



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2013

No. 42

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MILLER 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: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your Spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. This is an important day for our Nation. As the Members approach the votes they are making today, may they be imbued with courage and leadership that looks to the health and vibrancy of our great Nation.

Assure them that, in the fulfillment of their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful to their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

As the Congress looks to the upcoming Holy celebrations of millions of Americans, may they and may we all be mindful of God's love for us. May we be faithful stewards, not only of God's creation, but also of God's desire that all people would be free from whatever inhibits them to be fully alive.

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.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WOMACK 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2013.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 20, 2013 at 8:22 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 933.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JAMES OSCAR CLEMONS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer early birthday greetings to one of America's Greatest Generation. James O. Clemons turns 90 next week, and it's important for him to know how grateful we are for his service to country.

Inducted into the Army in 1943, Mr. Clemons found himself in the Army Air Corps as a flight engineer, mechanic, and gunner. Based in Italy during World War II, Tech Sergeant Clemons and his unit, the 827th Bomb Squadron, 484th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force, flew missions in Italy, the Balkans, Austria, Germany, and southern France. A recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and of a number of other decorations, Tech Sergeant Clemons, like millions of other great Americans, answered his Nation's call, and as Tom

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1723

Brokaw wrote in his famous book: "They won the war. They saved the world."

Mr. Speaker, we're losing this generation of patriots. In fact, Tech Sergeant Clemons and Tail Gunner Joseph Wythe are the last living crewmembers of his unit. So it is with a great source of honor that, in advance of his special day next week, March 27, and on behalf of the people's House, I say, Happy 90th birthday to James O. Clemons of Catoosa, Oklahoma.

JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. I head back to my district tomorrow to face the thousands of people who sent me here to help them find jobs—800 days ago.

Mr. Speaker, what do I say to them? They know the real deficit is jobs. Do I say that the Republicans in Congress don't get it and that they don't understand that people are suffering and struggling and starving and looking for work? Millions of people are out of work, and this body seeks to fire millions more.

Wake up, America. It's time to bring the President's American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote.

Mr. Speaker, our mantra should be "jobs, jobs, jobs—and more jobs."

ESTABLISHING A SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE BENGHAZI ATTACK

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, while we are right to focus this week on passing a budget that puts our country back on a responsible economic path, I rise today to remind my colleagues that it has been over 6 months since four Americans, including our ambassador, were killed by terrorists in Benghazi, Libya.

In 6 months, what have we learned? We still don't know why U.S. military assets in the region were not ready, alert and in a position to respond. We still don't know why injured survivors of the attack have been pressured not to come forward with their stories. Frankly, we still don't know what specifically is being done to ensure that decisions about the security of our diplomatic missions are given the highest priority.

I stand with Congressman FRANK WOLF and 58 of our colleagues in supporting an effort to establish a select committee to investigate and report on the Benghazi attack. Only by aggressive congressional oversight will we ensure that our pitiful response to this attack will never be repeated.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in demanding the administration provide the straight answers that Americans deserve.

THE SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to remind this House of the threat that climate change poses to our communities and to emphasize the need for increased Federal investment in new and innovative technologies to protect and improve the world we live in.

This past October, Hurricane Sandy hit the mid-Atlantic, including my home State of New Jersey. Hurricane Sandy was one of the most costly storms in history. Society will bear the costs of climate change. Society is bearing the costs of climate change. The debt was wracked up as we recklessly burned fossil fuels over a century, filling the atmosphere with excess CO₂. Now the debts are coming due as wildfires, droughts, superstorms, and floods—a costly debt in lives and dollars.

We would be wise to invest in more resilient infrastructure and sustainable, non-fossil energy sources, in good science related to climate change. We as a country should rise to the challenge. The United States is not a poor, impoverished Nation. We are just acting like one. We should be investing as if we believe there is a future for us.

HOUSE GOP BUDGET

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House Republican budget.

When a family racks up debt, it can take decades to pay off. The interest alone can add up to thousands of dollars. That's money that can be spent on braces, college tuition, or on a bigger home. The same is true for government.

Ignoring our debt will force us to break the promises we've made to seniors and to the poor. We won't be able to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security for those who need it. The House Republican budget cuts spending by \$4.6 trillion over 10 years, and it balances our budget within 10 years without raising taxes. In stark contrast, the House Democrat budget balances when Jesus comes back. A budget that spends too much hurts all Americans, but the poor and elderly are hurt the most.

It's time to fix our debt and get our country back on track. I urge my colleagues to support the Republican budget.

□ 0910

BALANCED DEBT REDUCTION PACKAGE

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, today, thousands of Federal workers across the country, including nearly 5,000 at the Portsmouth Navy Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, will start getting furlough notices. These men and women in Kittery are some of the hardest working, most skilled and dedicated shipyard workers in America. Year in and year out, they repair and refit submarines to the highest standards, on time and on budget. Last year, some of them even risked their lives to put out a fire on board the USS *Miami* and save it from becoming a total loss.

Now the Federal Government is telling them they could have to take what could amount to a 20 percent pay cut. That is going to be a real hardship for working families in Maine and New Hampshire. And to add insult to injury, they could even have their security clearances suspended if they fall behind on their finances.

It is outrageous that Congress has not done its job and passed a balanced debt reduction package. It is outrageous that Congress has resorted to these arbitrary and extreme budget cuts. The public workers in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and around our country deserve our thanks, not a 20 percent pay cut.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, with the House nearing important votes on adopting a bold, responsible plan toward a balanced budget, I rise today to speak to a question that is on the mind of many families in my district in Illinois and families across the Nation: How does Congress passing a budget directly help our economy to grow private sector jobs and restore opportunity for more American families?

The answer is actually very simple. The House Republican budget would create certainty in the job market through our commitment to reform and simplify the Tax Code, giving entrepreneurs and small businesses the confidence they need to expand and create new jobs.

Furthermore, unlike the Senate Democrats' plan, our budget would balance in 10 years without raising taxes. This would give bond houses and credit rating agencies confidence in our ability to reduce spending and get our debt under control, making it more affordable for families and small businesses to get loans.

Our budget plan means more jobs for American families. Let's act today to make that commitment to the American people.

TURNING A DEAF EAR

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