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No. 131

House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day and for a safe return to Washington.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the important work that faces them. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

May they be empowered by what they have heard during their home district visits to work together. May they realize that each of them represents voters who side with their opponents and that there are millions of Americans who voted for their opponents as well. The work to be done must benefit all Americans. Give them courage to make difficult choices when they are faced with them.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP OF VETERANS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Houston, Texas, who shared some disturbing news:

The First Amendment rights of veterans have come under attack by the Federal Government. The director of the Houston Veterans Administration Cemetery has led an authoritarian quest to remove Christianity and religion from funerals. She has banned the words "God" and "Jesus Christ" in the burial ceremonies of deceased veterans. She censors the prayers. She shut down the chapel, took out the cross, took out the Bible, and locked the doors.

Government censorship of funeral services for those who have fought and died for our country is unacceptable, unconstitutional, and un-American. The policy of the director is anti-Christian, antireligion, and antiveteran.

Today I filed the Veterans Religious Freedom Act. This bill will protect the constitutional right to freedom of religion and prohibit the Veterans Administration from censoring free speech and censoring religion. It will require the veteran cemetery directors to be veterans.

The First Amendment is sacred. Funerals are sacred. And when our veterans are buried, that soil becomes sacred. It is the constitutional duty of the Federal Government to protect speech and religion, not censor it.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESS' PERFORMANCE

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by what I heard while I was home in August. People are disappointed with us, their elected representatives, and they want us to do our constitutional duty of solving the Nation's problems and to start working together.

They want to get America moving again. They want the problems of the economy addressed. They want jobs, they want opportunity, and they want a government that works for the good of the country.

Is there anyone amongst us here that is proud that we could not produce a budget? that we caused the downgrading of the U.S. Government securities? that we caused appalling disorder and confusion in the market, stifling economic growth and job creation and contributing to the hopelessness and the misfortune of millions of Americans?

Failed leadership and failed followership—we owe the country better. We must do better.

I hope that those of you here who feel ashamed of our performance, as I do, will join together. It is our duty to solve the Nation's problems and to stop this nonsense. If we do not, the people in their righteous and justified outrage will get rid of us all. And well they should.

SELECT COMMITTEE NEEDS TO PUT PATIENT PROTECTION AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ON THE TABLE

(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, every household in America knows this: The easiest money to save is money you haven't yet spent. That seems like common sense.

□ 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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We could reduce the deficit by eliminating spending that is to begin in the future, spending Americans simply cannot afford. This new select committee could easily achieve almost their entire target of reducing the Nation's deficit, and, most surprisingly, almost every dollar would come from benefits that do not yet exist.

New mandates in the Affordable Care Act give the Federal Government far too much control, and taxpayers far too much responsibility, for financing health care in this country. Given our deteriorating debt, the simple truth is we simply cannot afford this new spending.

The select committee will look to strengthen existing entitlement programs—Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security—but also these existing entitlements are on the table. So why shouldn't new entitlements created by the Affordable Care Act be as well?

We have this choice moving forward: We can make the select committee negotiations as painful as possible or we can have a logical discussion about cutting back on spending that we simply cannot afford.

The select committee is getting to work, and I encourage both parties, all 12 members, to put the Affordable Care Act on the table alongside other entitlements in need of reform. Failure to stop will simply threaten the very fabric of our Republic.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE A. KALOGRIDIS, PRESIDENT OF DISNEYLAND RESORT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Kalogridis, who is the president of Disneyland in my hometown of Anaheim. George will be celebrating 40 years on September 11, in just a few days, and I wish to offer him my heartiest congratulations for his 40 years with the Disney Corporation.

George started as a busboy at the age of 17 at Walt Disney World, and he has worked his way up to numerous positions including being the chief operating officer for Disneyland in Paris, and now he's the president of Disneyland in Orange County, California, where he oversees 21,000 employees.

George's outstanding record of achievement has increased the value of Disneyland to our community in Orange County, and I know that he continues to try to improve and to provide the leadership that that wonderful world-known resort needs.

The story of George's rise from a busboy to the president of Disneyland is really the accomplishment of the American Dream, and I am proud to extend him my best wishes and congratulations.

□ 1410

AMERICANS WANT REAL JOBS

(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, on Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the August jobs report. Unfortunately, the news was grim. Unemployment remained at 9.1 percent with zero jobs being created in August. This is another tragedy for millions of American families.

Today, Congress returns from the district work period. After having spent the last weeks with constituents in the district I represent, their one clear concern is jobs. People are tired of the President's lofty words with actions that destroy jobs. Americans want a change in course from the failed stimulus plans of borrow and wastefully spend. Let us work together to adopt real reforms that have an immediate impact on job creation. It's time to implement meaningful spending cuts, passing legislation designed to encourage small businesses to hire employees and help with job creation in the American economy. House Republicans have passed dozens of job-promoting bills since January. Now it's time for the liberal Senate and President to really help families who want jobs.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM CASEWORK DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE HOWARD L. BERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) laid before the House the following communication from Margaret Mott, Casework Director, the Honorable HOWARD L. BERMAN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 2, 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 United States District Court for the Central District of California, for witness testimony.

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, except to the extent that questions put to me seek information that is privileged.

Sincerely,

MARGARET MOTT,
Casework Director.

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, September 7, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, 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 September 7, 2011 at 9:47 a.m.:

Appointments:
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 74

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 7 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the