

But, unfortunately, instead of working together to make economic justice a reality for every American, this Republican Tea Party will waste another year without a jobs bill, without extending any help to the millions of Americans in need, and without helping American retirees.

So we should be putting our Nation before our party. Americans can't wait and neither should this Congress.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

Reverend Karen Hallett, United States Army, New Windsor, New York, offered the following prayer:

Reading from the book of Exodus, Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but You have not let me know whom You will send with me . . . If You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so I may know You and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is Your people."

The Lord replied, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then Moses said to him, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the Earth?"

And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you ask because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

Then Moses said, "Now show me Your glory."

And this, O Lord, is our prayer:

We do not come seeking Your blessing. Today, Lord, we come seeking You. We invite You to truly be present with us here today. Show us Your glory, Lord, that we might be changed and set apart upon the Earth once again as a people of faith, a Nation that knows You. Make Your face to shine upon us that we might reflect Your grace. And grant us Your peace we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings 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 Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUCSHON 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.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND KAREN HALLETT

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the words of the chaplain who says may we indeed know the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chaplain Karen Hallett on her selection as the 2012 Reserve Officers Association Chaplain of the Year. She is a resident of Vernon, New Jersey, which is a part of the Fifth Congressional District.

The chaplain enlisted in the Army in 1983 and completed basic combat training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She went on from there to graduate from West Point and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Ordnance Corps in 1988.

After that and after fulfilling her enlistment obligations, she spent 18 years in the civilian sector, successfully managing businesses while remaining engaged in full-time ministry. In 2009, after completing her master's of divinity degree at Bethel Seminary, she returned to military service as a captain in the United States Army Reserves. She currently serves as a brigade chaplain for the 411th Engineer Brigade.

Throughout her more than 20 years of ministerial service and missionary work, and now through her military service to our country, she has dedicated herself to ministering to the spiritual needs of others. It is her selflessness and her service that exemplify the mandate to esteem others better than ourselves.

I thank her for her service. I congratulate her on receiving this recognition as Chaplain of the Year.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a) and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy:

Mr. SHIMKUS, Illinois

Mr. WOMACK, Arkansas

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, January 27, 2012:

H.R. 3800, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3801, to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### PRESIDENT'S DEFENSE STRATEGY ENDANGERS NATIONAL DEFENSE

(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, Baker Spring of the prestigious Heritage Foundation recently warned:

"It is clear that the fiscal year 2013 defense budget will not provide the U.S. military with the resources it needs. Even more problematic is that all reductions to the defense budget are front-loaded, and, therefore will have significant and immediate implication for readiness, modernization programs, and research and development."

Our servicemembers, their families, and veterans have dedicated their lives to this country. House Republicans understand that in order to keep American families safe, we must fight to stop these reductions. I look forward to working with House Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK McKEON to find ways to promote the proven path of peace through strength.

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

Welcome Episcopal Father Carroll McGee of West Columbia to Washington for the National Prayer Breakfast.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN POGROMS

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

Ms. CHU. Between 1988 and 1990, the Armenian population was the target of racially motivated pogroms in Azerbaijan. Hundreds of Armenians were murdered and more wounded during three violent attacks in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku.

Though the ethnic cleansing programs occurred over 20 years ago, they were atrocious acts of cruelty. We cannot forget them.

I worry the sentiments that sparked this violence still remain in the Nagorno-Karabakh. Just last month, Azerbaijan began buying up weapons to regain control of the region. The President of Azerbaijan declared this is “not a frozen conflict, and it’s not going to be one.”

America must remain committed to a peaceful and democratic resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, not one that relives the past.

□ 1210

#### AUTO MANUFACTURING RETURNS TO INDIANA’S EIGHTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate some great news for manufacturing in Indiana’s Eighth Congressional District, my home. On January 17, the 3 millionth vehicle rolled off the line at the Toyota Motor Manufacturing plant in Princeton, Indiana. Approximately 80 percent of the parts for these vehicles were made here in America within a 300-mile radius of the plant. These vehicles are then shipped and sold both across this country and around the world thanks to the free trade agreements that Congress passed this year.

