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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 17, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, may this celebration of the feast of St. Patrick give all people smiling eyes and grateful hearts.

Knowing that all work is sacred in Your sight, and well aware that work in government is very difficult in today's world, we pray that the following Celtic adage may be realized in all who work here in the Congress of these United States.

May you see in what you do, the beauty of your own soul.

May the sacredness of your work bring healing, light and renewal to those who work with you and those who see and receive your work.

May your work never weary you.

May every dawn find you alert, approaching the new day with dreams, possibilities and promises.

May every evening find you gracious and fulfilled.

And may every good work, wrapped in prayer, calm, console and renew you. 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 gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANDREW HARPER

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week, West Virginia experienced a tremendous loss. Private First Class Andrew Harper from Maidsville, West Virginia, died from injuries he sustained while serving in Afghanistan. He represented America with the utmost pride and dignity.

A graduate from University High School in Morgantown, Private Harper was stationed in Kandahar province when he sustained his fatal injuries during a noncombat incident.

The admiration our community felt for this 19-year-old man and his service are immense. So many are shocked by the news of Andrew's passing. This brave young man was so very promising. There is no question that Andrew

left a great legacy and his memory should be honored.

My wife, Mary, and I, as well as all West Virginians, will keep Private Harper, his family, his friends and his entire unit, the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, in our thoughts and prayers.

COMMEMORATING THE 46TH ANNI- VERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 46th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and to recognize the courage of my colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and the many other heroes of the civil rights movement.

A couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to retrace the footsteps of history with JOHN LEWIS and walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. There, nearly 50 years ago, some 600 demonstrators marched to take a stand for African American voting rights. On the bridge, they were savagely attacked by State and local lawmen to prohibit their crossing. Journalists captured those brutal attacks, sparking outrage that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Congressman LEWIS recently returned to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Again he was met by a large group of police—this time as an honor guard.

We have come a long way in the last 50 years, and we still have a long way to go to ensure equality and justice for all. But we never could have come as far as we have without the courage and the devotion of countless men and women just like JOHN LEWIS.

□ 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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H1909

VOTE “NO” ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in my nearly 27 years in the United States Air Force, I learned that one of the most critical elements necessary to overcome a determined enemy is the element of surprise. Based on my experience and the proven battle-tested history of the many successful conflicts that our Nation has endured over the years, I must stand in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 28.

Surprise is a tactical element best determined by field commanders based on battlefield conditions. As such, decisions on troop movements should be made by commanders in the field, not politicians in Washington. Should this bill pass, we give up the element of surprise, we break the trust and relationship we have built with the Afghan people and our allies, and the sacrifice of our young men and women in uniform would be meaningless if we simply walk away.

General Petraeus said, “The Taliban and al Qaeda obviously would trumpet this as a victory, as a success. Needless to say, it would completely undermine everything that our troopers have fought so much for and sacrificed so much for.”

I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

GIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM A CHANCE TO WORK

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, President Obama signed the historic Affordable Care Act into law. Since that time, we have seen an all-out assault by the special interests and health insurance companies.

Americans are tired of this debate. They are tired of the misinformation. Congress must stand up for the middle class. We must protect families. We must stop companies from arbitrarily canceling coverage after patients become sick, prevent children from being denied coverage due to preexisting conditions, and never again let insurance companies place lifetime limits on health coverage.

Mr. Speaker, let's give the reform a chance to work. Reject the special interests and extreme rhetoric. Make sure every American family is protected when it comes to health care.

DISCIPLINED SPENDING BY CONGRESS

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress is the only place that I know of that we talk about trillions of dollars, trillion with a “T.”

How much is \$1 trillion? It is a number so large it is hard to get your arms around it. But if you were to spend \$1 million a day, \$1 million every day, it would take you almost 3,000 years to get to \$1 trillion.

This Nation right now is more than \$14 trillion in debt. The country is going to spend more than \$3.5 trillion over 12 months. More than \$220 billion was added to our debt just last month.

Somehow, some way, this government has got to recognize that we are going to have to do more with less; that the proper role of government does not allow us to unilaterally use this, the voting card of the United States Congress, as the biggest credit card that has ever faced this planet. We have to do more with less. We have to be disciplined.

CUTS TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND STEM EDUCATION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about a crisis that our country is facing. We all know that our Nation's future strength is directly dependent upon our commitment to a robust science agenda. The cuts to our Nation's science programs in the CR threaten to set our Nation back even as we continue to look forward to our future.

An investment in science is about ensuring our Nation's memories are honored, by investing in dreams that are yet even brighter. As an author of the first bipartisan America COMPETES Act, we responded to many top academic, corporate and business leaders who knew that investments in STEM education is what will ensure that our Nation's future science and engineering leaders will never need to leave our shores in order to obtain a world-class education.

December 2010 was one of our finest hours when, as a Congress, we returned to our triumphant moment of passing the comprehensive, bipartisan America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, to provide our Nation with a roadmap for investing in our global economic competitiveness and our future growth.

Mr. Speaker, our country cannot afford to go backwards by giving up on science and innovation.

An investment in science is about ensuring America's memories are honored by investing in dreams that are even brighter.

We all have a responsibility to preserve this vision in order to help rebuild our economy.

□ 0910

UNAFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE 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, our colleagues on

the other side of the aisle continue to refer to the so-called health care reform bill as the Affordable Health Care Act. There are a lot of questions 1 year after passage. But one question has been answered. It is not the Affordable Medical Care Act. It is the Unaffordable Medical Care Act.

Why do I say that? Well, HHS has decided to give over 1,000 waivers to businesses, to unions, and now even to States because they find they can't afford what is required in the bill. Secondly, I haven't met a single constituent whose health care cost by way of their insurance policies or programs has gone down. They have all gone up as a direct result of the bill passed on this floor and signed by the President.

So let's at least have some truth in labeling. It is not the Affordable Health Care Act. It is increasingly becoming the Unaffordable Health Care Act.

WE WILL NOT GO BACK

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Friday, March 25, marks the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. The deaths of 146 workers—mostly young women—were avoidable. If the owners of the factory had not locked the doors to the stairwells and exits, if they had installed a stable fire escape or put in sprinklers, many of those lives would not have been painfully and tragically lost.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union didn't just mourn the victims—they organized. Their activism resulted in the passage of major worker protections—not just new fire-safety laws but laws against the 7-day work weeks and child labor. The Triangle tragedy helped expand the right to union representation—a voice at work.

One hundred years later, we confront a coordinated effort to roll back those hard-fought gains. Just as the Triangle fire spurred people into action, the anti-working family agenda of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has mobilized millions. The message is clear: We will not go back.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. FATTAH. Let me wish everyone a happy St. Patty's Day.

It is unfortunate that we have so much effort here in the House to recite the problem rather than to focus on solutions. We hear this discussion about our national debt. We have these paltry efforts. We cut \$6 billion on the same day that the debt went up \$72 billion. We have a proposal by the majority to address the debt by cutting 1½ percent out of a small corner of the budget, doing serious damage to our Nation's