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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Kenneth Johnson, Seaman United Methodist Church, Seaman, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Most gracious Heavenly Father, we thank You for blessing the United States, and we humbly ask You, Lord, for your continued blessings.

Thank You, Lord, for the honorable Members of the House of Representatives. Help each Member and their families with their daily struggles in life. Provide each Member with daily health, providential care, and prosperity. Guide and direct the Representatives to make legislative decisions that will help our country to prosper economically and that the United States will continue to be a guiding light throughout the world.

Lord, we ask You to protect our Nation and help us to remember, "With God, all things are possible." Help us to be one Nation under God. Forgive us of our sins and for the times we have not trusted in You.

As George Washington closed his prayer in April of 1789, "Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 New York (Mr. HIGGINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HIGGINS 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 KENNETH JOHNSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. I am honored today to have Reverend Ken Johnson as our guest chaplain.

Too often, we don't recognize true heroes among us. But I want to tell you the story of Ken Johnson and Phil Fulton, two pastors in Adams County. You see, they believed that our students and our Nation need to understand the morals of our country. And the best example of that is the Ten Commandments.

So they went out and they gathered money together—not public money, but donations—to put the Ten Commandments monuments on the steps of each of the four high schools in Adams County, one of the poorest counties in Ohio.

The courts didn't like it. So they gathered more money and put up four more monuments. The Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, the preamble to the Constitution, and the Justinian Code. But again, the courts didn't like it. And they lost the fight nearly 10 years ago at the U.S. Supreme Court.

But the neighborhood rallied behind these two men and their efforts by taking those Ten Commandments when they were removed from public property and putting them directly across the street on private property. But the momentum swelled because throughout the Nation, people understood the

courage of these two men. And so hundreds of thousands of yard signs were in each and every State in the Union, proclaiming that we should acknowledge the Ten Commandments and that they have a right to be placed on public property.

Phil Fulton and Reverend Ken Johnson didn't realize where their journey would lead. But I am proud to know both gentlemen, and I am proud today to have Ken Johnson here with his wife, Doris, whom he met on a mission trip to the Philippines, and their son Joshua. They also have two other children, Matthew and Mary.

Ken Johnson was born in southern Ohio, right in Adams County, and he has lived there his entire life. He became a pastor in 1978, and he has been pastoring ever since.

Thank you for your courage, Reverend Johnson, and God bless you and the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT CHANNING "BO" HICKS

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

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, the politicians set the policies, and others carry those policies out. At least that's the way it happens in this country. It hasn't always been like that. Political leaders of yesterday also led the armies and navies. But in this country, for now, we work in this ornate building and make policy while men like Channing "Bo" Hicks from South Carolina salute smartly and carry out the orders.

□ 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. Speaker, Bo Hicks' body was returned to his beloved South Carolina Monday, to his family and to his friends. He is in the presence of the Lord. He died fighting for this country, doing what his country asked him to do. And he fought, lived, and died with honor. He died, Mr. Speaker, before his 25th birthday.

The decisions we make in this assembly have real life eternal consequences. May we strive to make the service and sacrifice of Bo Hicks meaningful. May he look down and say, "It was worth it."

Thank you, Bo Hicks. God bless you and your family.

CEOS INSTRUCT WASHINGTON HOW TO AVOID THE FISCAL CLIFF

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Highly paid CEOs are in town to tell America how to avoid the fiscal cliff. The top priority of the "fix the debt" CEOs is to cut the essential commitments of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. No skin off their noses.

Sorry, you 50 million Americans who are in poverty. Too bad, you millions of children, elderly, and poor who rely on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Unemployed? You're out of luck if you lose unemployment benefits.

These 71 CEOs who come to Washington to preach fiscal austerity have average retirement assets of \$9.1 million. That's about a \$65,000 check each month for the rest of their lives. Meanwhile, in contrast, the average Social Security check for retired workers is \$1,237 a month.

