Dynamic HTML- formatted Outlook Emails using VB6 and Templates

Although this uses Visual Basic 6, the same concepts can be applied using other languages, to solve the formatting problem.

One of the challenges when dynamically modifying emails created from Outlook templates, is retaining the original html formatting of the template itself.
Typically, the entire email will lose the html formatting if the .body property is used.
The example below retains the formatting, by copying the string variable html_body_1 with .HTMLbody *(where oMail.HTMLbody is the new message opened from the template).*
Additional text is then combined, by combining html_body_1 with html_body_2 into .HTMLBody of the new message object.

```
html_body_1 = .HTMLBody
html_body_2 = body_text
.HTMLBody = html_body_1 & html_body_2
```

By default, Microsoft Outlook uses Word as the default email editor. For this reason, the Microsoft-specific styling class is included in the html-formatting of the body text added to the string for html_body_2 or body_text: `p class=MsoNormal`

Example Code:
```
Dim oNS As Outlook.NameSpace
Dim oOutApp As Object
Dim oOl As Outlook.Application
Dim sUser As String
Dim oFolder As Outlook.MAPIFolder
Dim oMail As Outlook.MailItem
Dim oRecipient As Outlook.Recipient
Dim body_text As String

Set oOl = Outlook.Application
Set oNS = Outlook.GetNamespace("MAPI")
Set oFolder = oNS.GetDefaultFolder(olFolderInbox)

sUser = oNS.CurrentUser

Set oMail = oOl.CreateItemFromTemplate("C:\My
Documents\template.oft")
```

```
With oMail
 .To = "test address"
 .CC = "test address 2"

  body_text = ""
  body_text = body_text & "<p class=MsoNormal><font
face=""Arial"" size=""2"" color=""black""> " & "text line in
Arial size 10 </font></p>"
  body_text = body_text & "<p class=MsoNormal> </p>"
'blank line'

 .Subject = "Email Subject"
 .BodyFormat = olFormatHTML          'use html formatted email'
 .Recipients.ResolveAll              'resolve email addresses'

  html_body_1 = .HTMLBody
  html_body_2 = body_text
 .HTMLBody = html_body_1 & html_body_2

 .Display
End With

Set oMail = Nothing
Set oFolder = Nothing
Set oNS = Nothing
Set oOl = Nothing
```