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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Morris Matthis, Christ United Methodist Church, Sugar Land, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift and who has blessed us with this good land and fashioned us into one united people, grant wisdom to those whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government.

Guide them, O God, in their deliberations and in their decisionmaking. Grant them the grace to see themselves as leaders who stand in the shadow of history. Bless them with the humility and insight of Abraham Lincoln, who said: "I have been driven many times to my knees with the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

Give them the assurance that when the hour is desperate and the way unclear, there is one to whom they can go, and then, O God, in Your Mercy, help them to go there.

In the name of the One who is the Hope of the world, 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. OLSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OLSON 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

WELCOMING REVEREND MORRIS MATTHIS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, one of the privileges we have as Members of Congress is to have the leader of a church back home deliver the opening prayer

for the United States House of Representatives. Today, I'm proud to introduce America to my home pastor, Morris Matthis.

Morris has had a tremendous spiritual influence on my family and me. When we moved back to Texas, my wife and I worried about uprooting our two children from the only home they'd ever known. But we shouldn't have worried. We found Morris and the amazing people at Christ United Methodist Church in Sugar Land, Texas. They welcomed us with open arms, and have loved us ever since.

During his tenure at Christ United Methodist Church, Morris and his team—his wife, Jepilyn; his son, Kyle; and his daughter, Amy—have made sure that every single man, woman, and child who has walked through our church's doors has felt the peace, the love, and the faith that embraced my family.

Whatever I do in Congress, however long I'm here, I'll have no fonder memory than my pastor, Morris Matthis, standing before the American people in prayer for our great Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

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

Mr. PENCE. Later today the House will consider H.R. 2447, a bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines, the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps. The United States of America owes these heroes a debt of honor that we will endeavor to pay, in part, today. I rise in strong support of this measure.

It was President Franklin Roosevelt who issued an Executive order in June of 1941 that opened the doors for African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African Americans earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. And we'll honor them today.

I especially want to commend the Montford Point Marines Indianapolis chapter's surviving marines. And since there are no "former marines," allow me to commend Marine Averitte Corley, Johnny Washington, and Lancaster Price, along with the late Walter Ezzell and Everette Sweat, who have done yeoman's work in keeping the proud memory of the Montford Point Marines alive in the Hoosier State.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting tribute to the Montford Point

Marines. It marks the service and sacrifice of these trailblazing heroes, but it also marks our Nation's mark toward a more perfect union, and I heartily endorse it.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to cuts in the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP as it is known in New York.

With snow in Buffalo forecast this week, it seems unconscionable to slash this essential aid that helps seniors afford their heating bills. However, the House Labor-HHS bill would do just that. It cuts HEAP and changes the formula in a way that penalizes New York and other cold-weather States.

New York's allocation would be cut by \$179 million, or 34 percent, from its current levels. As a result, HEAP assistance will be smaller, later, and benefit fewer New Yorkers. At a time when western New York heating prices are expected to increase, these cuts would force seniors and families to choose between heating their homes, putting food on the table, or purchasing prescription drugs.

I urge Congress to reject these cuts which threaten to leave many of the 235,000 HEAP recipients in Erie and Chautauqua counties out in the cold.

THE COST OF SENATE INACTION

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that by the end of this year another ratings agency may downgrade our Nation's sovereign debt. Why? Because they don't believe there's a plan to return our Nation to fiscal health. Well, they're not entirely right. In July, we passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. It was a common-sense solution that would have maintained our Nation's strong credit rating. The bill went to the cul-de-sac called the Senate where, as so many things have, it died. Maybe that's not surprising.

Cut, Cap, and Balance would not only have cut spending, it would have changed the way Washington works. It would have made structural change.

For a do-nothing Senate that has not bothered to pass a budget in over 900 days, the idea of spending cuts and fiscal accountability must be utterly foreign. Once again, we see the high cost of their inaction.

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INVESTING IN INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 54 years ago this month, Sputnik knocked the United States into second place in the space race. America responded with a tremendous investment in the sciences, which produced the Apollo program, the personal computer, the Internet, GPS, and numerous other technologies; but, sadly, that may be ending.

Last December, in an OECD ranking, the United States rated only “average” in education. Other nations are outinvesting and outeducating us. And the Republican slash-and-burn agenda is making it worse. America is now losing education jobs every month and disinvesting in R&D and critical infrastructure.

The President laid out a plan to invest in our educators, innovators, and job creators—priorities that used to have bipartisan support. We cannot continue to let American performance slide. We are jeopardizing our future.

Mr. Speaker, last century America fell behind, and the Soviet Sputnik was the result. It took a decade to catch up. How long will we fall behind today before we realize those investments are critical and support the President’s job program?