This plant began operations in 1996 and employs 4,149 people. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the Princeton team members last February, and I want to commend each of these employees for their hard work and dedication. I congratulate them on a job well done. I have no doubts that it won’t be long until we celebrate another millionth vehicle made right here in the U.S.A. in my district in Indiana.

#### STOP PUTTING POLITICS OVER PEOPLE

(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. Madam Speaker, for those who believe in the Mayan end of days and the prophecy of the end of the world in 2012, the fact that our Republican friends have finally met a tax cut they don’t like surely must be a sign of the apocalypse. Republicans fought tooth and nail opposing the middle class tax cut, only relenting at the 11th hour to a 2-month extension. But in the more than 40 days since then, they’ve ignored almost every attempt to enact a full-year extension. Why?

Perhaps because it’s primarily a middle class tax cut, saving 160 million Americans almost an average of \$1,000

a year. Perhaps it’s because President Obama proposed it, and in an election year, they’d rather defeat the President than, in fact, support initiatives designed to help the American people. Whatever the reason, Republican opposition, once again, threatens to raise taxes on millions of Americans, deny unemployment insurance to 2.3 million Americans, and risk Medicare access for 48 million Americans.

It’s long past time the Republicans stopped putting politics over people and instead extend those tax cuts for 160 million fellow citizens without making Americans wait until judgment day.

#### FEDERAL PAY FREEZE

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, the numbers are in. Once again, the Federal Government is going to achieve an annual deficit of more than \$1 trillion.

Now, how much is \$1 trillion? Because we throw around that number far too often. If you spend \$1 million a day every day, it would take you almost 3,000 years to get to \$1 trillion, and our Federal Government is approaching \$16 trillion in debt. We’re spending more than \$733 million a day as just interest on the debt.

We have to change the trajectory. We can no longer borrow and spend the kind of money that we are. Please, ladies and gentlemen, we have to have systemic changes; and one of those things that we’re going to talk about today is putting a freeze on pay.

We have to understand that there are a lot of good Federal employees out there doing great, great work, but your Federal Government has more than 450,000 people earning a base pay of at least \$100,000. These are going to have to change.

#### THE STOCK ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Republican leadership of the House to bring the STOCK Act to the floor. This commonsense legislation would ensure that Members of Congress and their staffs are not able to profit from nonpublic information obtained through their official duties. President Obama has called on Congress to pass this bill, and it has even advanced in the Senate this week with 93 “yes” votes. Meanwhile, the House has not acted on the bill, and a markup on it in December was quashed by the Republican leadership.

Madam Speaker, Members of Congress need to play by the same rules as everyone else, and our constituents need to have confidence that is the case. Right now, they don’t have a lot

of confidence in Congress on anything. Congressional approval ratings are at record lows, and reports that Members could possibly profit from nonpublic information is no doubt one more reason for that. Now we can take a step to address this gap by enacting the STOCK Act.

Madam Speaker, this is the people’s House, and the American people deserve to know that the men and women they send here are working for them.

#### VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Every February, Americans across the country open their hearts to the country’s hospitalized veterans by sending valentine cards to VA medical centers in conjunction with the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

For several years, students in our Third District of Texas have participated in the annual Valentines for Veterans program as a creative way to thank our brave men and women in uniform for something we love so much—our freedom. Last year, 19 area schools in our district participated, and this year, I encourage all our schools, families, and businesses to take part in making this day special for our Nation’s veterans.

Every year, I look forward to delivering these cards to the veterans at the Dallas VA Medical Center, showing them a Texas-size thank you from our schoolkids. You should see the look in their eyes when they read, our veterans, words of appreciation. After all, they are the true reason we remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEWPORT ART MUSEUM

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Newport Art Museum and Art Association.

Founded in 1912 for the purpose of promoting and exhibiting fine arts and fostering art education within the community, the Newport Art Museum continues to enhance community life as a shared place for the arts and culture.

One hundred years after its founding, the Newport Art Museum is, without question, one of our great museums. The museum has received full accreditation from the American Association of Museums, the highest national recognition of a museum’s commitment to accountability, public service, professional museum standards, and excellence in education and stewardship.

This valuable community resource inspires passion for the arts in diverse