

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia 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 MONSIGNOR ROBERT KURWICKI

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to introduce Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicki as an esteemed guest to deliver the opening prayer of the United States House of Representatives.

Monsignor Kurwicki is the Reverend Monsignor of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Jefferson City, Missouri. The Monsignor has served the great State of Missouri as the chaplain of the Missouri House of Representatives since 2011, a position in which he is responsible for leading the members of the State house in prayer and helping to improve the strong tradition of faith in our capitol in Missouri.

In addition to his important role in the Missouri House of Representatives, he is also a member of the Priests Senate and Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese of Jefferson City. Monsignor Kurwicki is and has been a tremendous spiritual influence, not only to myself and my family, but also the Third District, as well as the entire State of Missouri.

It is an honor to welcome him here to Congress and thank him for his invaluable service to our community and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will vote on the House Republican budget resolution. This will be the third straight year that the House will pass a budget. The budget is not just a plan for this coming fiscal year, but it's also a plan to balance our budget in this Nation in 10 years.

The national debt is now \$16.7 trillion. That works out to about a \$147,000 of debt per taxpayer. Our Nation cannot continue to spend and borrow at this rate. The House Republican budget tackles our spending problems head-on, while protecting our military from indiscriminate cuts.

It also outlines a plan to reform our burdensome Tax Code. By getting spending under control and reforming our Tax Code, this budget would help create jobs, and that's exactly what our economy needs right now.

Congress has a responsibility to future generations to get the budget balanced, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this effort.

FALSE CHOICES

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the budget proposals on both sides of the aisle that are before the House this week.

Folks in Washington are good at giving the American people false choices. Today, we're forced to choose between budgets that cut Medicare benefits and budgets that unnecessarily raise taxes.

Folks in my district in Georgia have had enough of these false choices. We need to cut spending on things we don't need and can't afford, balance the budget, and lower taxes on all families; but there are no proposals to do that.

Each time we come to the House floor to deal with a budget, both sides are focused on messaging, not solutions. The people in my district deserve better. It's time for Congress to develop a responsible budget that cuts the deficit, protects Medicare and Social Security, and lowers taxes by fully reforming our outdated Tax Code.

PATH TO PROSPERITY

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will consider the Path to Prosperity budget, reaffirming, once again, that the House Republicans are the only ones in Washington offering serious solutions to government's spending-driven debt crisis.

Americans at home must prepare a balanced budget for themselves and their families. Our plan would bring the same common sense to Washington once the budget is balanced over the next decade.

Our budget is not balanced by raising taxes on hardworking Americans, but by responsibly reducing spending on government waste and reforming mandatory spending to ensure that programs on which Americans rely remain strong for decades to come.

Our budget saves taxpayers \$4.6 trillion over the next decade. The Senate

Democrat budget, however, calls for \$1.5 trillion in new taxes and \$7.3 trillion in new debt.

America, Mr. Speaker, deserves better. That's why the House Republicans have proposed the Path to Prosperity to get our economy back on track and create more jobs and opportunities for more Americans.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the ocean levels are rising. The ice cap is melting. Severe storms, more intense and more frequent. Climate change is real, not that you'd know it in this body. We're still having a debate about the reality. This is a fact-free zone in Congress when it comes to climate change. But we can still make progress, even if we debate the science.

We should do things that allow all of us to use less energy. Energy efficiency is good, regardless of what fuel source you use. It creates jobs for the folks who are out of work in the home construction industry, doing retrofits for commercial and residential buildings. It saves families money, and it saves businesses money.

There's an enormous amount of advocacy on both sides of the aisle to do this practical, commonsense step. It will have an incidental benefit, as well, of reducing carbon emissions.

So even as we have an unresolved debate about the science of climate change, let's take practical steps that are good for jobs, good for the economy, and good for saving taxpayers money.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is the 10th anniversary for the war in Iraq that began with the United States-led invasion on March 20, 2003.

In 2005, I resigned from public office in the State of Colorado to return to Active Duty in the United States Marine Corps for assignment in Iraq. I did this, not because I believed that the invasion of Iraq was the right decision for our country, but because I strongly believed that, once the decision had been made to go into Iraq, that we had a responsibility to bring this war to a just conclusion.

I can't say enough about the young men and women of our military whom I met in Iraq when I served there and observed their courage, their determination to succeed under very challenging conditions, and their extraordinary sacrifices.

However, now that I'm a member of the House Armed Services Committee,

I will do everything I can to make sure that our country never goes down this path again. Nation-building operations, where we invade, pacify and administer whole countries, is the wrong direction for America and must never be repeated again.

