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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 6, 2012, at 2 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2012

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Reverend Cal LeMon, First and Calvary Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

God, as You know, these walls have echoed with Your name for centuries.

You see, God, we know Your name because we are Your Nation, Your people. To prove it, we've printed Your name on our dollar bills, chiseled Your name into our granite walls everywhere in this city, and regularly include Your name in prayers before Friday night high school football games.

Therefore, since You are our God, the Prince of Peace, I ask You to quell the need in this room to dominate, degrade, and even denigrate.

I ask You, God, the Healer, to rub the salve of Your Holy Spirit into our long-festered political wounds.

I ask You, God, the Creator, to whisper new words, new possibilities, and new solutions up and down these aisles.

Teach us, Lord, when we drop Your name, we must also be ready to drop to our knees again and again and learn from You how to be one nation under God, with liberty and justice for everyone.

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 Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANKFORD 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 CAL LEMON

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LONG. 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 am proud to introduce America to a friend of mine, the Reverend Doctor Cal LeMon. Reverend LeMon is an ordained elder at First and Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Missouri, where he regularly preaches and teaches in a historic house of worship.

He is the president of Executive Enrichment, Inc., a corporate education and consulting firm, assisting organizations to become more productive through effective leadership. He is also

a writer and regularly contributes to the Society for Human Resources magazine, Employment Relations Today, and the opinion page of USA Today.

Like many members of the clergy, the Reverend Cal LeMon is an important voice in our community. Reverend LeMon is and has been a tremendous spiritual influence on my family and me.

He has a heart for his country and for each and every one of us. I am honored to welcome him here to Congress.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches from either side of the aisle.

### NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today, February 3, is the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day, which encourages people to help raise awareness and join the fight against heart disease, which is the leading killer of women.

Now, I understand most men don't own a red suit unless, of course, you were keyboardist in an eighties hair band. But we all have shirts; we all have ties, accessories, and lapels by which we can show our support and "Go Red for Women."

□ 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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As sons, husbands, fathers, and friends, we can do no less for the women we owe everything, for the women we love, for the women whose loss would empty our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage every American, Go Red.

#### HONORING 100 GREAT YEARS OF GIRL SCOUTS

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low organized the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Georgia. Daisy began with 18 girls in one troop in Savannah, but her movement has grown to include over 50 million American women over the past 100 years, including 3.2 million active members today.

The Girl Scouts build character by engaging girls in community service, developing leadership skills, and preparing girls to take their place in the world. I know what I'm talking about because I have a twin sister, and she was a Girl Scout.

I'm proud of the hard work of the girls and women who've been a part of the Girl Scouts movement, but I'm even more grateful for the positive influence this institution has had on millions of girls throughout America and the world.

So I congratulate the Girl Scouts on 100 great years, and I wish them every success for the next 100 years.

#### EMPLOYMENT AND DEBT

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Our newest national unemployment numbers are in, 8.3 percent. It's progress, but it's 37 months above 8 percent.

It makes me grateful again to be from Oklahoma. We have the 10th lowest unemployment rate in the country at around 6 percent. Forbes Magazine listed my district as one of the happiest places to work in the country.

Oklahoma is the number one place to start a small business and number one in technology job growth. In the last 8 years, Oklahoma City has created more than 80,000 new jobs. These jobs include a thriving energy, aviation, and biomedical center.

Oklahomans work with private businesses, nonprofits, churches and religious organizations to feed the hungry, help families get back on their feet after disasters, and offer job training and education.

On this mission, we don't see Washington as our enemy. Sometimes we don't see Washington as our ally. What so many people back home tell me they want from their Federal Government is a plan to reduce our debt, simplify our Tax Code, and get rid of the red tape

off their businesses. Then you'll really see our economy take off.

#### LILLY LEDBETTER AND PAYCHECK FAIRNESS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago this week, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law. Named after a true hero who was shortchanged by her employer for decades and who fought back all the way to the Supreme Court, the Lilly Ledbetter Act ensured that women who are discriminated against have the right to sue as long as their unequal pay continues.

This was a good first step, but we have to do more to achieve real pay equity in America. Today, women are still only paid 77 cents on the dollar as compared to men for the very same job. They lose out on between \$400,000 and \$2 million over a lifetime. This is an injustice.

It is time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act already passed twice by this body. It would give real teeth to the Equal Pay Act. It has been almost 50 years since Congress passed the Equal Pay Act. It is time to ensure that one-half of America's workforce is paid as fairly as the other half.

□ 0910

#### MAKING AMERICA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to go red today and to honor our Girl Scouts.

We have a wonderful woman in our beautiful Hudson Valley, Martha, who is from Wappingers Falls and who is a former computer programmer and a current substitute teacher. She wrote to me: It broke my heart to hear that Kodak filed for bankruptcy. What is being done to keep the companies that are producing made in the U.S.A. products here in the United States?

Martha, that's a great question. And here's what we can do and what we're doing in the House of Representatives. We're working to make our Tax Code flatter and fairer. We're working to remove burdensome and unnecessary regulations. And we're working to take less from hardworking Americans like you so that we can spend and save and invest right here in our communities and in our country. We've sent 30 bills to the Senate, 27 of which still sit unanswered.

So this week in the House of Representatives, we're working further to shrink the Federal Government and to make our budget process have common sense the way you do in your own homes. I urge the Senate to join us to work together to revive our economy

and make America open for business again.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in complete disgust of the Republican conferees' attempt to include an education requirement as a condition of receiving unemployment benefits.

To require people who would otherwise be eligible for benefits to now either have a high school diploma or be enrolled in a GED program is discriminatory. It is despicable.

Adding conditions to receiving compensation does nothing to create jobs or address the real causes of unemployment. It is a difficult time, Mr. Speaker, to be unemployed in America, but Republicans seem determined to make it even more difficult by kicking the unemployed while they're down.

With less than a month to craft a long-term tax measure, I urge Republican conferees to stop obstructing the process by insisting on distracting proposals that are only meant to score political points.

I am opposed to any education requirement to receive unemployment benefits. I implore my colleagues to do the same.

#### LET GULF COAST GET BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. CASSIDY. "The gulf oil spill has been terrible for the Gulf Coast. But as bad as it has been, the Federal Government's moratorium on deepwater drilling can be worse."

Mr. Speaker, 18 months ago I had the honor to speak these words while offering a motion to immediately end President Obama's moratorium on deepwater drilling.

Although the moratorium has officially ended, there is still a two-thirds cut in new permitting and an overall slowdown in production that has caused nearly one-half of the Gulf Coast's oil and gas-focused businesses to reduce wages or lay off workers.

These aren't the major oil and gas companies. These are small businesses that cannot move overseas. Forty-one percent are not turning a profit. Seventy percent have had to draw from their savings accounts to meet operating expenses. The gulf oil spill is a tragedy, but for workers, the moratorium has made it worse.

For the sake of job creation, affordable domestic energy, and a stronger economy for all Americans, I call on the President to reverse these policies and let the Gulf Coast get back to work.