

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT 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 PASTOR MARK TURNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Pastor Mark Turner of South Valley Community Church in Gilroy, California, as our guest who delivered this morning's opening prayer.

Over a decade ago, Pastor Turner left his career to answer a higher calling to serve his fellow persons in the ministry. In serving others, Pastor Turner has become a respected leader in our community, making a difference in people's everyday lives.

Working with local partners and businesses, Pastor Turner and hundreds of volunteers serve our community through outreach projects that feed children, seniors, and underprivileged residents. They help local children through programs that encourage them to be active and strive for success, and they bring compassion and services to people in need.

Answering a call to serve something larger than one's self is a trait we deeply admire and value as Americans. So it is a pleasure to welcome Pastor Turner to our Nation's Capitol today and to thank him for his service to our community and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, our hearts go out today to those in Oklahoma who are suffering as a result of this storm. I've asked that

the flags here in the Capitol complex be lowered to half staff in honor of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, this House is going to continue to be focused on the issue of jobs. It's the number one issue of concern to our fellow citizens. We're going to continue to be focused on the things that get in the way of job creation in our country.

Most notably, this week we will work on trying to get the Keystone pipeline approved that will create some 20,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs, and trying to make sure that those who have student loans won't see their interest rates double. That will be the work of the House this week.

But in addition to that, we have a responsibility to the American people to provide oversight of the executive branch. I think Americans understand and my colleagues understand that the American people deserve the truth. Whether it's Benghazi, whether it's the IRS, whether it's the Justice Department investigating journalists, the Congress of the United States and the American people need to know what the truth is—to hold this administration accountable.

Those of us in public office understand that our job is to serve the American people, and not the other way around.

SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, newspapers in my district in Pennsylvania have reported that local housing authorities are facing a "nightmare" due to sequestration cuts in HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Speaker, fewer people are going to be able to access housing as a result of this Congress' nightmare policies.

In Northampton County, Pennsylvania, alone, 85 people are going to have to leave the section 8 voucher program through turnover or there will be evictions. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 900 people will be removed from the program's waiting list.

Our social safety net is disappearing. And what happens if these people fall into homelessness? According to HUD, the annual cost of a shelter bed funded by the Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately \$8,067 more than the average annual cost of a section 8 voucher. This Congress is being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEFFREY BAKER

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week, the EOD community lost one of

its best and brightest. Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Baker was killed 1 week ago today in an IED explosion that killed four of his fellow soldiers and injured multiple others. Sergeant First Class Baker was assigned to the 766th EOD Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and was serving in Sanjaray, Afghanistan, at the time of his death.

EOD soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are the preeminent explosive experts in our Armed Forces. Our joint EOD forces lead the fight against the use of IEDs and protect their fellow servicemembers and our interests both at home and abroad.

Too often, the lives of these brave men and women are claimed by the very devices they are trained to neutralize. Sergeant First Class Baker gave his life along with four of his fellow soldiers in defense of our freedoms. It's important that we honor their sacrifice and the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Next week, as the Nation honors the veterans who have given their lives for this country, it's important that we take time to recognize the risks our troops take on our behalf every day and the need to support our veterans and their families.

Jeffrey Baker was from Hesperia, California, and was just 29 years old. He is survived by his wife and his young daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeffrey's entire family, the families of his fellow soldiers who were killed, and the soldiers recovering from the blast.

God bless our Armed Forces, and God bless America.

WELCOMING LONGABERGER POTTERY BACK TO U.S.

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Democrats' Make It In America Working Group, I was pleased to attend a ceremony yesterday welcoming Longaberger Pottery to Niagara Ceramics Corporation in Buffalo.

In 2005, Longaberger moved its production line to China. Its return will create 22 American jobs. Under CEO Tammy Longaberger, this fifth-generation family business manufactures in the true American artisan tradition.

This story is further evidence that we are approaching what the writer Charles Fishman calls "the insourcing boom." American companies are reconsidering their decisions to move operations overseas. The issues of rising transportation costs, quality control, and the productivity of American workers is driving this trend. Congress should be working to ensure the new trend becomes a sustainable, large-scale movement.

And austerity is exactly the wrong response. We should be investing in our infrastructure, in education, and in science. We should adopt the House

Democrats' Make It In America agenda, including legislation that replaces tax breaks for moving jobs overseas with incentives for bringing them home.

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LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA C. TAYLOR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

(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, I rise today to announce legislation I introduced that will designate the post office in Marietta, Ohio, as the Lance Corporal Joshua C. Taylor Memorial Post Office Building.

Lance Corporal Joshua Taylor is a true American hero who lost his life on March 18 in an explosion during a training exercise at the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.

