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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATTA).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT E. LATTA, to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Gene Hemrick, Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Lord, in turbulent times throughout our country and the world, may we bring to those who seek peace the loving, uplifting heart that rings through the prayer of St. Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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 gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM 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.

CODEL TO THE CENTRAL FRONTS

(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, last week, I participated in a congressional delegation to visit troops and fact-find in Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, and Afghanistan. Immediately upon arrival, we were given an optimistic assessment of the region by Ambassador Deborah Jones in Kuwait.

America's team in Baghdad, ably led by General Lloyd Austin and Ambassador James Jeffrey, confirmed the transition to an Iraqi lead is working with the professionalism of the Iraqi Army and police. A highlight for me was to meet with the 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion led by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Wholey of the South Carolina Army National Guard to thank them and their families for their service.

In Bahrain, we met top officials who assured us the reformist Crown Prince is leading negotiations to reduce conflict in this dynamic Persian Gulf ally where we visited the U.S.S. Lake Champlain's capable sailors.

In Afghanistan, we saw firsthand in Kandahar the success of President Obama's surge where a surge of 30,000

U.S. troops last year motivated a surge of an additional 70,000 Afghans to fight terrorism. The Kabul team of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Karl Eikenberry are successfully denying terrorists a safe haven to attack American families.

Godspeed to Danielle Simonetti Mauer, a Washington and Lee graduate, as she departs from House service for a new career.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH AMERICAN WORKERS

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in solidarity with the working men and women of America. There should be no doubt that there is a war going on right now against workers, unions, and middle class Americans who want more jobs.

In Wisconsin, Ohio and here in Congress, workers' rights are under attack by union-busting politicians. It is time for Americans to stand up and fight for the rights of workers to organize and negotiate for safe working conditions, living wages, and basic benefits.

It is time to stand up and fight against the attacks launched by union-busting Republican Governors and their corporate sponsors. The citizens and legislators of Wisconsin and Ohio who are standing up to the union-busters have the respect and appreciation of millions of Americans.

Thank you for fighting for dignity, respect, freedom and the rights of American workers for today and tomorrow. And in Minnesota and across America, there are freedom-loving citizens who stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin and Ohio.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H1365

IN HONOR OF FRANK BUCKLES, WORLD WAR I VETERAN

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Frank Buckles, who was the last surviving veteran of World War I. Frank Buckles passed away this weekend. He was 110 years old.

I am particularly proud to pay tribute to Mr. Buckles today because of his deep roots and connection to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, which is located in my congressional district, Pennsylvania's Eighth.

Frank Buckles' ancestors first arrived in what was to become the United States in 1702. They settled in Philadelphia; and in 1732, the same year that George Washington was born, Frank's ancestors married into a Quaker family and moved to Bucks County.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Frank Buckles, we mourn not just the man who served his country honorably, but we also mourn the passing of an era. His death reminds us of those who have served and those who continue to serve their country in the Armed Forces, and we honor their sacrifices in the name of Frank Buckles.

WISE DEFICIT REDUCTION

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, 9 days ago there was a frenzy of budget cutting here on the floor, and we are going to resume that process probably tomorrow. I would urge caution for all of us. The unintended consequences of those budget cuts will come back in many, many ways to harm this Nation.

It was estimated that the CR that was voted out of this House 9 days ago would reduce employment by over 800,000 in the next 6 months—not a good result. We have to think long term here. We need to be wise. Definitely we have to deal with the deficit, and we shall. But we must not do so at the expense of jobs and employment today or at the future opportunities. And specifically, I speak to the issue of research, development and demonstration. There are enormous cuts in that budget in the area of energy research and other necessary research that this country has to have if we are going to stay ahead in the race for the economy and for the future.

THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just before we left on break, Francis Collins came and talked to a small group of us at the Health Caucus one morning.

Francis Collins, of course Dr. Collins, is the director of the National Institutes of Health and the lead of the human genome project in the National Institutes of Health when the human genome was finally solved a little less than a decade ago. Advances in genomics have really been startling, and the project continues to provide much excitement. Over 1,800 genes that cause disease have been discovered. Whole genomes for cancer cells have been mapped. That is remarkable.

The promise this research holds to help those suffering or likely to suffer from diseases or medical conditions is very real. I cannot overstate the significance of these advances. I have no doubt that the field of medicine will be revolutionized.

The technology has certainly evolved since I was a medical student some 40 years ago. Things that I would have never thought imaginable are now clearly within the reach and grasp of today's practitioner. In fact, the young men and women who are medical students and residents today, what a world they will live in. The science is going to be absolutely fantastic. And, indeed, their ability to relieve human suffering is going to be unlike anything that has been known by any generation of physicians that has preceded them.

OBAMACARE'S LOST JOBS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last year we were told that ObamaCare would create 400,000 jobs "almost immediately." We were further told that in the coming years, ObamaCare would create 10 times that amount, 4 million jobs. A year later, we see that those promises are truly hollow.

In his testimony before the House Budget Committee, CBO Director Elmendorf confirmed that the new health care law will reduce unemployment by 800,000 jobs by the end of the decade. ObamaCare will take away the current insurance plan for millions of Americans, especially those who buy in the individual market or who are in a Medicare Advantage plan. All of these people were promised, "if you like it, you can keep it."

On the campaign trail, the President said he would save every American family \$2,500 a year. Now we know that some American families will be paying an additional \$2,100 a year. How can the Congress stand for this? The only sensible option is to fully repeal ObamaCare and put forward better solutions that don't destroy jobs and health care—real reform for health insurance.

□ 1410

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, while we were gone last week, the United States Department of Justice made an unfortunate decision announcement. They announced that they would no longer defend an act of Congress that was signed into law by President Clinton, that is, the Defense of Marriage Act.

The statement that came out of the Justice Department said that they could find no constitutional basis for defending that law. I recall we had the same thing happen in my home State where then-Attorney General Jerry Brown said he could not defend Proposition 8 which dealt with the definition of marriage.

Having served in that office in California, I can tell you, I defended laws that I disagreed with. I defended laws that I had voted against, and I felt it was my solemn obligation to uphold the Constitution and the laws duly enacted in my State, just as I believe the Attorney General of the United States has that obligation on the Federal level.

It is beyond disappointment. I believe it is a dereliction of duty. To somehow now find that there is no constitutional basis for defending that law is incredible and I think regrettable, and I think we ought to look into it.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 22, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, in my capacity as Custodian of Records for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by a grand jury in the County of New York.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

DANIEL J. STRODEL,
Chief Administrative Officer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.