienable rights given unto us by our Creator. And when I looked at that I thought, “What an awesome building.” And those in this chamber are very privileged to be here, and I am honored to be here as well. And if I can give a small prefix to my prayer so my prayer has meaning, I remember when I was a young man I had a friend who founded a company in Fridley, Minnesota. This man built this company from the ground up as he blueprinted everything in great detail. He put his sweat, tears – everything into it to establish the company. Nobody understood what sacrifice he put into his company except them that helped him along. The company grew in such a proportion that he could now sell the company and he did. On the sale of his company the buyers agreed to keep him on to run the company for them and in the process the company sold, and when it sold the buyers went against the contract and fired the founder. How foolish could they be? They thought once they had control of the company they could run it their own way and still prosper and they failed miserably – excuse me. And it sounds much like America today. America has the longest-standing Constitution in the history of the world and might I remind all of us here we have one Constitution. So, let us come together and unite ourselves under its directives. Because we all know the problems didn’t come into our country in 1776, they came when we wandered from the founder of the company and tried running it our own way.

So, let us pray. Father God, I just thank You, Father, for what You have bestowed on us and through the sacrifice of our brothers and our sisters, Father God, to ratify the Constitution of the United States, Father God. The fight, the bloodshed, and the sacrifice – from World War I to World War II, to Korea, Father. To Korea, and Hiroshima, and Vietnam, and Father God, Iraq and Afghanistan, and I think about their sacrifice when I go, Father God, to Arlington Cemetery, and I think, “That’s the reason that I fight, that’s the reason that I stand, that’s the reason I encourage my brothers to do the same thing.” They died so we could have the freedoms that we have today, and they ratified that Constitution and scarified their all for it. And I end with this – I know this is a nondenominational pray – prayer in this chamber – it’s not about the Baptists, it’s not about the Catholics alone, or the Lutherans, or the Wesleyans, or the Presbyterians, Evangelicals, or any other denomination but rather the head of the denomination and His name is Jesus as every president, up until 2008, has acknowledged. And we pray it in Jesus’ name.

Speaker of the House: Members, our guest Chaplain for today is Reverend Bradlee Dean, Old Path Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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