Of all these debt-cutting CEOs, only two have sufficient assets in their companies' pension funds to meet their obligations to their own workers. The rest who pay any pension at all have underfunded their workers' pension funds by \$103 billion. Those who have already shoved their own retiring workers off the fiscal cliff want to do it to the rest of the middle class and the poor in America. No way.

□ 1210

PRAIRIE STATE ENERGY CAMPUS

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions of the Prairie State Energy Campus in Washington County, Illinois. This state-of-the-art coal-fired electricity-generating facility is making great advancements in environmental stewardship while at the same time benefiting the community that serves in helping live longer and better lives.

Some in Congress have questioned and even attacked advanced coal plants like Prairie State. I have no doubt Prairie State and projects like it are

smart investments for our energy future. Here are just a few of the many great benefits of Prairie State: Prairie State will serve more than 2.5 million families in nine States with affordable power for over 30 years. It has created 4,000 real jobs and will employ 500 full-time employees upon completion next year. Prairie State has invested more than \$1 billion in ultra-efficient environmental controls that already meet or exceed Federal and State regulations. Even with these investments in efficiency, it is projected to offer consumer electricity at only 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

Prairie State is the largest contributor to the tax base in Washington County, generating over \$785 million in regional economic activity.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to learn the facts about Prairie State and what additional great projects like this could mean for our Nation.

GIVING THANKS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me say good morning and wish America a wonderful season, but more importantly I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. That is what I'd like to speak about, this whole idea of giving thanks and recognizing where we are today. Before I start that, very briefly let me encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Congressional Gold Medal for Malala.

We often speak of children, but we often as well fail to recognize children. Malala is a little girl in Pakistan who was willing to stand up to the Taliban to say that we too deserve an education. She is being promoted as the person of the year. I hope Congress will celebrate her, as well.

I mentioned Thanksgiving, and I believe it is important to focus on that because I call upon my colleagues to gather their wits about them as we reflect on what will approach us in January of 2013. It will not be the decline that everyone is being frightened about, because in essence they do not start those cuts right at the beginning. Why don't we be deliberative? Why don't we lay down on the table that we will protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, what people have earned? Why don't we explain to people that everyone at \$250,00 and below will get a tax cut, everyone will, no matter what your wealth level?

Why don't we stop throwing at each other various stones and other things and be deliberative on behalf of the American people. We should be thankful to live in the great country that we live in.

TAXING IS NOT THE SOLUTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, William from Humble, Texas, wrote me this about tax increases and how they will affect him and his family. He says:

It seems to me that too many of us are going to be hit with a big tax increase next year. I can't afford to pay any more taxes. My family lives paycheck to paycheck. We stand to lose everything we've worked for. Stop taxes from going up.

With ObamaCare and tax increases, I feel my family stands no chance to get ahead. Tell me, is there any chance for my grandchildren to have a good life? I don't see it. I cannot sleep at nights worrying about the condition of this country and what condition it is in, and there is no end in sight.

Help hardworking people.

Mr. Speaker, Washington has a taxing problem and not a spending problem, because the power to tax is the power to destroy.

And that's just the way it is.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, history has shown that our Nation experiences robust economic growth when we invest in America and in Americans, in education, in scientific research, in roads and bridges.

In order to experience this growth, we cannot allow sequestration to make dramatic cuts to medical research. If the looming budget cuts are allowed to occur, my home State of New York could lose more than \$131 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to conduct lifesaving research.

Mr. Speaker, western New York is the home to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Nation's first cancer center, home to promising advances in cancer research. It lies along the Buffalo-Niagara Medical campus, an economic engine for our community. However, in order to achieve medical or economic success, funding must be sustained over the long term.

We should be increasing, not cutting, funding for medical research. And I urge this House to reject sequestration for this critical investment.

BALANCED SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is at a precipice. We find ourselves at this point after years of government neglect in addressing the fiscal challenges facing our Nation. With uncontrolled spending, explosive entitlement obligations, and a cumbersome Tax Code, our Nation is drowning in red ink and red tape.

Our government is ripe for serious and comprehensive reform. As the end of the year draws near, we have an opportunity to come together as a Congress to create long-term solutions to