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No. 71

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Conrad Braaten, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of grace, God of glory and truth, grant us wisdom for the living of these days. Grant us discernment for the deliberations we make and courage for the decisions we face.

May the guidance of Your Spirit in this House serve to lead us as a Nation in paths of righteousness for Your Name's sake. Bring to our minds an awareness of Your benevolence upon all people, and may our hearts bear the imprint of Your compassion for the least among us.

You have given to us as individuals and as a body the vocation of being a trustee of Your creation and a steward of the common good.

May we be given a vision for our work together as public servants that will bless the well-being of our people, nurture the establishment of justice, and nourish the seeds of peacemaking in our world.

This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan 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.

WONDERFUL NEWS FROM DETROIT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, during the past several years, the domestic auto industry has undergone an incredibly painful economic transition. Quite frankly, this industry was on its knees, and many people didn't think that either General Motors or Chrysler would survive. These naysayers said it would be best if they were just left to, in the case of General Motors, go into a chaotic bankruptcy, and in the case of Chrysler, certainly a complete liquidation.

For my great State of Michigan, my beautiful State of Michigan, which has suffered the worst economic depression certainly in my lifetime, if that would have happened, as bad as it has been for us, what would have happened if those companies would have gone bankrupt and liquidated would have been unimaginable—the loss of tens of thousands of more jobs either directly or indirectly through the supply chain and all the businesses that rely on the spinoff from the domestic auto industry.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Chrysler Company at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant—also known as SHAP, which is in my district—will be announcing that they will be paying back the Federal Government loans in their entirety 4 years ahead of schedule. This is the same plant, Mr. Speaker, that just recently put on a third shift, actually saving in that plant well over 2,000 jobs.

I am very proud of everyone who has supported the domestic auto industry,

and certainly it is proof that the best automobiles in the entire world are, indeed, imported from Detroit.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE RECENT TORNADO

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to give thanks to all who stepped up to help when St. Louis was struck by the Good Friday tornado. But now it's time to help our fellow Missourians in Joplin who last night suffered Missouri's most deadly tornado in 50 years, up to 1 mile wide and 6 miles long, devastating homes, businesses, schools, and the local hospital.

I have reached out to our colleague, BILLY LONG, who represents southwest Missouri. We offer our heartfelt prayers and condolences to the families of at least 89 dead, many more injured, and all whose way of life has literally been demolished.

As a member of the congressional subcommittee with oversight responsibility for FEMA, I commend the prompt action of our first responders as they conduct urgent search and rescue operations. The American Red Cross has set up an emergency shelter. For those who would like to help, you can visit www.redcross.org.

In the spirit of thanks for the assistance given to St. Louis in our time of need, it is time to provide a helping hand to our many neighbors who urgently require our help in southwest Missouri.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

□ 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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H3307

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2011.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 17, 2011 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 349.

That the Senate passed S. 655.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 793.

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Military Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Air Force Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Board of Visitors of the United States Coast Guard Academy.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2011.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 18, 2011 at 11:09 a.m.:

Appointments:

President's Export Council.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2011.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 20, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 990.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT
DIRECTOR AND PRESS SEC-
RETARY, THE HONORABLE JIM
GERLACH, MEMBER OF CON-
GRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kori Walter, District Director and Press Secretary, the Honorable JIM GERLACH, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. 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 have been served with a subpoena, issued by the County of Berks, Pennsylvania Magisterial District Court 23-02-02, for witness testimony.

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

Sincerely,

KORI WALTER,
District Director & Press Secretary.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BUERKLE) at 4 p.m.

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLE-
MENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. McKEON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 1540.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-
OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF
2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1407) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2011, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1407

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2011, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2011, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2011, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2012.