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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

As the Members of this people's House deliberate these days, give them the wisdom and magnanimity to lay aside what might divide us as a people to forge a secure future for our country.

We pray for all people who have special needs. May Your presence be known to those who are sick, that they might feel the power of Your healing spirit. Be with those who suffer persecution in so many places in our world, and bless our troops who are engaged in the easing of those sufferings. Give to all who are afraid or anxious or whose minds are clouded by uncertain futures the peace and confidence that come from trust in Your goodness and mercy.

Inspire the men and women who serve in this House to be their best selves, that they may in turn be an inspiration to the Nation and to the world.

May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HULTGREN 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

MASSIVE DEFENSE CUTS

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns on behalf of my constituents. Paralysis, uncertainty—these are the effects of inaction, inaction on looming, massive defense cuts that will go into effect in January 2013.

In America's First District, many small businesses exist to support our military, to innovate and to build systems and resources—resources for our troops that save lives and help them do their job on the battlefield. But these businesses face an uncertain future as the question of looming defense cuts,

or sequestration, remain unresolved. Do they stop production? Do they lay off workers?

This spring, I voted with the majority in this House to avoid these massive defense cuts while putting the Nation's budget on a path to balance. The Senate has failed to act. The President has threatened to veto.

Our military and those who support it—and the national security of this country—demand our attention and respect. Leaving this issue to the last minute is irresponsible. Now is the time for action.

WESTERN NEW YORKERS COMPETING IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks from tomorrow Olympic athletes from all over this world will parade into the stadium in London to officially launch the 2012 Olympics.

I am so proud to say that five of them will be western New Yorkers that we represent in upstate New York. These include archer Jake Kaminski from Elma; the current number one ranked women's pole vaulter, Jenn Suhr of Churchville; volleyball player Matt Anderson, born in Buffalo; swimmer Ryan Lochte, born in Rochester; and two time U.S. Soccer Female Athlete of the Year, Abby Wambach of Rochester.

Throughout their lifetimes of training, hard work, and sacrifices, these athletes embody what it means to be an American, and they carry with them to London the pride of western New York and the entire Nation.

As we wish them and the entire team good luck, my wish is that that sense of common purpose that joins all of us

□ 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 Americans during that Olympic period will join us on this floor of Congress as we seek to form a more perfect Union.

FARM BILL

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

Mr. BERG. Madam Speaker, last night the House Agriculture Committee finished its work on the farm bill, late last night, and I applaud Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON for their work. I rise today to call for full consideration of the farm bill before the House.

Agriculture is the backbone of North Dakota, and North Dakota farmers and ranchers deserve the stability and certainty that a long-term reauthorized farm bill would provide.

With the farm bill passing through committee with bipartisan support, including strong crop insurance, now is the time for the full House to act on it. I urge my colleagues to join with me and work together to get this bipartisan farm bill passed.

HONORING PRISCILLA DEWEY HOUGHTON

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, Priscilla Dewey Houghton, beloved wife of our dear colleague of 18 years, Amo Houghton, passed away last Friday.

She was a playwright, a linguist, a poet who, together with Amo, formed a special type of power couple. Priscilla was intelligent, curious, and gracious. She was the perfect partner for Amo.

While her efforts 40 years ago led her to introduce children and adolescents to joy and creativity in Massachusetts, here in D.C., with Amo, she fought against rancor and mean spiritedness in our Nation's capital.

Priscilla was the first honorary member of the Congressional Bike Caucus. Cycling was significant to her because of an early bout with polio that left her bedridden for a year. Priscilla was a very special woman whose battle with adversity never slowed her down or dimmed her spirits.

Our hearts go out to Amo and her family and friends gathering for her memorial service in Boston this Saturday.

LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: MARSHA GIESLER

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Marsha Giesler, an Illinois native and a recipient of the 2012 National Fire Protection Associa-

tion's Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year award.

Marsha serves as the Downers Grove Fire Department public information officer, and in that role she coordinates with emergency service personnel to provide Downers Grove residents with valuable, lifesaving information and safety-related materials. She is also assistant to the chief and a juvenile fire interventionist. To help others promote safety within their own communities, she published a 400-page reference book, "Fire and Life Safety Educator," the most easily accessible reference book of its kind.

Madam Speaker, Marsha Giesler's more than 20 years of excellent public service have demonstrated her commitment to keeping our community safe, and I want to commend Marsha for her leadership, her dedication, and her hard work.

NEW YORK STATE'S I-STOP LAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, yesterday New York State's Eric Schneiderman was in western New York to celebrate the passage of New York State's I-STOP law. This law uses online databases to connect doctors and pharmacists helping to combat the tragic prescription drug abuse epidemic.

I was pleased to join the effort by leading a bipartisan State delegation letter in support of this law. While there are many important players in the passage of this bill, I would like to especially congratulate Senator Tim Kennedy, Avi and Julie Israel for their efforts.

The passage of I-STOP raises awareness of the growing importance of integrating health information technology and electronic medical records into the field of health care.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that other States move to implement this and other electronic medical record technologies. This is a serious problem, and it is our responsibility to act swiftly.

□ 0910

GETTING SPECIFIC ON HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, now that the health care law is out of the judicial process, it's back in the hands of the legislature. It's time to face the real consequences of this law.

This week, the Ways and Means Committee has started examining the tax effects. The Oversight Committee is looking at the impact on patients and doctors and on the economy. But in reality, we know what to expect. An average American family will see a \$1,200

increase in health care premiums after this law is fully in effect. More than 1 million Americans are at risk of losing their plan because their plan was denied a waiver. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that we will see 800,000 fewer jobs by 2012. The law contains 22 new tax increases. And 9 in 10 seniors with retiree benefits will lose their retiree prescription drug coverage through their employers.

It's time to get specific with the American people about what this law means for them.

PROTECTING THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Last Friday, President Obama signed into law a bipartisan compromise which extended a lower student interest rate of 3.4 percent. Incredibly, the ink was barely dry on that measure when the Romney campaign introduced their higher education plan, which would take us back to wasteful taxpayer subsidies to private student loan lenders.

This is what the conservative Cato Institute said about that proposal:

A meaningless change from a college affordability standpoint. Obviously, it would have an effect for banks, who would be happy to go back to that. It was a great gig for them.

A Romney supporter at the new New America Foundation said on this issue:

On this issue, Romney is just ridiculous. His campaign staff doesn't have any new ideas. So they just said, Let's go back to what we were doing before the Obama administration.

For young Americans, the choice this fall is becoming clearer. We have a President who successfully challenged this Congress to protect the lower student loan interest rate, and his opponent, who is looking to take \$60 billion in taxpayer funds and give it away to special interests.

THE PULSE OF TEXAS: AVA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, when I am back in southeast Texas, I hear from individuals and businesses who are concerned about how ObamaCare will affect them. Ava, a senior from Houston, tells me this:

I am a senior who is very concerned that I will lose the great health care that I am presently receiving under Medicare. I am pleased with my doctors and with my health care plan. At the present, I can afford it, and I am concerned I will not be able to in the future if ObamaCare goes completely through and that I might not get the care I need for the health issues I already have.

Seniors cannot afford ObamaCare, nor do they want it. Living on limited income today is hard enough without this new health care plan wanting more of my money. Seniors seem to be taking it on the chin tremendously on this issue.