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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of a world where respect and understanding are the marks of civility and where honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

As Members take time in the coming week for constituency visits, give them the ability to hear the voices of all in their districts, so that when they return they are focused on the important work to be done.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be 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 Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTIERREZ 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

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

SUPPORT THE JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STARTUPS ACT

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act.

Our Nation's success has been built by individuals who turn innovative ideas into small businesses. By taking risks and working hard, our small business owners drive the majority of job creation in this country.

Right now it's just too difficult to start up a business. The threat of higher taxes and increased regulations has small businessmen and -women and entrepreneurs frozen in their tracks. Small businesses and start-ups simply do not have the bandwidth to comply with Washington's redtape, and yet they are the ones we're counting on to create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the JOBS Act will get small businesses and entrepreneurs back into the game by removing costly regulations and making it easier for them to access capital. This legislation also paves the way for more start-ups and small businesses to go public, which will attract new investors and will allow small businesses to grow and create jobs.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama asked Congress to send him a bill that helps start-ups and entrepreneurs succeed. The JOBS Act that we'll be voting on today does exactly that. Our bill brings together commonsense measures that have bipartisan support here in Washington and from business leaders across the country, including former AOL chairman and founder Steve Case.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my colleagues who have worked on the JOBS Act, including Congressman STEPHEN FINCHER, Whip KEVIN MCCARTHY, Congressman DAVID SCHWEIKERT, Congressman BEN QUAYLE, Congressman PATRICK MCHENRY, Congressman JOHN CARNEY, and many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Let's build on this bipartisan momentum, Mr. Speaker. This week, President Obama offered his support for the JOBS Act. I strongly urge Senator REID to take up this bill as quickly as possible and let's just get it to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to see us get something done and produce results. With the JOBS Act, we do have a window of opportunity for both parties in Washington to come together and produce results. We must make sure America remains the place where extraordinary success can be achieved by individuals who are willing to take risks and work hard.

PEDRO GRANT

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, Puerto Rico lost one of the towering figures of its labor movement, Pedro Grant, at the age of 92.

Throughout his life, Mr. Grant was an example for the struggle for justice. He was one of the main leaders of the United Workers Movement, which led to the revival of the labor movement in Puerto Rico in the sixties and seventies.

By his example, Mr. Grant taught us that a life well lived is a life devoted to the struggle for justice and human rights and dignity for working people. He was a lifelong fighter against abuses of power and standing up for the little guy. He was a Puerto Rican patriot whose wisdom and strength will be sorely missed.

□ 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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I will say a few words in his language, Spanish, in his memory:

Viviste bien. Siempre dijiste presente en todas las luchas de tu pueblo. Viviremos a la sombra de tu ejemplo. Gracias. Mereces un buen descanso, hermano.

You lived well. You were always present in all our struggles. We will live in the shadow of your example. Thank you. You deserve a good rest, my brother.

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, modern-day slavery is alive in America.

When Maria was 16, she was lured from Mexico to Houston by a man who promised her a better life. When she arrived in Texas, she learned this scoundrel was in the slavery business. The slave master immediately put Maria up for sale. Now she was a sex slave, a victim of child human trafficking.

Here's what she said she was forced to do:

Every day, 6 to 7 days a week, I'd have sex with seven to 10 men a night during the week, and on the weekends, 20 to 30 men a night.

Tortured and abused, the slave trader threatened her so she was too scared to run away, but she defied her captor and called for help. Law enforcement came to her aid and rescued her.

The trafficker was convicted and sent to prison where we house these deviant international slave traders. Now it's time to prosecute the customers as well.

Meanwhile, we have a duty to help and care for the victims of child sex slavery like Maria.

And that's just the way it is.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Women's Day.

Today is a day that honors numerous women who have actively and passionately participated in various economic, social, and political issues within their communities.

Women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, including discrimination, gender bias, and the denial of basic human rights.

Let's take a look at Vietnam, for example:

Ms. Bui Thi Minh Hang, who was sentenced without trial to 2 years of re-education camp for participating in peaceful protests related to the Eastern Sea; or

Ms. Do Thi Minh Hanh, a labor organizer, who was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment for advocating for farmers and workers' rights; or

Ms. Pham Thanh Nghien, who was unfairly sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment, followed by 3 years' house arrest for participating in a nonviolent hunger strike in her home related to the issue of the Eastern Sea.

In the discourse of women's rights, these women are only three of the many voices who have been unjustly sentenced to prison without any due process.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing International Women's Day and the women who are advocating for freedom and democracy in their communities and in countries such as Vietnam.

□ 1010

RECOGNIZING AUGUSTO OPPUS AND OTHER DENIED FILIPINO VETERANS

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

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today saddened by the news of the passing of World War II veteran and Las Vegas resident Augusto Oppus over this past weekend. Mr. Oppus was part of a small community known as the "Denied Filipino Veterans."

Born in the Philippines on August 28, 1924, Mr. Oppus entered into military service on behalf of the United States in March of 1945 and was trained as a military policeman. He served in the 12th Military Police Company and was honorably discharged in 1946.

While he enjoyed a happy, healthy life following the war, one thing Mr. Oppus did not share with his fellow World War II veterans was full recognition for his service and access to military benefits he had rightfully earned.

In February 1946, President Truman signed the Rescission Act of 1946 into law. This bill denied over 200,000 Filipino World War II veterans who served before July 1, 1946, the benefits promised to them 5 years prior by President Franklin Roosevelt. The men who joined prior to July of '46 put their lives on the line for the Allied cause and helped us win the war in the Pacific, yet, due to a technicality, are not afforded the recognition they deserve.

With every day that passes, it is estimated that 10 of these forgotten soldiers die having received no answer or recognition of service from our government. Men like Augusto Oppus deserve the recognition and access to benefits they've earned.

My district is home to four remaining forgotten Filipino veterans. Besides Augusto, we lost Francisco Cedula last year, and I want their families to know that I am personally thankful for their service and will continue working to see them properly recognized.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S COMMITMENT TO THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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

Mr. FALCONE. Madam Speaker, increasing American manufacturing is central to President Obama's vision for an economy built to last. The American manufacturing industry has expanded for 30 straight months. For the first time since the 1990s, we are creating manufacturing jobs again. The past 2 years, American manufacturers have created nearly 400,000 jobs across the country.

Because of President Obama's decisive actions, we've also experienced a revival in the automotive industry. In the last 2½ years, the auto industry alone has added more than 200,000 jobs. Furthermore, General Motors Company once again is the number one company in the world, and it recently announced its largest annual profits in history, thanks again to President Obama's determination to assist this important industry to get back on its feet.

Because of President Obama's leadership, the United States also is on track to meet his goal of doubling exports within 5 years. Now more and more consumers around the world are buying products stamped with the three magic words, "Made in America."

The vitality of the American manufacturing industry is crucial to the economic recovery of our Nation. I commend President Obama for his commitment to our manufacturing industry and, most of all, for his bold leadership and vision.

IT'S WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it's worse than we thought. President Obama and his activist Interior Department are threatening an estimated 100,000 direct and indirect coal jobs, according to a new study. This is from the administration's proposed rewrite of the stream buffer zone rule that would cut coal production in half. Instead of developing one of America's most abundant resources, the Obama administration chooses to attack the coal industry and the jobs that go with it and would rather put the American taxpayer on the hook for failed companies like Solyndra.

This is unacceptable. We need solutions and real growth to create jobs through energy development, because the President's current policies continue to hurt America and are making our economy worse. House Republicans have a plan to stop President Obama's attack on coal. It's part of the plan for America's job creators that's being