

their appropriation process, but they also demand and deserve that we be prudent and fiscally responsible in making sure we operate and appropriate within our means.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Loving God, thank You for giving us another day.

The people's House prepares to welcome the governmental and military leadership of our Nation. The world watches as the great experiment of civilian self-government is in high relief.

May all who populate these hallways this day be possessed of goodwill and a shared commitment to guarantee the freedoms and responsibilities inspired by the soaring rhetoric and subsequent actions of our American ancestors.

May all that is said and done in this Chamber today redound to the benefit of our Nation and the glory of Your holy name.

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 Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois 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.

NO MORE BLAME, MR. PRESIDENT

(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, tonight the President will ad-

dress the American people in his annual State of the Union Address. With the last quarter revealing unemployment has risen .1 percent and the economy contracting .1 percent, the President should change course. He should follow the example of President John F. Kennedy and President Ronald Reagan to lower taxes during economic hardship to promote job creation.

Last Congress, House Republicans passed over 30 job-creating bills. Most sadly died in the Senate graveyard. Additionally, the House has voted twice on a balanced approach to prevent sequestration with commonsense reforms. We should avoid these devastating cuts to occur, which will threaten our national security and destroy over 2 million jobs. House Republicans are actually passing legislation to encourage job growth through small business success.

Now is the time for positive leadership. I urge the President to begin working with House Republicans to find real solutions that will create jobs and put our country back on the path to prosperity.

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

DARWIN DAY

(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 to honor the birth of Charles Darwin. Only rarely in human history has someone shown a fundamentally new way of thinking about the world, an insight so revolutionary that it has made possible further creative and explanatory thinking.

In my previous field of physics, we have Galileo and Newton and Einstein. In biology, at the top of any list would be Charles Darwin. Without his insights—without his recognition that natural selection enables ever-increasing complexity and functionality and enables the development of ever-more wonderful forms of life—our modern understandings of biology, ecology, genetics, and medicine would be impossible, and our comprehension of the world around us would be vastly poorer.

I've introduced a resolution to honor February 12 as a ceremonial Darwin Day, to recognize the importance of scientific thinking in our lives and to honor one of humankind's greatest thinkers.

HONORING JOSEPH N. COOK, SR.

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American hero, somebody born in Channahon, Illinois, in my district, and passed away very recently.

His name is Joe Cook, Sr. Joe was a community leader, a great father, a great family member, but I would like to point out today a great veteran of the United States. He was a proud American, a decorated Korean war veteran, a member of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division. He was listed as missing in action for over 121 days behind enemy lines. By the grace of God, he was one of the very few to return home from Task Force Crombez, a recipient of the Silver Star, five Bronze Stars, and two Purple Hearts.

These are the kinds of Americans that we need to honor and cherish today. And I tip my hat off to Mr. Cook, and I say thank you, sir, for your service to your country.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday the Congressional Budget Office came out with their new budget projections and analysis of last year. What it showed was that the Medicare program grew at the slowest rate since 1965 when the program was created.

As this chart shows, the cost growth for Medicare is coming down. As a result of that, there are \$200 billion in new savings that we didn't know about the day before.

This is the smart way to balance our budget, by providing incentives for preventive care for more efficiency in the system, not butchering Medicare by turning it into a private health insurance program or raising the age of eligibility.

We can build on its success. We can stop sequestration by having a smart, focused health care policy which saves money for the American taxpayer, but protects America's seniors and people on disability.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, tonight the American people see if President Obama will keep his word regarding sequestration. At the third Presidential debate, President Obama said:

First of all, the sequester is not something that I proposed. It's something that Congress has proposed. It will not happen.

As you can see, the truth is that sequestration was a concept that came from President Obama's White House, and sequestration is happening unless Congress acts. President Obama must keep his promise to find the necessary cuts to get our fiscal house in order. We cannot fix this problem by taxing the American people more.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to keep his promise to fix the current sequestration and maintain the needed cuts in spending.

GOVERNMENT SUES STANDARD & POOR'S

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the U.S. Department of Justice for finally taking some substantive action against one of the credit rating agencies, Standard & Poor's, for its role in causing the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

When Wall Street's housing bubble burst in 2008, it sent shock waves through our economy. That shock wave may not have been so destructive if credit rating agencies like Standard & Poor's did not create fraud.

Rather than assessing real risk and due diligence on the securities, Standard & Poor's invented a system of defrauding investors by providing the highest rating as long as the clients paid Standard & Poor's enough money. If Standard & Poor's actually rated the mortgage securities for what they were truly worth, our entire banking system and economy may not have collapsed.

