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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.,

February 15, 2013

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF FORTENBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

Quicken our spirits so that we will know the blessings of living together in unity and peace. We have our personal aspirations and ideas of what is best. Grant that we might know the satisfaction of sharing our common concerns and experiencing the joy of mutual accomplishment.

Bless the Members of the people's House with success in bringing fruition to all efforts to work toward common solutions to the issues facing our Nation, solutions which seem so distant in these days.

During the days of the coming week, may the American people be able to communicate their hopes for the efforts of their Congress men and women. May they understand as well that a unified Nation is equally the work of each of us where we live.

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

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

(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, I had a career in the military with a combined 21 years between the United States Army, the Army Reserve, the United States Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps Reserve.

During the course of my military career, I met so many extraordinary young men and women who served our country in uniform and who made tremendous sacrifices in defense of our freedom. I strongly believe that the highest expression of citizenship in America is exemplified by those who serve in our Armed Forces.

In my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, I've recently met young people who grew up in Aurora, went to school in our community, and know of no

other country than America. Some of them want to join the military, but because of their immigration status, they cannot.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that they should be allowed to join and given an opportunity to earn their citizenship by serving our country, their country, in the military.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advance of the Forward on Climate Rally this Sunday here in Washington, D.C., to support the thousands of people en route to this town right now and to urge this Congress to keep environmental issues among our top priorities.

As President Obama stressed in his State of the Union address earlier this week, there is an undeniable trend of warmer climates and a rise in the frequency of natural disasters which cause devastation across this Nation.

We are headed in the wrong direction, and we need serious action to protect our planet. We can fight global warming while still growing our economy. We can do it by investing in clean, renewable resources like wind and solar with equipment produced right here in the United States of America.

By dealing seriously with environmental issues, we can boost our economy, decrease our reliance on foreign oil, and leave a better world for our children. These should be our top priorities as Members of Congress, as citizens, and as parents, and it is time these issues receive the attention that they deserve.

□ 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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### FEDERAL LAND GRABBING OF UTAH

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

Mr. STEWART. Today I rise in defense of the people of Utah as I introduce the Utah Land Sovereignty Act, a bill that will prohibit the establishment of national monuments in Utah except by the express authorization of Congress.

More than 60 percent of the State is controlled by the Federal Government. This is not uncommon in western States. And now we know that President Obama intends to use the Antiquities Act to further extend these Federal landgrabs.

Recently, the former Secretary of the Interior suggested and encouraged him to do this. This is another example of the arrogance of the Federal Government and their cavalier attitude towards those of us in western States.

It's time for the President to realize that Federal landgrabs have real consequences for real people.

### TERRELL BENTON, JR.

(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 to honor the 50 years that Terrell W. Benton, Jr., has served as a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Terrell Benton earned both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia and, as one colleague put it, is "the very model of what a lawyer should be."

Terrell Benton believes that all deserve effective representation in our courts. That may be common today, but in 1964, my daddy's first year on the bench, not everybody felt that way. In that year, Terrell defended a black man the State was trying to put to death for killing a white man. He was convicted of the crime he committed, but he was spared the death penalty thanks to Terrell. That would have been no small feat for the most accomplished lawyer in that time and place, but considering that Terrell was just 1 year out of law school made it all the more remarkable.

Today, Terrell is general counsel to three school districts and serves on a host of civic boards.

I know I speak for lawyers everywhere when I thank Terrell Benton for his commitment to equal justice for all and for his 50 years of service to our profession.

### THE PATH TO PROSPERITY IS STILL ACHIEVABLE

(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, during Tuesday night's State

of the Union address, the President spoke to the American people, and Michael Gerson in yesterday's Washington Post has judged "it was a pervasive lack of substance and seriousness."

Four years ago this month, the President explained that the deficit was unsustainable, but then proceeded to triple the deficit, putting American families at risk. Sadly, his words do not reflect his actions.

House Republicans recognize the urgency in putting our fiscal house back in order. Over \$16 trillion in national debt is irresponsible. Not only does it threaten senior citizens with the value of the dollar, it places an undue burden on future generations at risk for higher taxes, and it destroys job creation due to economic uncertainty.

The path to prosperity is still achievable. Now is the time for the President to change course and work with Congress to secure solutions enabling small businesses to create jobs.

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

□ 0910

### ACHIEVING THE REPUBLICAN POLICY OF SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are on the brink of achieving the Republican policy of sequester. Why do I say it's the Republican policy?

Because on July 19 of 2011, 229 Republicans voted for their Cut, Cap, and Balance bill, which said that the alternative to cutting spending in a rational way would be the irrational imposition of sequester, which cuts across the board irrespective of priorities. It's the wrong thing to do. It will hurt America. It will hurt our economy. It will hurt the growth in jobs.

I am here to tell you, if Democrats were in charge of the House of Representatives, that sequester would not happen; but we've been here 6 weeks, and not a single piece of legislation has been brought to this floor by the majority to stop sequestration from happening, to substitute a rational fiscal policy for an irrational one.

So when sequester hits, as unfortunately as it may, as tragically as it may, as unacceptably as it may, the American people need to know this is Republican policy included in legislation for which 98 percent of them voted on July 19, 2011.

### COUNTERING A NUCLEAR NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, North Korea's nuclear test earlier this week sig-

nals an increasingly dangerous and defiant stance that the United States and our allies must confront and defeat.

The resolution before the House today condemns the North Korean Government's flagrant and repeated violations of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and condemns its repeated provocations that threaten international peace and stability. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I must add that the constraints we face in countering a nuclear North Korea highlight the urgent need to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capabilities. Iran already exports murder around the world, props up illegitimate regimes like Bashir al-Assad in Syria and supports and sponsors terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas. Imagine what Iran would do when acting under the umbrella of a nuclear deterrent.

The United States already faces in North Korea one outlaw regime with nuclear weapons. We cannot allow a second outlaw regime to join them.

### NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

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

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a resolution authored by Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois honoring National Engineers Week.

In his State of the Union address, the President emphasized the importance of educating students in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math fields so that they are prepared for the high-tech and high-paying jobs of the future.

STEM education is vital for the economic growth of my district and for the Nation. Just last month, a new report found that in the past 11 years high-tech jobs in my district and in the surrounding areas have grown by 18.6 percent. Many of these jobs are requiring engineers and students who pursue STEM education.

Yet while most parents of school-aged students believe that STEM education should be a priority in the United States, only half agree that it is actually a top priority. That is why I ask my colleagues to support the celebration of National Engineers Week in order to raise awareness of STEM education and its importance to our country's economic future.

### EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

Founded on this very day in 1863, with a mission of providing outstanding educators for the State of