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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 17, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID G. VALADAO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

Professional truck drivers in America deliver goods safely and on time to our hospitals, schools, and local grocers each day and are vital to both our local and our national economy.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I recently sat down with a number of my North Caro-

lina truck drivers and learned that their industry, like so many others in America, is facing a host of new rules and regulations by the Federal Government that is impacting their ability to retain current drivers and hire new ones.

In North Carolina right now, Mr. Speaker, there is a shortage of up to 15,000 truck drivers. These are good-paying jobs that can average a salary of \$50,000 and include benefits. In these difficult economic times, the Federal Government must be promoting policies that encourage companies to go out and hire that additional worker. Trucking is a great example of such an industry.

Mr. Speaker, professional truck drivers have a vested interest in keeping our roads safe not only for their businesses but for everyone else that shares the highway.

Let's commit, Mr. Speaker, to finding sensible solutions that reduce burdensome regulations and keep our roads safe.

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 3 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. VALADAO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of Heaven and Earth, thank You for giving us another day.

As this assembly gathers after a long weekend at home, we note the observance of Constitution Day, when our Nation's founding document was signed at the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

Grant a deepening knowledge of, and appreciation for, our Constitution to all Americans but especially to the Members of the people's House, who have sworn an oath to defend it.

May they have the freedom to realize that their responsibility is to the Nation and its welfare as well as to their own constituents. Give them the wisdom to discern the greater good when those allegiances might seem to conflict.

May all that is done today 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 the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SABLÁN 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.

OBAMACARE MANDATE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, given President Obama's reflexive opposition to

□ 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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offering all Americans fair treatment under ObamaCare, you'd think the cost of "fairness for all" must be pretty astronomical. Not so.

Extending "fairness for all" by giving American families the same break from ObamaCare that businesses are getting will save taxpayers and cut the Federal deficit.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that delaying ObamaCare's weighty individual mandate tax on the American people would reduce Federal deficits by roughly \$36 billion over the 2014-2018 period.

Fairness makes sense. It's not just good policy; it's good for taxpayers and for the economy. No wonder Republicans and Democrats joined together this summer to stop the individual mandate just like President Obama decided to stop his Big Business employer mandate.

We encourage President Obama to rethink his insistence on the individual mandate and to support "fairness for all."

CONGRATULATING THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, public education in the Northern Mariana Islands was transformed 25 years ago by the Education Act of 1988, creating an autonomous public school system outside of the executive branch of government, overseen by an elected board of education.

This decision coincided with a period of political maturation, economic expansion, and population growth on the islands; and the intervening years have proven its value. PSS students are excelling, winning national awards for their acting talent, debate skills, spelling abilities, and science acuity.

This year alone, the Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins won the national Real World Design Challenge and \$50,000 scholarships for each team member. Three students were awarded Gates Millennium scholarships. It is the third year in a row students from our small community have won. Last summer, Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band performed at the Olympics and brought home a silver medal from the London Celebration Music Festival.

These achievements were made possible through the extraordinary and cumulative support of the leaders, teachers, and staff of the public school system.

Please join me in saluting PSS for 25 years of service to our youth.

THE DELICATE BALANCE OF POWERS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today is the 226th anniversary of the signing of one of the most important documents in world history.

A lot of us talk about the Constitution, and talk about it often; but sometimes we forget the ground-breaking influence of that document and the fact that that very document was written by the States to create the Federal Government and not the other way around.

It has provided the basis for our representative Republic; it has provided the foundation for our government; and it has had a lasting influence across the world. In various corners of the globe, our Constitution has served as a model for other countries as they strove to build their governments and to make liberty and freedom for their citizens one of their first priorities.

Today's anniversary marks the spot where history diverged from the history of colonial rule and forged a path based on the rule of law and the rights of individuals. I hope that everyone takes a moment to reflect on the enormous insights of our Founders in creating this document.

A FISCAL CUL-DE-SAC

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the recognition of the signing of our Constitution, which has been described as a document created by geniuses for a government that could be run by idiots. It looks pretty idiotic around here today to have been driven into a fiscal cul-de-sac, risking a government shutdown or default on the national debt. We can help the Republicans out of the cul-de-sac they've driven into.

First, just allow the House to vote on a continuing resolution. Second, if you want to cut the budget, bring your House budget bills to the floor. You pulled them back, and you wouldn't even allow a vote on them. Third, if your own budget is too onerous that your own Members don't want to vote on it, allow a conference committee to be formed with the Senate and create a budget that's more realistic. But one thing should be off limits—wrecking the global economy by defaulting on the national debt, which is money we've borrowed for money that has already been spent.

Every small business, church, union, rotary club, contractor, home builder, and bank should tell the Republicans: don't play games with the national debt.

A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday marked the first annual National Day of Remembrance, a day to solemnly mark the sorrowful loss of life caused by abortion.

Last spring, the murder conviction of abortionist Kermit Gosnell forced our Nation to take a long, hard look into the brutal realities of abortion and the unborn lives that are killed by abortion every day. With Gosnell behind us, it may be tempting for some to look away again and ignore the truth: abortion is the taking of a human life.

I want to acknowledge and thank the pro-life groups and leaders who began the National Day of Remembrance.

It is a double tragedy when an unborn child is killed in abortion, and research has shown us the complications and emotional scars that can linger with the child's mother, compounding that tragedy. That's why we grieve and long for an end to abortion, and it's why pro-lifers must continue to make every effort to educate people about abortion.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) at 4 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

KEEP THE PROMISE ACT OF 2013

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1410) to prohibit gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1410

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,