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No. 69

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 15, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB BISHOP to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK AND DEPUTY JOHN MECKLENBURG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reference to National Police Week, which is going on right now.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. This year's National Police Week is Sunday, May 13, through Saturday, May 19.

As George W. Bush once described it:

Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week pay tribute to the local, State, and

Federal law enforcement officers who serve and protect us with courage and dedication. These observances also remind us of the ongoing need to be vigilant against all forms of crime, especially to acts of extreme violence and terrorism.

On Sunday, May 13, I attended the candlelight vigil for our fallen officers from 2011. There were 163 peace officers who sacrificed their lives for us in the line of duty. Earlier today, I had the honor of attending the 31st National Police Officers Memorial Service right here on the front lawn of the Capitol. We honored over 19,000 law enforcement officers who have given their lives—the ultimate sacrifice—in the line of duty.

In 2011, 163 police officers gave their lives for this country. So far this year, we've lost over 40 officers in the line of duty. On July 3, 2011—and this is especially close to me—one of those who lost their lives was Hernando County Sheriff's Deputy John Mecklenburg, a deputy that I actually swore in to serve the citizens of Hernando County.

John died while in pursuit of a suspect and gave his life, and John left behind a wife, Penny, and two children. When he left that evening to go to work for the midnight shift, he had all expectations of coming home. But John gave the ultimate sacrifice for his county, for his State, and, ultimately, for his Nation.

I served as a police officer for 36 years before I came up here. I know what it is to go through the grief of losing one of our own. I want to thank the Fraternal Order of Police for highlighting this and working with the COPS organization to actually pay respect to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

We've been blessed in America, and we're protected by people who do it because it's the right thing to do, not because they're going to make a lot of money. They do it because they truly believe in the citizens that they serve. They do it with honor and dignity. And

today, the President of the United States spoke to all of the survivors and police officers and their families that were in attendance on the front lawn of the Capitol, rightfully, as he should. We appreciate the President coming forward because it means so much to the survivors of a law enforcement officer who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Once again, we've been blessed, Mr. Speaker, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our law enforcement officers who protect us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we also keep our thoughts and prayers, not only for the law enforcement officers that are out there today at this very minute across the United States putting their lives on the line, but also remember those who are serving in harm's way in our military who also have given the fullest measure that they can, and that's their life, in defense of this country.

Mr. Speaker, God bless us and God bless America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

□ 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 ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, enlightened by Your eternal Spirit.

We gather after celebrating Mother's Day. We thank You for the gift of self modeled by our mothers, who chose to place each of us before themselves in giving birth to us and nurturing us as we grew. May we all earn the pride of our mothers in the service we provide to the benefit of this Nation.

Finally, we take special notice this day, May 15, of National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, of the 163 peace officers who died this past year in the line of duty. We ask that You grant them eternal rest for having paid the ultimate price in protecting us, and give their families consolation in mourning their loss. May they be assured that we as a Nation hold them in our hearts and understand that we will always be indebted to them.

May all that is done within the people's House this day 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 Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOMACK 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.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(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, last Wednesday, the House Armed Services Committee met to mark up the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. Over the past year, the administration has targeted defense spending to shift to other programs, which destroys jobs.

Chairman BUCK MCKEON has successfully developed a bipartisan bill that will limit shifts. The Department of Defense budget accounts for less than 20 percent of our discretionary spending and does not contribute to our growing national debt. The legislation provides the support our brave servicemembers, military families, and veterans deserve as they dedicate their

lives to defend our freedoms and protect our families from foreign threats.

This week, the House will vote on the National Defense Authorization Act. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and give military families the resources they deserve as they fight to promote peace through strength.

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

HAPPY 150TH ANNIVERSARY TO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to a great American success story. Today marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the United States Department of Agriculture.

President Abraham Lincoln founded USDA, as it's commonly called, and directed its focus to advancing America's agriculture industry through science and engineering. Today, our country's advanced system of production agriculture is evidence of how successful we are by being the world leader in food production, conservation innovations, in the development and use of agricultural biotechnology that helps produce biofuels, as well as helping farmers export their products that contribute to our positive balance of agricultural trade.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute and extend my personal best wishes to USDA on its 150th anniversary. I also congratulate Secretary Vilsack and all the fine men and women who work or have worked in the Department, and I wish them another 150 years of success.

CONGRATULATING KENNAMETAL

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a milestone achievement at Kennametal, a company headquartered in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, with facilities across the country, including one in the Third District of Arkansas.

The employees at the Rogers facility were presented with the Three Million Work Hour Award by the Arkansas Department of Labor, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Arkansas Insurance Department for, as the name of the award suggests, going 3 million work hours without a lost-time accident.

Kennametal's Rogers, Arkansas, facility was established in 1953. The facility is home to 500 employees who manufacture round tool blanks, energy compacts, substrates, wear parts, pelletizing dies, hard-facing rod, and powdered metal.

Mr. Speaker, 3 million work hours without a lost-time accident is a great

accomplishment. It's a testament to what can be done when a group of employees, however large, share a common vision and come together to work toward that goal. Today, I'm honored to share this accomplishment with the Nation. Congratulations, Kennametal. You deserve it.

□ 1410

COMMEMORATING PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today is Peace Officers Memorial Day. Throughout the Nation, and in my home State of Missouri, flags fly at half staff at all our State buildings in honor of the members of our police forces who have reached the ends of their watch, including seven in 2011 and two in 2010.

These men and women gave their lives for their Nation, not on a battlefield with a foreign name, but in our neighborhoods, on streets our children walk. They're heroes, seldom recognized, frequently in danger, always ready to give what Abraham Lincoln called "the last full measure of devotion" to protect and serve our friends, our family, our community.

The peace officers lost in Missouri fell as enforcers of law and as first responders in times of need. We remember them all with an empty spot on the force and hearts full of thanks for their sacrifice and service.

MEDIA SPINS JOBS REPORT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to the American Enterprise Institute, the labor force participation rate has dropped to its lowest level in 30 years. The only reason the unemployment rate fell slightly to 8 percent is because another 522,000 adults quit looking for work and are no longer counted.

Of course, it's no surprise that the liberal national media attempted to spin the numbers. Bloomberg dismissed the lack of new jobs as being a "rounding error." Time magazine described the negative reports as being "statistical noise." The liberal media fed this narrative with misleading statements like the economy is "gaining steam," as The New York Times headlined the news, or that the economy was on a "hiring surge," as the Associated Press claimed.

The liberal media show its bias when it ignores the President's failed promises and failed attempts to create jobs.

Americans are concerned about the lack of jobs and deserve the facts. When will the national media put their responsibility to the people ahead of protecting the President?