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No. 149

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 27, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You have blessed us with all good gifts, and this past week, with grateful hearts we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the newly elected Members of the 113th Congress who resume their orientation on Capitol Hill. Give them calm and confidence as they prepare for a new role as servants of our Nation's citizens.

Bless the Members of the people's House who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

As the end of the 112th Congress approaches and much is left to be done, bestow upon them all the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6063. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Kings in connection

with civil litigation currently pending before that court.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Member of Congress.

PROUD OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S ARMY ROTC PROGRAM

(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, The State newspaper reported that the University of South Carolina's Army ROTC program has been named one of the fastest growing programs in the country. Since the 2005 school year, the ROTC program has tripled in enrollment, placing it third in the Nation.

ROTC inspires leadership skills for bright young men and women, which promotes extraordinary opportunities for service. As a proud father of four sons currently serving in the military—three are Army ROTC graduates, including myself—I know firsthand how the knowledge learned through military service will positively promote a fulfilling life. I am very grateful for the dedication the instructors and cadets of the ROTC program have shown to our country and look forward to hearing of the program's great success in the future.

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

ENTITLEMENT REFORM

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

□ 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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Mr. KUCINICH. Entitlement reform 2012. Let's see. Wealthy Americans are entitled to tax breaks. Corporations are entitled to billions in giveaways. Arms manufacturers are entitled to bigger contracts. The poor and the middle class? Well, they're entitled to unemployment, underemployment, foreclosures, and cuts in both Social Security and Medicare.

Poor and middle class Americans know all about the fiscal cliff. They've been getting pushed off it for years with an unfair tax system, unconscionable trade deals, and the Fed's monetary policies.

Nearly 50 million people are in poverty in America, 12 million unemployed, millions more underemployed. On January 2, millions stand to lose unemployment benefits. Fourteen million Americans' mortgages are greater than the value of their homes.

On the horizon loom massive cuts to essential services. Will the American austerity replace the American Dream? We need to turn back from the fiscal cliff with wealth creation, education, job creation, infrastructure rebuilding, monetary reform, trade reform, and protection of Social Security and Medicare. We need a great economic revival, not another Great Depression.

HASHTAG: TERRORISTS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what do @HSMPress, @Alqassam Brigade, and @almanarnews all have in common? Here's a hint: HASHTAG: TERRORISTS.

That's right: foreign terrorist organizations like al-Shabaab, Hamas, and Hezbollah all use an American company—Twitter—to recruit other extremists. They spread their anti-American propaganda and preach violence and murder.

Hamas has over 42,000 followers. Their tweets have included everything from calls for jihad attacks to a "new Holocaust." Isn't that lovely?

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that when there is a "broader strategy to promote terrorism," foreign terrorist organizations are not protected under free speech rights.

We should be doing everything we can to disarm our enemy, whether that means freezing their bank accounts or freezing their Twitter accounts. Allowing foreign terrorist organizations to freely operate on Twitter is enabling the enemy. The FBI and Twitter must recognize sooner, rather than later, that social media is a tool for the outlaw terrorists, and it has to stop.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRACY IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of Georgia deals with its first democratic transition of power, I spent the last few days speaking at length with President Saakashvili and the new Prime Minister Ivanishvili about the necessity to continue the pursuit of the rule of law.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical moment for the Georgian people that could either put the country inexorably on the path of sustainable democracy or turn back the clock on the tremendous gains that have been made since the Rose Revolution. Mr. Speaker, the United States must remain engaged with the new government to promote continued democratic reform.

A robust democracy demands not only the ability of the majority party to advance its agenda, but also the preservation of the rights of the minority to raise questions and hold the government accountable.

Furthermore, prosecutions must be conducted in accordance with the rule of law, with full inquiries preceding arrests. Great diligence must be exercised to ensure that investigations are legitimate and not politically motivated.

I have urged and will continue to urge, Mr. Speaker, this new government to deliver on its campaign promises of continued democratic development and enhanced transparency.

□ 1410

RECOGNIZING A HOMETOWN HERO OF FRISCO, TEXAS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Today I rise to recognize a member of the Frisco City Council, Captain Tim Nelson. Although he was elected to the council more than 18 months ago, his dais seat has frequently been empty, but for a good reason.

Shortly after taking office, Captain Nelson received orders from the United States Army Reserve and was deployed to Afghanistan. During the past year, Captain Nelson was on the NATO military base with the 980th Engineer Battalion. As the unit's civil engineer, he oversaw construction projects ranging from roads to water crossings to intelligence.

While in Afghanistan, Captain Nelson carried a copy of the United States Constitution everywhere he went. His reason was, "You don't always have to agree with the politics of the day. But truly, by the grace of God, we were born in America. And if you've been to enough places around the world, you'll know how lucky we really are and how wonderful a place we live in."

While Captain Nelson was not able to be at council meetings, he was never forgotten. The opening of each council

meeting included a prayer for his family and for his safe return home. He is home now; and he said, I'll "do my best to pay them back for the time I was gone."

On November 8, he returned back to Texas to his wife, Candice, and their three children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the service of a councilman of Frisco, Texas, Captain Tim Nelson.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1634

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 4 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MANDATORY OPERATIONAL CONTROL REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES ACT OF 2012

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6025) to provide for annual reports on the status of operational control of the international land and maritime borders of the United States and unlawful entries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6025

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mandatory Operational Control Reporting and Performance Measures Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTS ON OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL LAND AND MARITIME BORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, as part of the Department of Homeland Security's Annual Performance Report, an annual report on the number of miles of the international land and maritime