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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2013, at 2 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You so that, with Your Spirit and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May these decisive days through which we are living make them genuine enough to maintain their integrity, great enough to be humble, and good enough to keep their faith, always regarding public office as a sacred trust. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens nor You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY 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

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

### THE CALL FOR A BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION

(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, in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee on April 25, I asked the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, if he could give me an idea of what the excess capacity is for Army installations in the United States.

The Secretary informed me that the last study was done in 2004, and it found that the excess capacity was at 20 percent. He stated that the number would probably be much higher today but that he had no way of knowing since Congress had prohibited him from using any funds to study the issue further.

Mr. Speaker, I will move an amendment when the National Defense Authorization Act comes to the House floor that will direct the Secretary of Defense to determine what the current excess capacity is so that we will know the potential savings from doing another Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

I support the administration and its call for another Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 2015. Every dollar wasted in the Defense budget is a dollar that is not spent on defending our Nation.

I ask that my colleagues in the House support my amendment when it comes to the floor.

### ABUSE OF POWER BY THE IRS

(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 on behalf of the folks in my district in Georgia who are witnessing a series of serious missteps in the Federal Government, giving rise to an unprecedented level of distrust in government.

This week, we learned that the Internal Revenue Service used inappropriate criteria to delay or stall conservative organizations applying for tax-exempt status. This is a totally unacceptable abuse of the power the IRS has in our government, and calls into question any future decisions made by that agency.

☐ 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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Trust in the Federal Government is already at an all-time low. To help regain any of that trust, it is essential that all personnel involved in this misuse of power be held accountable. We've got serious work to do in Congress, but this sort of trouble only takes time and attention away from the work we need to do.

I urge my colleagues to investigate this matter swiftly and get on with the work we've been sent here to do.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of our Nation's police officers.

This week is Police Week, and I urge all Americans to take time and thank the men and women who keep us safe and to reflect on the heroes we have lost in the line of duty.

I am continually impressed and humbled by the devoted efforts of law enforcement officers in our communities. From tracking down criminals to conducting safety programs for our kids, our law enforcement officers work around the clock, routinely putting themselves in harm's way to keep us safe.

Sometimes officers make the ultimate sacrifice, leaving behind grieving loved ones and communities in mourning. At times like these, there are no words to adequately express the gratitude that we owe to our law enforcement.

To all of our police officers, our Nation is grateful for your bravery and integrity, and is indebted to your public service.

#### JACK PRATT

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, we who serve too often overlook the hard work and dedication of those who serve with us, the members of our staff. Today, I rise to recognize the dedication of Jack Pratt.

Jack is my chief of staff. Today, he departs for new responsibilities. I hired him on my very first day in Congress 12 years ago, and he rose through the ranks. More than almost anyone I know, I have depended on Jack in good times and in bad, through thick and thin.

Now, with a new baby in his life, he opens up a new chapter of his life. I wish him well and his wife, Kristin, and two kids, Callie and William.

Thank you, Jack Pratt, my chief of staff and my friend.

#### THE "TRAIN WRECK" MUST BE STOPPED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed the 37th piece of legislation that replaces, repeals, or defunds the government health care takeover bill.

House Republicans warned the American people that the legislation's effect would be devastating to patients, to health care providers, and to small businesses—destroying jobs.

In recent weeks, there has been bipartisan recognition of the failure of the government's health care takeover. Senator MAX BAUCUS has warned that ObamaCare's implementation will be a train wreck. Sadly, thousands of new IRS agents who deny free speech will now control health care.

The good news is that there is still time for repeal. The House has acted in the best interests of American families. It is my hope that the Senate will consider our efforts and pass legislation before it's too late.

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

Congratulations, Candice Glover of St. Helena Island, South Carolina, for being the newest queen of "American Idol."

#### LARGE SYNOPTIC SURVEY TELESCOPE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. I rise today to talk about the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope. This is an exciting, unique public-private science project that is being developed in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and with a number of small companies.

The idea behind the LSST is very simple: take pictures of the entire southern sky and measure everything that moves or changes brightness, and after 10 years of operation, the LSST will allow us to catalog billions of stars, galaxies, and other interstellar objects. This database will address the most pressing questions in astronomy and physics, from potentially hazardous asteroids to the mysteries of dark matter and dark energy. The development of the LSST will push the boundaries of big science and computing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of public-private partnerships and their role in studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Support for these projects is critical.

□ 0910

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FURLOUGHS

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the folks in my district being furloughed because of indecision, political gamesmanship, and the failure to act in Washington.

Our Nation has no greater asset than the folks serving our Nation, including those who make up our Department of Defense, both military and civilian alike. Their dedication and service to our Nation is unwavering. Unfortunately, those same patriots have lived for months with the uncertainty of the sequester.

Many of those who have dedicated themselves to ensuring equipment is repaired and ready for our Armed Forces are being forced to step away from their lives. Even the children of our military families will not be spared. Teachers at DOD schools are being furloughed, too.

The administration had flexibility to make other choices. Furloughs are just one of the effects of compounding budget cuts on our Nation's military, and it affects this Nation's military readiness. There are smarter solutions to our Nation's budget woes, and I voted for replacements for this shortsighted sequester.

Congress should not sit idly by. Let's fix this.

#### STUDENT LOAN DEBT

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

Mr. TIERNEY. The student loan debt is a crisis in this country, Mr. Speaker. More and more students approach me in the district and post on my Facebook about their loan debt.

I would like to share an excerpt from the stories for those of my colleagues who may not fully appreciate why it's so critical that we provide our students and families with relief.

Sharyn Lawler says this:

Please, Congressman Tierney, we need you and your colleagues to get to the crux of the student loan debt crisis ASAP. Many students end up paying double or triple what they actually borrowed to go to college. This is an outrage and seems out of sync with the original mission of the student loan program. People want to pay back fairly what they borrowed, but the system actually seems rigged to make that impossible.

Earlier this week, it was reported that the Federal Government will earn \$51 billion in profit from student loan borrowers this year, which exceeds the earnings of the Nation's most profitable companies and is roughly equal to the combined income of the four largest U.S. banks by assets.

It's time we stop using the Federal student loan program as a profit center for the government. We need to pass legislation that stops the doubling of the student loan interest rate by July 1 and turn our attention to the long-