

food in her stomach, she was able to take her medication and be in compliance and stay well so that she could stay out of the emergency room.

So we talked with these folks. Then we talked with people from the faith community—Jewish community, Christian community, and Catholic community—and all of them said that, look, you know, we do a lot of food aid. We're trying to make sure that folks have enough to eat; but if the government steps away from nutrition assistance, then that's just going to leave a bigger hole for us.

They talked about how their food shelves were already being used a lot, and how they already were struggling to meet the needs of the folks who came to them. So at the end of the day, they said, look, you know, we're not going to be able to step in where the government steps out.

And so at the end of the conversation, it was clear to me that, aside from statistics, aside from all the numbers, there is a human face on the food stamp program; and the cuts that have been proposed will be devastating.

Let me just tell you this, Mr. Speaker. If there was a program which said that it would improve children's math and reading scores, it would prevent diabetes, asthma and depression, it would contribute to healthy babies with fewer developmental problems, it would decrease health care costs and lower the poverty rate, would you support it?

That's the food stamp program. It needs to be supported.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Ron Dunn, Revolution Church of God, Harrison, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Father, You have given us this land for our heritage. We humbly ask that You will keep us mindful of Your favor and Your will.

Bless our land. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion and from every evil way. Turn us into one united people.

Give wisdom to our leaders who have been elected and entrusted with the authority to govern this great Nation. Let these leaders be obedient to Your law, and may Your glory shine throughout our Nation.

Bless this Nation as we put our trust in You in times of trouble and give You our thankfulness in times of prosperity.

Father, pour out Your Spirit on these men and women as they commit themselves to Your service and the service of our Nation.

We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MULLIN 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 RON DUNN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Today, I rise to welcome Pastor Ron Dunn to the House floor and to thank him for sharing his inspiring words this morning.

Pastor Dunn has served in a number of ministry roles for the last 15 years. Currently, he is the senior pastor to the Revolution Church of God in Harrison, Michigan, where he has encouraged the church to serve the community by offering counseling services and donating items such as clothing, diapers, and formula.

Before joining the ministry, Reverend Dunn was a member of the United States Army for 8 years and served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He and his wife, Stephanie, have three daughters—Chelsea, Abigail, and Sara—and they join us here today.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to thank Pastor Dunn for offering this morning's prayer and for his service to God, his community, and our country.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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, June 13, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
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 June 13, 2013 at 9:32 a.m.:

That the Senate agrees to return the bill to the House H.R. 2217.

Appointment:
Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

VIOLA MEEKINS

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. I rise today to recognize Viola Meekins and her lifetime of service to her community and to the State of Arkansas.

The life of Mrs. Meekins will be remembered in every corner of Arkansas County as well as in the halls of Upchurch and McRae High Schools in Prescott and by her classmates of Philander Smith College.

When Mrs. Meekins and her husband, George, first moved to Stuttgart in 1958, he became the principal of the former Holman School. Mrs. Meekins was the school's secretary as well as a teacher. After desegregation in 1971, the couple moved to Stuttgart High School. Even though Mrs. Meekins retired from teaching in 1989, her work in the community was just beginning. She spent countless hours volunteering at many places, including at the Holman Heritage Community Center. Upon the passing of her husband, George, Mrs. Meekins was appointed to fulfill his term on the quorum court and went on to serve for over 20 years.

In closing, I want to highlight the reason Mrs. Meekins sought a career as a teacher: to add value to the lives of the students and their families she taught. The life of Mrs. Meekins will live on, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that everyone who came in contact with Mrs. Meekins will honor her legacy by finding ways that they, too, can add value to the lives of those they come in contact with on a daily basis.

VETERANS EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the original GI Bill was one of the most significant pieces of legislation in American history. It is responsible for providing education to a generation of veterans—the right to rise—and it transformed our Nation's economy from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

Unfortunately, the GI Bill today sets forth limits for using these educational benefits. After leaving service, many veterans must postpone further education to support families or are unable to work due to lengthy rehabilitation from service-related injuries.

GI Bill benefits should not come with an expiration date. We should provide our veterans greater flexibility. That's why I've introduced the Veterans Education Flexibility Act. This legislation would remove the expiration date for veterans in order for them to take advantage of the GI Bill's educational benefits, and it would retroactively restore benefits to individuals whose benefits have already expired.

