

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus announced today that Reverend Aubrey L. Wallace of Chilton County has been chosen to deliver the opening prayer to the United States House of Representatives this Wednesday, February 2nd, 2005. Reverend Wallace's prayer on the House floor will bring Congress into session on a day that will see President Bush give his annual State of the Union address to the nation.

“There is no way to put into words how I feel about this. It is an honor to do such a thing, to have the opportunity to give the opening prayer in Congress.

I am deeply devoted to my God, but I am also deeply patriotic to my country,” said Reverend Wallace.

Reverend Wallace served twenty years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 1972 as a Master Sergeant. In 1963 he became a licensed minister while stationed in Louisiana, and was ordained in 1969 while serving as an associate pastor of a church in California. He has also ministered in Texas, and has served several churches in Chilton County, including Pleasant Grove Baptist, Mt. Pleasant Baptist, and Ebenezer Baptist.

In addition to serving as chaplain for the Chilton County Sheriff's Department, he also ministers to inmates in the Chilton County Jail on a regular basis. In 2000, Wallace was elected and served on the Chilton County Commission.

“Reverend Wallace is very deserving to open the House of Representatives in prayer. He has served his country with honor in the past, and he continues to humbly serve his Lord to this day. Alabama should be proud to call Aubrey Wallace as one of its own,” said Congressman Bachus

Congressman Bachus wrote to Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin, who is Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives, to request that Reverend Wallace be allowed to give an opening prayer for Congress. That request was granted late this January, and he is also scheduled to give the opening prayer for the Senate later this month.

Reverend Wallace and his wife, Shirley, currently reside in Maplesville.

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