While the Department of Justice should be praised for taking some action against Standard & Poor's, other rating agencies were left out of the case. And the fact is Justice's case is only a civil one, not a criminal one. That tells you who really holds political power in our country.

Thanks to Wall Street, America lost over 8 million jobs. American households lost over \$19 trillion in wealth. Yet no major Wall Street executive has ever faced the threat of jail time. Real cases could yield real dollars back to our Treasury and help America pay the bills that resulted from the Great Recession beginning in 2008.

□ 1410

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHESTER REITEN

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, a North Dakota legend died recently, and I was honored to be able to attend the celebration of his life, a sendoff worthy of a king.

Chester Reiten was like royalty, especially to the people of his hometown of Minot, where he served as their mayor for 14 years. Public service came naturally to Chet. During World War II, he enlisted in the United States Navy, serving as an ensign and commanding officer of a landing craft infantry ship.

In addition to military and local service, Chet served 16 years in the North Dakota Senate where he was also president pro tem.

Chester really made a name for himself and Minot when he combined his loves of Norwegian culture and America by founding the annual Norsk

Hostfest, the largest Scandinavian festival in North America. The Hostfest brings thousands of people to Minot every year to celebrate all things Scandinavian. Chester received the St. Olav Medal from the King of Norway as a result of his work with Norsk Hostfest and his promotion of Norwegian and Scandinavian heritage. He received the Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Award in 2002 and was inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame in 2011.

May God bless Chester's memory; his wife, Joy; and their beautiful family. He will be missed.

JACK'S OYSTER HOUSE CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, with pride I rise today to congratulate Jack's Oyster House of Albany, New York, on the celebration of its 100th anniversary recently held on January 24. Founded by Jack Rosenstein, the restaurant is currently owned by his grandson, Brad. As a sampling of its entree depth, Jack's has served liver and onions since the first day it opened. One menu, dating back to 1939, lists the price of this signature dish as 75 cents.

Sadly, however, many restaurants do not make it past their first few years of operation; but Jack's has endured because it remembers and honors its past, including well-dressed wait staff and boutique tables and place settings, while striving to serve its current customers in a top-notch manner with quality, classic fare.

The only day, interestingly, Jack's ever closed in the past 100 years was in 1986 for Jack Rosenstein's funeral. May he rest in peace. And may Jack's Oyster House continue to thrive for centuries to come. We wish all involved a happy 100th birthday.

FORT HOOD'S TERRORIST ATTACK

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, a report will air tonight on "ABC News" about the Obama administration's negligence of the Fort Hood survivors and their families. This was clearly a terrorist attack. And while the Obama administration has designated that attack that killed all those people a "workplace violence," the survivors cannot get assistance. Major Hasan was influenced by Awlaki. The administration knew Awlaki was bad, and they killed him by a drone missile. And now the people that are involved are not getting the necessary help.

Secretary of Defense Panetta, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Dempsey, Attorney General Holder, and the President of the United States have failed

the people and continue to fail the people who were wounded and killed at Fort Hood, as well as their families.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT LINCOLN

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Unfortunately, not many Americans probably know that; but February 12 used to be a date that people remembered. Now it's just Presidents Day, a weak invocation.

An award-winning movie is presently showing about President Lincoln, a great President who saved the Union and got the 13th Amendment passed—slavery abolished. But the movie also showed that President Lincoln could make compromise and make the two sides of the bodies work together for the betterment of this Nation.

As President Obama from the Land of Lincoln speaks tonight in the State of the Union, we should remember what Lincoln taught us: that you need to work for the union of this government, the unity of our people, for rights for everybody and diversity, and for the two parties to work together for the betterment of the United States of America.

Thank you, President Lincoln.

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING CONTROLS

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Uncle Sam's free-spending ways have cost each American \$27,000 over the last 4 years. As a Nation, we are adding \$50,000 in debt each second. But listening to this President talk about sequestration, you would think that we can't spend one penny less, even though discretionary spending has risen over his tenure, even though we spend millions on such necessities as robotic squirrels, Martian menus, hot-air balloons, and other so-called priorities.

The House has voted twice to replace the President's sequester with commonsense spending reforms. It is time to get serious about replacing these indiscriminate cuts with other more targeted spending reductions, but not by raising taxes again.

Mr. Speaker, I am willing to work with this President to replace his sequester with responsible spending controls. I am not willing to ask our constituents to give Washington more of their hard-earned money so it can be squandered and added to the hefty tab Uncle Sam is piling up on their behalf.

CURBING GUN VIOLENCE

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