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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2013, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 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: God our Father, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they gather at the end of another week in the Capitol. Endow each with the graces needed to attend to the issues of the day with wisdom, that the results of their efforts might benefit the citizens of our Nation and the world.

On this Flag Day, may we be reminded of the greatness of the democratic experiment that is the Republic of the United States and diligent in our responsibilities as citizens to guarantee the freedoms enumerated in the Constitution for all who claim this country as their home.

We also ask Your blessing leading into this weekend upon fathers throughout our country. May they be their best selves, and may their children appreciate fully the blessing their fathers have been to them.

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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MATSUI 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.

AL QAEDA TERRORIST THREAT GROWS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Monday, I attended a briefing by the American Enterprise Institute concerning foreign policy issues. I particularly appreciated a presentation by Dr. Fred Kagan, an internationally recognized authority on terrorist threats to American families.

He provided a map, which I believe should be known by the American people, of the al Qaeda and associated movement areas of operation and safe havens. It is sad Somalia is ruled by warlords, Libya is controlled by militias, and in Mali, there are new reports

of terrorists training with surface-to-air missiles. This war began with safe havens in Afghanistan on September 11, 2001.

I believe we should be proactive in working with our allies to stop terrorists overseas. We cannot wish the threat away because, in fact, threats are growing. We should support peace through strength by stopping terrorism overseas or face more attacks on the streets of America.

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

STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of access to higher education.

Satin Tashnizi is a freshman at the University of Utah, with aspirations of becoming a heart surgeon. As a first-generation American, Satin grew up watching both of her parents struggle to provide for her, working multiple jobs while going to school, continually reminding Satin that America is the land of opportunity.

Recently, I had the privilege of sitting down with Satin and several other college students to talk about their experiences paying for college and why it is critical that Congress come together to solve the current student loan debate.

□ 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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As a high school student, Satin enrolled in several AP classes and graduated near the top of her class. She was accepted at her first college choice out of State; however, due to finances, Satin opted to stay in-State for school, hoping her family would have enough money to pay for medical school later on. But with interest rates on subsidized student loans set to double July 1, the chances that Satin's family can afford medical school are getting smaller.

We have 16 days to reach a compromise on this matter here in Congress to help ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to reach their educational dreams.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today the House will be voting on the National Defense Authorization Act, known as the NDAA. The NDAA's purpose is to ensure that our brave sons and daughters who serve this country will have what they need to be trained and resourced to do their jobs effectively and safely.

This authorization is one of the few policy matters in Washington not viewed through a partisan lens. As a father of a son and daughter-in-law currently serving our country in Afghanistan, I'm proud to say that that is the case.

Today's NDAA includes an amendment I added that would mandate the Department of Defense implement a preliminary mental health assessment before individuals join the military. The goal is to assure mental health resiliency for those who will be facing the combat realities of war. The suicide rate among our military is unacceptable, and this amendment will help reduce it.

The Department of Defense has done medical assessments for many years. It is time we bring mental health to parity in preliminary assessments. We must focus on the overall well-being of the force.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to highlight the four-part plan released last Monday by the International Energy Agency about the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is yet one more report sounding the alarm that we are not on track to meet the agreed-upon target of limiting the rise of average global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius.

Mr. Speaker, how many more reports must be released before we act? Every

day that Congress continues down this self-destructive path of ignoring climate change is a missed opportunity to bring immense benefits to our country. By failing to enact responsible climate change policies, we are missing the opportunity to simultaneously create good paying jobs, protect our environment, and leave a sustainable planet for our future generations.

The time to act is now.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot going on in our country right now, but we here in Congress need to remember that the number one priority remains getting our economy back on track. That's why, today, I reintroduced the original JOBS Act.

My JOBS Act would reduce the corporate tax rate and capital gains tax to zero. It would totally eliminate them. It would also extend for 3 years bonus depreciation and would allow 100 percent expensing for business assets. Finally, the JOBS Act would permanently repeal the estate and gift taxes—the death taxes.

My bill would give businesses the boost that they need to create more jobs. It would stimulate our economy and would bring manufacturing jobs back to America.

I urge my colleagues to support my JOBS Act.

THE BLACK FOREST FIRE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many dedicated firefighters, first responders, and military personnel who are battling the ongoing Black Forest fire to save countless homes and lives in my congressional district. I would also like to recognize the coordinated response of all the Federal, State, and local resources that have come together to contain the fire.

Since erupting Tuesday afternoon, the Black Forest fire has, at this time, claimed two lives, destroyed 379 homes, and displaced over 41,000 people, making it the most destructive fire in Colorado history.

I will continue to do all I can to help the thousands of families displaced by this fire and ensure that our brave firefighters and first responders have all the Federal resources they need.

I ask all of you to keep the people of the Black Forest and the family of the two who have died in your thoughts and prayers during this tragedy.

ALBANIAN PRIME MINISTER
BERISHA, AMERICA'S LOYAL
FRIEND

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago, Albania was struggling to leave behind its years of repression, dependence, and deprivation, a period when it was a North Korea clone. Now, Albania is a democracy with elected representatives who engage in open debates within a vigorous civil society.

Albania is a member of NATO that continues to contribute troops to the International Security Force in Afghanistan and participated in the U.S.-led liberation of Iraq, and it now aspires to have membership in the European Union.

In contrast to the atheist dictatorship it left behind, today, Albanian churches and mosques are full. Similarly, Marxist economics has been replaced with an expanding market economy. America needs to be especially grateful to the Government of Albania and to the Albanian Prime Minister, Sali Berisha, who has been a steadfast and courageous ally of the United States.

Recently, when the U.S. needed countries willing to provide asylum to members of the MEK now stranded in Iraq, Prime Minister Berisha agreed to accept 210 members of that group—far more than any other country. That was a sign of good faith and friendship for America. It will not soon be forgotten, and it took real courage on the part of President Berisha to make this generous offer. We will not forget his friendship.

□ 0910

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORBES). Pursuant to House Resolution 260 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1960.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 0912

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose Thursday, June 13, 2013, the seventh set of en bloc amendments offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) had been disposed of.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 18 will not be offered.