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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

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

As this House adjourns in anticipation of Independence Day, we ask Your special blessing upon our Nation. We have many things to be thankful for, and ask that You send Your spirit, that we might continue to live our freedoms with responsibility and integrity. Help us to be truly grateful for what we have, and generous as well.

Bless the Members of this assembly and their families in the time they have together at home so that when they return, they are rested and energized to take on the important work that faces them concerning our economy and national security in today's world.

These have been historic days. Issues of grave importance have been decided, and much commentary and argument has ensued. Bless our Nation and its citizens, especially those whose energy and emotions are stirred, with equanimity, goodwill, and an abiding trust that, in time, our Nation will emerge into an even greater future as it has so many times before. Give us the faith to believe and increase our trust in You.

May all that is done 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 Nevada (Mr. HECK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HECK 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 pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

OBAMACARE DECISION DISCOURAGING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(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, yesterday's decision by the Supreme Court to uphold ObamaCare is discouraging for America's small businesses by destroying jobs and threatening families with the loss of their insurance policies.

When the President lobbied for the passage of the 2,700-page health care takeover, he promised Americans that the individual mandate was not a tax increase. Chief Justice Roberts based his opinion on his view that it is a tax increase, which contradicts the President as being incorrect.

Chief Justice Roberts and the four liberals now confirm the President has been inaccurate. Not only will this tax place more hardship on small businesses to follow the law, but already 12,000 pages of regulations have been issued with more than 150 new boards, agencies, and programs destroying jobs.

On July 11, the House of Representatives, under the leadership of JOHN

BOEHNER and ERIC CANTOR, will vote to repeal the Obama taxes. On November 6, American citizens will have the opportunity to vote for repeal and reform.

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

EXPRESSING THANKS TO KRISTIE JOHNSON GREGORY FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

(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, I rise today to express my thanks to Kristie Johnson Gregory, who is moving on from my staff after 7 years of service to accept the position of special populations coordinator at Augusta Technical College. Kristie started as an intern in my office back in 2005, and she quickly rose up the ranks to serve as a senior constituent services representative.

Every Congressman knows just how important it is to have good staff, and Kristie is the kind of staffer that you need. Kristie and our district staff recovered some \$3.7 million in benefits wrongfully withheld from families back home in just the last year alone, and there's no telling how many homes she helped rescue from the brink of foreclosure. When you add it all up, her record is reflected in the thank you letters of grateful constituents and the appreciation of this Congressman for a job well done.

STOLEN VALOR ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join with me

□ 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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in restoring the honor and valor of our military heroes by cosponsoring my bill, H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act of 2011.

While yesterday our attention was focused on the Supreme Court health care ruling, lost in the media frenzy was the story of how the Court also struck down the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, concluding that the broad nature of the law infringed upon the guaranteed protection of free speech provided by the First Amendment of our Constitution.

The Court determined that the act "sought to control and suppress all false statements on this one subject, without regard as to whether the lie was made for the purpose of material gain." The Stolen Valor Act of 2011 resolves these constitutional issues by clearly defining that the objective of the law is to target and punish those who misrepresent their service with the intent of profiting personally or financially. Defining the intent helps ensure that this law will pass constitutional scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, the need to protect the honor, service, and sacrifice of our veterans and military personnel is just as strong today as it was in 2005. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1775 so that we can restore the honor and protect the valor of our military heroes.

SRI LANKA

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I rise today to mark the third anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka and to urge the U.S. Government to continue to press for full accountability for all human rights abuses committed during the conflict.

Over 70,000 Sri Lankans were killed in the course of the 26-year civil war. The United Nations found claims that both sides committed war crimes to be credible, and although the war ended 3 years ago, human rights violations are reportedly continuing. Reports suggest that over 50 people—mostly critics of the government—have been abducted in the last 6 months. Human rights activists have been targeted for harassment and labeled as traitors in the national media. Gender-based violence is on the rise in the country's north.

Mr. Speaker, the international community must continue to call for accountability for the crimes during the conflict, and we must urge the Colombo government to uphold its international commitments and fully respect the human rights of all Sri Lankans.

□ 0910

SEQUESTRATION OF DEFENSE DOLLARS

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share my frustration with the Congress' inaction on looming cuts coming to the Nation's defense budget.

In America's First District, we have a deep military history. Many of my constituents have or continue to bravely serve their Nation in a military uniform. Set to take effect in January 2013, sequestration will cut billions of defense dollars at a time when we see so much unrest across the world and American troops still deployed in harm's way in Afghanistan.

I am adamantly opposed to these catastrophic cuts and believe Congress must act now. Sequestration threatens the capability of our military to adequately protect this Nation. The Bipartisan Policy Center estimated that sequestration would result in a loss of about 1 million jobs in 2013 and 2014. This is not simply American job loss; it is a loss of critical national security capability.

Congress must not choose failure over making tough choices for the greater good of this country. Failure is an outcome we must not and cannot accept.

INVESTING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will take up a bill that is key for jobs now and for opportunity for the future.

First, we cannot have a big league economy with little league infrastructure. The transportation bill will do more to create jobs through public investment than any other piece of legislation that this House has passed in the last 18 months. It puts thousands to work repairing roads, bridges and highways, and maintaining our transit systems.

Second, this bill creates opportunity for the future by stopping a devastating interest rate hike on loans students take to pay for college. College affordability is a necessary step for creating opportunity for the future. The bill sends a clear message to college students everywhere that America will invest in you.

WHAT TEXANS THINK OF THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON OBAMACARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here's what the people of Texas think of the Supreme Court's ruling on ObamaCare.

Jason from Kingwood, Texas says this:

Now that the Supreme Court has deemed every action of Congress that it does is acceptable so long as it's con-

sidered a tax, you can kiss it all goodbye. Tax on gun ownership, boxes of ammunition, worship fees, mission trip tax, Bible fee.

But don't worry. They won't take away your right to vote directly. They'll just dilute it with multiple voting, illegal voting and fuzzy counting. But it won't be through taxation.

Stacie from Texas also wrote me and says this:

This ruling sets up so much more of nanny taxes and government telling us what we can do and cannot do. Don't buy the right car? It's a tax. Don't buy the right vegetables? Tax. Don't buy the right newspaper? Tax. Don't buy the right music? Another tax.

Mr. Speaker, the power to tax is the power to destroy. So what's the next tax from Big Government?

Congress and the Supreme Court have both had their chance to voice their opinion. Now it's time for the American people to voice theirs.

And that's just the way it is.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I stood here 2 days ago addressing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and reviewing its benefits. I stand here today after the landmark Supreme Court decision to make people aware of the Republicans' efforts to repeal this historic piece of legislation.

The stakeholders must remember: seniors, the benefits with the prescription drugs already benefiting with \$3.7 billion in savings; young adults who stay on their parents' plan until the age of 26, 6.6 million of you; small businesses who will experience tax credits of up to 50 percent by the year 2014; and women, women who suffered discrimination in premiums and on preexisting conditions like pregnancy. Imagine being defined a preexisting condition. 2014 they will stop.

These are just highlights, and this is why we need to, again, focus behind the Affordable Care Act and remember, it's the largest part of our GDP that keeps growing; and we need to have it under control in order to have our great economy.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BONNER FOR HIS 2011 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate David Bonner on earning the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mr. Bonner is a physics