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REPEAL THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on sequestration's effect on implementing safety regulations at the Federal Aviation Administration. This is an important reminder that critical deadlines for the release of rules regarding pilot qualifications and training are fast approaching.

Just over 4 years ago, dozens of lives were lost as Continental Flight 3407 crashed in my western New York community. Since then, the families and friends of these victims have made countless visits to Washington, D.C., and advocated to ensure that what happened to their loved ones will never be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot lose focus and allow further delays to the completion of these already long-overdue rules. I urge Congress to repeal the sequester for the safety of our flying public.

THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week marks an anniversary that doesn't warrant celebration. Three years ago, President Obama's takeover of health care was signed into law.

This mountain of stacked paper represents the 20,000 pages of new regulations in President Obama's new health care law. Each regulation represents another shackle on America's small businesses—our job creators. But don't take my word for it. Just ask the folks at two of Ohio's home health care employers, Interim Health Care in Bridgeport, who employs 300 hardworking Ohioans, or Comfort Keepers in East Liverpool, who employs another 230. Both companies tell me that President Obama's takeover of health care is causing them to seriously reconsider the ability to expand and hire more employees. In fact, they may not survive.

These are just two companies in eastern Ohio. What about the thousands of small businesses across America?

President Obama's health care law is a government red tape tower that's raising health care costs, limiting access to health care, and it's hurting job creation at a time when we need real economic growth.

VETERAN EXCELLENCE THROUGH EDUCATION ACT

(Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. This week marks the 10th anniversary of the onset of the Iraq war. As our troops return home, many still face a high unemployment rate. The statistic is higher for women veterans.

One remedy to this abysmal unemployment rate is education. However, for many veterans, the opportunity to pursue the necessary education is difficult because of economic constraints, family responsibilities, or lack of information about available Federal resources. Similarly, many college campuses struggle to provide veterans with these resources.

That is why I introduced my first bill this week, called the Veteran Excellence Through Education Act. This bill creates a competitive grant program aimed at helping college campuses that serve underrepresented populations and provides academic and related support services for all enrolled veterans in these schools. My district has many nearby schools with a growing veteran student population that would benefit from this bill, such as Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State San Bernardino, San Bernardino Valley Community College, and UC Riverside.

Education is a future investment. It is our obligation to assist veterans with job training and economic opportunity in return for their service to our country. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Every American family and small business knows that budgets have to be balanced to be sustainable. For years, though, Washington hasn't been balancing its budget. The Senate hasn't even been passing them. House Republicans have had enough of this "Washington exceptionalism." We've introduced a budget for the Federal Government that will balance in just 10 years.

Budgets reveal priorities, and House Republicans have revealed ours. We want to build a stronger, more prosperous future for this generation and the next. We want to protect the promise of Medicare, guarantee accountability for the use of taxpayer dollars, preserve personal freedoms, and pursue

commonsense governance. The American people deserve this, and so we've offered a balanced budget that encourages growth and opportunity for all while paving the way for the country to get out of debt.

Will the President follow our lead and submit a budget that balances?

RYAN BUDGET

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, more than 4 months have passed since our country reelected President Obama and embraced his plans to keep moving our country forward. But right now, Republicans are offering a budget proposal that includes many of the same ideas that voters rejected this fall. The Republican budget would end the Medicare guarantee as we know it and repeal the Affordable Care Act that's already providing benefits to so many families in my home State of Rhode Island and across this country.

Rhode Islanders don't want another Republican budget proposal that jeopardizes our economic recovery, gives away billions of dollars in tax subsidies to Big Oil, and protects tax breaks to companies that ship jobs overseas. They want a budget that reflects our values and priorities as a Nation, a budget that honors the promises we made to our seniors, puts our country back to work, invests in rebuilding our national infrastructure, protects our investments in education, and reduces our deficit by making smart cuts in spending and reforming our Tax Code.

The Republican budget fails to meet any of these standards, and I hope my colleagues will join me in opposing it this week.

PRESIDENT OBAMA GOES TO ISRAEL

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that over 100 colleagues have joined together on both sides of the aisle to send a letter to President Obama commending his trip to Israel and also asking him to use it as an opportunity to continue to put the imprimatur of the administration on a strong U.S.-Israeli relationship. We also urge the President to continue to make sure that all options are on the table as it relates to Iran and their nuclear ambitions and that we should continue to adopt a policy of prevention and not containment.

Similarly, we said that we need to protect Israel's Qualitative Military Edge and Israel's inherent right to defend itself, and also recognize that the Israeli-Palestinian peace process can