Mr. Speaker, caring for our veterans is more than thanking them for their service. On behalf of a good and generous Nation, we must restore the promise to and the potential of every returning veteran.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today not only as a Member of Congress but as a concerned American.

As a country, we cannot continue to ignore ObamaCare's impact on jobs and small businesses. This past Friday, our Nation witnessed yet another rise in the unemployment rate. Why is it becoming increasingly difficult for nearly 12 million Americans to secure jobs?

When you attack a small business, you attack the backbone of our economy.

American employers are struggling to manage this job-killing health care law. Health care now tops the concerns facing small business owners like myself. We will have to make the tough choice of whether to comply with the health care mandate or to reject it. This is yet another regulation that is choking our economy at a time when we should be creating more jobs.

ObamaCare also empowers the scandal-plagued IRS—an agency that, in 2010 alone, administered \$17 billion in improper payments to the earned income tax credit.

Where is the recovery America was promised? It is time we put America back in business.

CALIFORNIA AVOCADO APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my State's most important agricultural assets—the California avocado. This June, during the peak of the avocado growing season, we celebrate California Avocado Appreciation Month.

California avocados are both an economic driver as well as a healthy sodium- and cholesterol-free food option. Throughout California, family farms produce 90 percent of the Nation's avocados, and many of these farms and avocado groves are in my home in Ventura County. Growers in Ventura County are leading the way in avocado agriculture, and they are true stewards of the land. It is this stewardship and their hard work that makes the future of the California avocado so bright and Ventura County one of the most beautiful places in the country to live and work.

I look forward to joining my colleagues to further strengthen this important economic driver for California and for our country.

□ 1210

AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, the Motor Capital of Michigan currently has the second-highest gas prices in the country at over \$4 per gallon. Sadly, this reality is just another painful and needed reminder for the Senate and the President to work with the House in passing an all-of-the-above approach that expands American energy production, creates jobs, boosts manufacturing, makes energy more affordable, and allows America to be America.

The U.S. is a treasure trove of natural resources. New practices allow producers to easily extract natural gas, coal, and oil from the ground while doing it cheaper, safer, and with less disruption to the landscape.

Energy production also creates jobs. The Keystone XL pipeline project alone would create tens of thousands of jobs. The State Department declares it environmentally safe. Labor unions agree it will create jobs. Last month, the House passed H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, to clear the remaining barriers to construction of the project. But the administration refuses to move forward. Why? America deserves better.

The President and the Senate must join our efforts to help hardworking taxpayers and create jobs, create an economy, and allow America to be America.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the men and women who serve our country every day have to worry about the fate of losing a limb or losing their life facing the enemy, but they shouldn't have to worry about the insidious sexual assaults from their very own, nor should they have to live in the shadows of fear and intimidation and retaliation by their abuser.

According to our Department of Defense, 26,000 servicemen and service-women who serve our country were sexually assaulted in the military in 2012. That's more than 70 servicewomen and servicemen sexually assaulted every single day in our military. That's a scary statistic.

But what's even scarier is, due to a culture heavy on retaliation and light on prosecution, only 3,374 of those cases were even reported. This is a pervasive crisis that threatens the moral underpinnings of our military. We must take urgent action now.

I actually support the underlying changes of the defense bill that we're going to be voting on this week.

Congress should create a transparent and fair system that ensures the safety of our men and women in the armed services who have sacrificed enough.

SMALL AIRCRAFT REVITALIZATION ACT

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

Mr. POMPEO. Economic growth of just over 1½ percent is unsatisfactory. We all want a better economy and better jobs.

In south central Kansas, the aviation manufacturing industry has been hit particularly hard. Machinists, engineers, small business owners, and families are very worried about what their future might hold.

That's why I've offered bipartisan legislation offered in the Senate by Senator KLOBUCHAR which will reduce the burden on manufacturers who are building airplanes in the United States of America, trying to compete with global companies all across the world.

The Small Aircraft Revitalization Act, H.R. 1848, would greatly reduce that burden and help manufacturers all across south central Kansas and indeed all across America to get their products to market faster so that we can compete and provide aircraft, great tools for all businesses, to compete all around the world. It will replace an outdated certification system and greatly ease the burden on those who are trying to build these great products here in the United States.

This bill would ensure that this industry can continue to thrive in the years and decades ahead.