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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM 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: Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this people's House as they return from busy days away from the Capitol.

Give them strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their hearts with charity, their minds with understanding, their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

In the work to be done now, may they rise together to accomplish what is best for our great Nation and, indeed, for all the world. For You have blessed us with many graces and given us the responsibility of being a light shining on a hill.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

COMMENDING DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

(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 I rise to commend my alma mater, Detroit Catholic Central High School, for winning Michigan's 2012 Division I State Wrestling Championship. It is the team's ninth State wrestling championship.

After winning the Catholic High School League title, CC dominated the district and regional meets; and, in the finals, defeated Oxford to cap a 25-3-0 season.

Coach Mitch Hancock's team not only claimed their second title in 3 years, they are sending 10 Shamrock wrestlers to the individual State finals. Truly, the toil and devotion of every CC teammate is inspiring and well reflects upon the entire Catholic Central family, which celebrates these student-athletes' achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Coach Hancock's Catholic Central Shamrocks for having earned the 2012 State wrestling title and for exemplifying the Basillian Fathers' teachings of goodness, discipline, and knowledge.

Live and die for CC High.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH KYRGYZSTAN

(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, last week, I was grateful to be part of a Congressional delegation, led by Chairman DAVID DREIER, that established a partnership with the parliament of Kyrgyzstan, the Jogorku Kenesh. We traveled as members of the House Democracy Partnership, which works with parliaments in new democracies to build stronger legislatures.

Following parliamentary elections in 2010, the Kyrgyz Republic last year completed the first peaceful democratic transition of Presidential power in Central Asia after an open and competitive election. New President Almazbek Atambayev is committed to parliamentary democracy.

Under the leadership of Speaker Asylbek Jeenbekov, the parliament and HDP will work together to strengthen committee operations, budget analyses, constituent relations, and other institutional reforms.

Kyrgyzstan is a bright star in Central Asia, with a growing economy, dedicated President, the prestigious American University of central Asia, and dynamic parliamentarians working with an engaged population to establish a democracy.

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

SAY YES TO DOMESTIC ENERGY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the President took office, gasoline cost \$1.96. Now it's almost \$4 a gallon. Spring breakers in Disney World can

□ 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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expect to pay nearly \$6 a gallon to fill up their individual cars.

Americans have no choice but to pay the higher price because the government is stonewalling a domestic energy policy. Deana from Huffman, Texas, put it best:

I go to work to make money to pay for the gas just to get to work.

The President's energy policy is "nothing from below"—nothing from below the ground, nothing from below the sea.

We're the only Nation in the world that places most of our offshore territory off limits to oil and gas exploration. Meanwhile, the government continues to subsidize failed green energy projects.

We should be saying yes to all types of American energy: Yes to more offshore drilling; yes to ANWR; yes to faster approval of permits; and yes to the Keystone XL pipeline.

Let's make gasoline affordable for Deana and all Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

DOCUMENTARY FILM "UNDEFEATED" WINS OSCAR

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend many of us watched the Oscars, and among the winners of an Oscar was a documentary film called "Undeclared."

"Undeclared" was about a football team at Manassas High School in Memphis, Tennessee, and a gentleman named Bill Courtney, who was a volunteer coach there. He went to Manassas during their 2009-2010 season to try to help the kids, help them get through and have a better life. It's in a tough part of the city—a lot of poverty and a lot of one-parent households and a lot of things to overcome.

They had a football player named O.C. Brown, who was an outstanding offensive tackle. He got a scholarship eventually, because of this, to go to Southern Mississippi. He's a great ball player. Coach Courtney worked with him and others to make sure that he got an opportunity to advance.

It's a lot like "The Blind Side," except that it was a story about Coach Courtney and O.C. Brown of Manassas. It won an Oscar, and it deserved it. It's about people not giving up and making a success of things. In just under half a semester, O.C. Brown was able to achieve a 3.0 grade point average and get that scholarship at Southern Mississippi.

Manassas High School is filled with talented young people. We wish them good luck.

This hat belonged to Isaac Hayes, a proud alumnus of Manassas High School.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE PEAVYHOUSE

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great man who lived in my district.

Charlie Peavyhouse was born in Detroit and raised in Rhea County, Tennessee. A committed Methodist, Charlie earned his associates degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College and maintained a lifelong relationship with the institution. He also received degrees from East Tennessee State University and Vanderbilt.

After completing his education, Charlie went to work as a teacher and principal. Charlie touched many young lives in his career as an educator, which included serving as principal at Bachman and Falling Water Elementary until his retirement in 1990.

I got to know Charlie Peavyhouse through his work in local politics. Charlie was always a presence, whether as the Hamilton County Republican chair, a campaign manager, or a delegate to the Republican National Convention. He also served as Tennessee's wildlife commissioner under two Governors.

Last April, I joined many in Chattanooga to pay tribute to a man who inspired so many to serve. I was honored to call him my mentor.

Charlie passed away February 19 and is survived by his wife, Eula Mae, and daughters, Jane and Carol.

□ 1410

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1433, THE PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1433, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2012. This bill represents a return of basic property rights to the American people, rights we are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. In 2005, these rights came under attack when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of a corporation taking individual homes in the name of economic development. As a result, people lost their homes to false promises of jobs and tax revenue.

Now, instead of a booming business, there is only a city dump where the homes once stood.

I agree with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas when he wrote in his dissenting opinion:

Something has gone seriously awry with this Court's interpretation of the Constitution. Though citizens are safe from the government in their homes, the homes themselves are not safe.

That is also why I supported an eminent domain amendment to the Mississippi Constitution, Mississippi Initiative 31, which 73 percent of Mis-

issippi voters approved last November. I urge my colleagues to support property rights to the Constitution in H.R. 1433.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH OBSERVES RARE DISEASE DAY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this week is Rare Disease Day, which will take place on February 29. I want to acknowledge the work of the National Institutes of Health in their efforts to bring down rare diseases. I also want to acknowledge the thousands of Americans who are afflicted with diseases whose systems are so complex that they simply remain undiagnosed. The majority of these disorders have genetic causes, and over half affect children.

The National Institutes of Health has joined a worldwide effort with more than 40 countries to recognize and seek better ways to diagnose and treat patients. On February 29, the NIH is observing the fifth annual Rare Disease Day and hosting a daylong program of activities highlighting the rare disease research community.

In conjunction with that, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins will announce the launch of the Genetic Testing Registry. This is an online tool developed by NIH scientists providing health care providers and patients access to information on genetic tests. I also have legislation that would expand on these efforts.

This Wednesday, February 29, the rarest of days on the calendar, we will pause to honor those who are working hard to research, diagnose, treat, and empower patients with the rarest of rare diseases. I want to acknowledge the work of the NIH. I'm grateful that they're organizing an event like Rare Disease Day.

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Last December, the Speaker told us that the Republican signature jobs bill was going to be the surface transportation reauthorization. Yet, under pressure from the extreme right in his caucus 2 weeks ago, he said in the Republican caucus that this transportation bill is not a jobs bill. And they wrote for the first time since the founding of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Highway System a purely partisan transportation bill in the hope of jamming it through.

Well, it's all fallen apart now. Yet there are 150,000 bridges falling apart in the Federal system. Forty percent of the pavement on the national system needs to be restored, and there's a \$70