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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 26, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY M. HULTGREN 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 with thankful hearts we express our gratitude. You have created us with opportunities to serve other people in their need, to share together in respect and affection, and to be faithful in the responsibilities we have been given.

In this moment of prayer, please grant to the Members of this people's House the gifts of wisdom and discernment, that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

As the Members return to their districts, may their constituents meet them with respect, honesty, and if need be, challenge that will serve as an encouragement to the work they do for our Nation.

May all that is done 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. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, 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. PAULSEN. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

PROTECTING OUR CREDIT

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the Democratic whip charged that the Full Faith and Credit Act places America's credit at risk of default. As Churchill said:

It would not be possible to state the opposite of the truth with greater precision.

Quite the contrary, this measure guarantees that whatever political storms are raging in Washington, America's debt will always be paid in full and on time. I would remind him that if the full faith and credit of the United States is ever compromised, all programs are jeopardized. This bill protects the public credit so that the public credit can protect seniors and disabled veterans and all of our other obligations.

No one wants to see a stalemate that would delay any payment. That would be unprecedented, disruptive, and dangerous. But the worst and most lasting damage of such an event would be to imperil our Nation's credit. This bill simply ensures that even in the worst-case scenario, that will never happen.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN BOB MICHEL

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Bob Michel, a man who served central Illinois in this Chamber for close to 4 decades and who continues to be a longtime friend of my family's and a role model to so many.

Congressman Michel was born and raised in Peoria, graduated from Bradley University, and was a decorated war hero in World War II. After coming home, Bob Michel became involved in public service and ended up serving 38 years in this House of Representatives, eventually rising to the House minority leader.

I'm a Democrat and Congressman Michel happens to be a Republican. But

□ 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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I'm proud to say that he earned a reputation as someone who worked across the aisle, striving to find common-sense, bipartisan solutions to the issues of the day.

Congressman Michel celebrated his 90th birthday last month, and he continues to be an inspiration for all who are more interested in working together to get results than trying to score cheap political shots.

Central Illinois has a long tradition of public servants who made a career out of reaching across party lines. Former Republican Senator Everett Dirksen of Pekin, in my district also, played a key role in the passage of the 1964 civil rights bill, while former Republican Congressman Ray LaHood of Peoria has worked across the aisle to improve the Nation's roads, bridges, and rail lines as Secretary of Transportation under the Obama administration.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all Members of this body will join me in pledging to work together to put the people we represent first, and I would like to wish Congressman Michel a happy 90th birthday.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD HOOD

(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, retired United States Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Donald Hood passed away on December 30, 2012. He served our Nation with distinction, first on Active Duty in the United States Army and later in the Army Reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Hood began his military service with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he became the first parachute-qualified, combat-ready optometrist in the United States Army.

From 1970 to 1972, Lieutenant Colonel Hood served in Southeast Asia during the war in Vietnam as the Army's chief of eye services at the Diplomatic Medical Mission in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 1972, he left Active Duty and continued serving his country in the United States Army Reserve as the chief of optometry for the 5502 United States Army Reserve Hospital in Aurora, Colorado, until his retirement in 1990.

Lieutenant Colonel Hood is survived by his wife, Patricia; his daughter, Chelsey Russell; his son, Cayman; and his granddaughter, Hayden Russell.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, later today, the House will vote to restore funding to the Nation's air traffic control system to better protect the traveling public and to restore order to a

vital sector of our economy by shifting unused funds.

Two lessons are hopefully now learned:

Across-the-board budget cuts are abysmally stupid. Cut a program that's vital to the health, safety and the economy, and what about this unused money over here? Oh, we can't move that, so we took care of that.

Second, there are some here who believe the Federal Government doesn't need to and should not invest in facilitating the movement of goods and freight and people in this country. It should devolve to the States.

Well, this is an object lesson in how vital these Federal programs are to the Nation's airspace. And next year, when the Highway Trust Fund goes below zero and we cut spending by \$50 billion on highways and transit, we will have another crisis. Let's hope we don't have to see a million layoffs and total disruption across the country before we fix that one. Fix that one before it happens.

□ 1010

NATIONAL PARK WEEK

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Park Week.

Our national parks are truly one of America's greatest natural resources, drawing nearly 279 million visitors and families who go to camp, hike, fish, and explore each year. Minnesota, my home State, is home to several national parks as well, with lakes and rivers and waterways.

In just a few years, our national parks will celebrate their 100th birthday. In preparation for this centennial, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 627, to allow the U.S. Mint to issue a National Park commemorative coin, with all of the proceeds going to help our national parks and our National Park Foundation. The bill has strong bipartisan support, and it is one more way that we can provide additional resources for our national parks.

Protecting and preserving these beautiful spaces—our national parks, monuments, and Civil War battlefields—for future generations is important. Our National Park Week is a perfect time to reignite this interest for individual community efforts in order to ensure that our national parks remain and retain their place as the most beautiful in the world.

A NEW ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a new achievement in mathematics.

We learned about square roots in middle school. In the 15th century, mathematicians discovered the square roots of negative numbers. These "imaginary numbers" form the basis of much science and engineering, which are applied for practical uses, like the design of airplane wings.

In the 1920s, Paul Dirac constructed the square roots of "differential operators" in the development of quantum mechanics, which is the basis of much high-tech science.

In the 1970s, another type of square root, called "matrix factorization," which is important in physics, was discovered by David Eisenbud. This month, Daniel Murfet, a postdoc at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, announced new ways of linking matrix factorizations together, which will have numerous applications.

Mr. Murfet's work was funded by the National Science Foundation, and illustrates the importance of our Nation's continuing investment in the research and education of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night, a random telephone poll of my constituents was conducted in five Hill Country counties in the 21st District of Texas.

Here are the results:

Eighty-eight percent feel that the border should be secured before other immigration reforms take effect; 84 percent favor a system that would require employers to hire legal workers; 96 percent think that the Federal Government should balance its budget; and 85 percent believe the American people are taxed too much.

These are sincerely held views by hardworking, law-abiding, tax-paying good Americans. Congress would do well to heed their advice.

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 take note of a major milestone in human history. This past week, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere passed 400 parts per million.

I say a "milestone in human history" because this level of carbon dioxide has never been seen in human history. In fact, this level has not been achieved for millions of years.

I also say a "milestone in human history" because it is human activity—the way we produce and use energy—that is responsible for this high concentration; and it is of historic importance because, as scientists have made