HOUSE REPUBLICAN JOBS PLAN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it’s time for the President to get a grip on reality. He obviously doesn’t understand the unemployment crisis that’s crippling America.

The President says that he hasn’t seen the House Republican jobs plan. Well, here it is. It’s been out since May, and it’s available at jobs.gop.gov. Now, maybe the White House is having an Internet problem.

I’m proud to join Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc HASTINGS in recommending plans to the supercommittee that create jobs right here in America while at the same time reducing the deficit, ideas like increasing onshore and offshore energy production. Increasing offshore energy production will create over 1 million new jobs alone and would generate billions in new Federal revenue. But President Obama would rather make bad bets on green companies like Solyndra, wasting hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

House Republicans have passed jobs bill after jobs bill—they’re stacked up like cordwood on the Senate floor—but Senator REID and President Obama refuse to consider them. The American people deserve better. President Obama’s ideologically driven, job-killing policies are hurting America.

EDUCATION FUNDING

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I’m concerned that education, the most powerful tool we have to build our economy, is being ignored.

Yesterday was my granddaughter Brooklyn’s 7th birthday. A few months ago, Brooklyn’s parents asked her if she could have her birthday anywhere she wanted to, where would it be. To her parents’ surprise, she said she wanted to celebrate right here in the Capitol. So last night, we celebrated Brooklyn’s birthday right here in the Capitol Building.

I like to think she chose the Capitol because it represents the opportunity each of us has to make people’s lives better. Unfortunately, we are failing to uphold the obligation we have to Brooklyn and millions of American children. Senate Republicans have blocked just a vote on the President’s American Jobs Act. It would have provided \$60 billion to save the jobs of teachers, put Americans to work rebuilding schools, and helped community colleges.

Nearly 300,000 teachers have already lost their jobs since 2008. Another 280,000 more may be out of the classroom if we don’t do something now. Now is not the time to be laying off teachers. It’s not the time to surrender the leadership in math and science to foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, Americans can’t wait. We should put people to work rebuilding our crumbling schools. We should be working to transform the prestige of teachers in our culture. Teaching requires high skill and should be rewarded with high pay and be the preferred profession of the best and the brightest. Brooklyn deserves it and all American children deserve it.

JOB CREATION

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, last week, instead of making campaign bus stops and touting more stimulus spending, President Obama may have been better served coming to Rhinelander, Wisconsin, for a conference on jobs in the timber industry.

At the conference, Representatives CRAVAACK, DUFFY, RIBBLE, and myself, along with Chief Tidwell of the U.S. Forest Service, met with loggers, mill operators, and forestry experts. And the consensus was clear: Bureaucratic roadblocks and lack of direction are preventing the responsible harvest of Federal timberlands and killing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about clear-cutting our Nation’s forests. Responsible timber harvests make for healthier forests. They also create real jobs and grow the economy. As it stands, timber in the forests of the Great Lakes and across America is literally rotting on the stump and the Federal Government’s bureaucratic snares are allowing it to happen. This cannot continue.

It is time President Obama and Congress recognize that the simplest and quickest way to create jobs is to release the handcuffs of overregulation and red tape.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Ms. CHU. Did you know that small businesses create two out of every three new jobs? That’s why we need a plan to invest in them and that’s why I support the President’s American Jobs Act.

It includes tax cuts for every small business. Businesses that hire workers who have been unemployed for 6 months or more get \$4,000 off their tax bill; those that invest in machinery or equipment get to write off the whole expense; and the payroll tax cuts will save a small business with 50 workers approximately \$50,000 a year, putting money in the bank for every mom-and-pop shop. The American Jobs Act will help small businesses do what they do best: create good jobs, drive innovation, and strengthen the middle class.

For small businesses, the economy, and Americans everywhere, let’s pass the American Jobs Act now.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI SALUTES THE MILITARY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, tonight, back home in south Mississippi, the Coast Chamber is hosting the 33rd annual Salute to the Military. I deeply regret not being able to attend tonight to recognize our Nation’s finest.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, a marine veteran, and the only Member of Congress who still actively serves as a noncommissioned officer in the Mississippi Army National Guard, I know firsthand how vital their work is to our Nation’s defense. As I serve, I am always mindful of their service and sacrifice, as well as their families’. Nowhere are so few asked to sacrifice so much for so many. So I ask this Congress and the American people to share in their sacrifice and say “no” to any more defense spending cuts.

To date, more than half of the cuts in spending have come from defense. It is morally irresponsible to continue trying to balance the budget on the backs of our men and women in uniform. As a nation, our economic and personal security depends on a strong, capable, well-equipped, and well-trained military.

So I want to salute all those who have served and are currently serving. Thank you for making America safe and exceptional.