From an early age, Josh had dreamed of serving his country and becoming a marine. He entered the Marine Corps upon graduating from Marietta High School in 2010. After basic training, Josh was stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and specialized in mortar weaponry. He honorably served tours of duty in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

In addition to being a dedicated marine, Josh was an exceptional individual. He will be remembered for his gentle spirit, unfailing love, and his love for his family.

Dedicating the Marietta Post Office for Josh Taylor serves as a small tribute to honor and remember the life of a remarkable young man and the sacrifice he made for America.

BUDGET AND SEQUESTER

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, our economy is improving, the national debt is going down faster than expected, and yet sequestration is still in effect and causing real and long-reaching harm in our communities. Republicans appear prepared to sacrifice our country's economic growth, sacrifice job creation, in favor of sequester cuts.

What happened to the Members on the other side all the last term asking, "Where are the jobs?" Now I'm asking, "Where are the jobs?"

Mr. Speaker, the sequester is slashing jobs, cutting education, and starving research. All this happens while my counterparts feel comfortable to stand idly by instead of appointing conferees to work out the differences between the House and Senate budget proposals and coming up with a plan that grows the economy and responsibly reduces the deficit.

The American people need Congress to act in a big way, and we need to act now.

IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, to my colleague who just spoke, I say she's going to have an opportunity with voting on the Keystone XL bill to address the jobs issue this week.

But let me talk about this most recent IRS scandal. I have a local, well-respected attorney named Tad Armstrong in my district, who founded the Constitution study group called Earn It, Learn It or Lose It.

He applied for a tax-exempt status in August of 2010. In October of 2010, Cincinnati headquarters called with a lot of questions. It wasn't until October of 2011 that he received an 11-page rejection letter.

He hired an accountant to try to appeal. He told the accountant that his appeal was probably denied because he was teaching about the Constitution. She laughed at that. But after this most recent IRS story broke, she called back and said, "My goodness, you are right."

I quote Tad in saying: "Here you have Jay Carney saying the President is a staunch defender of the First Amendment. I can't help but be reminded several times the President saying the Constitution is outdated and gets in his way."

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President Kennedy established Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor the sacrifices made by officers who died in the line of duty.

Last week, during this year's Peace Officers Memorial Day, I was privileged to meet Elisa and Miguel Garcia, who recently lost their first-born son, El Paso Police Officer Angel David Garcia. It was Officer Garcia's lifelong dream to serve our Nation in the city of El Paso, a dream he pursued with enthusiasm and dedication. Tragically, only 9 months after he joined the force, Officer Garcia was killed while on patrol this last December.

Officer Garcia dedicated his life to making El Paso and our Nation a better and safer place. He was both a Marine reservist and a patrol officer with the El Paso Police Department, and he was a loving older brother to his sister, Allyson, and to his brother, Mickey.

Angel Garcia's selfless service serves as an example to all of us. On behalf of all El Pasoans, I thank Officer Garcia and all those who serve our communities in law enforcement. Our community is proud to remember him as one of our finest.

MORE AMERICAN ENERGY MEANS MORE AMERICAN JOBS

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, the President seems to be getting a lot of information from the news rather than from his own administration lately. He says he was unaware of the IRS targeting conservatives, unaware of the Department of Justice seizing reporters' phone records, and unaware of the HHS Secretary fundraising for ObamaCare until he saw it on the news.

The next story the President should read will be about our bipartisan solution to create jobs and greater energy security for America—the Keystone XL pipeline. It really is incomprehensible that the President, after 1,700 days, would continue to stand in the way of the largest shovel-ready project in this country.

It's really this simple: more American energy means more American jobs. With millions of hardworking Americans out of work, gas prices skyrocketing, and China outcompeting the United States for access to Canada's oil supply, we need the Keystone XL pipeline.

It is time to put hardworking American families ahead of politics and focus on real solutions.

OKLAHOMA TORNADO

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents in the State of Hawaii as we all express our deepest condolences to those who have been impacted by the horrific tornado that hit Oklahoma yesterday. The destruction has been absolutely heartbreaking, and there really are no words that can adequately provide comfort during a time like this.

However, it is important for all of us to send a message of solidarity to those who have lost their loved ones, who have lost their children, lost their homes, and those who are still searching for their children, family, and friends in the rubble. Know that your country stands with you, your country grieves with you, and we are committed to doing what it takes to make sure that you have the support to rebuild.

The strength of our Nation lies in our unity, especially in these times of great need. Now is the time, as we go about our business here in the people's House, where we must stand as one, united to help our brothers and sisters in Oklahoma, provide them with assistance, prayers, and support as their recovery and rebuilding process begins.