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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2013, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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:
Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members who are laboring through these challenging days with wisdom, magnanimity, and a shared desire to serve our Nation at a pivotal time for us all. May their efforts bring results that rise above any sense of victory for one side or the other but, rather, mutual benefit. In the end, may we continue to trust that You would not abandon those who put their trust in You.

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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS 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.

UNHAPPY FIFTH BIRTHDAY, TRANSCANADA

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

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, regrettably this week, we had to wish TransCanada an unhappy fifth birthday. They've now been waiting for 5 years since first applying for the permit for the construction of the Keystone pipeline.

Even though this anniversary was an unfortunate milestone, what is fortu-

nate is that the southern leg of the Keystone pipeline will be completed by the end of 2013. However, the delay of the northern leg puts 4,000 people on hold for work. Today, the southern leg is on day 410 of construction, and the hardworking Americans who devoted time and effort deserve these jobs.

While this administration promotes a job-focused agenda, it continues to cripple our Nation's entrepreneurial spirit. It's time we move past the rhetoric and make sure America continues moving forward.

TEN DAYS

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

Mr. BERA of California. Madam Speaker, we have 10 short days before this government could shut down. Yet today, after working only 9 days this month, Congress is about to go on recess. We shouldn't be leaving here today. We should be staying, working, and coming to a real agreement, not some partisan ploy.

If the government shuts down, our Active Duty military could face working without pay. Their families could suffer. Our veterans who are already facing unreasonable wait times could go with delayed benefits. And seniors who have paid for years into Social Security and Medicare may not get the services that they need. This is completely unacceptable.

Americans are sick and tired of partisan fighting. They want Congress to do their job and work. Let's put their

□ 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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economic security first. Let's actually pass a reasonable budget. Let's rebuild the middle class. Ten days, Madam Speaker. Let's do our work.

OBAMACARE: THE WORST LEGISLATION IN OUR LIFETIME

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, 41, 19, 5, and zero. Madam Speaker, the House has voted 41 times to defund, dismantle, and repeal the President's disastrous health care law. Nineteen provisions of ObamaCare have been repealed or delayed. The Obama administration has delayed five significant provisions of the law. And HARRY REID and the Senate have not once brought a vote to the Senate floor.

Madam Speaker, as a business owner, I know that businesses don't want ObamaCare. They are being forced to cut employees and hours. Labor unions don't want the law. They've unsuccessfully lobbied the White House to be exempt. Families don't want it. They're seeing their premiums skyrocket and their current health care plans disappear. Even IRS agents, tasked with implementing and enforcing the law, don't want it. IRS Acting Commissioner Daniel Werfel said IRS employees don't want changes to their health care. And the majority of Americans don't want it. Everybody is seeking exemptions.

Madam Speaker, today the House will vote for the 42nd time to defund ObamaCare and keep the government running while the Senate has yet to act. Now is the time for our Senators to stand up and demand HARRY REID bring this vote to the floor. America is waiting on them to join us in our fight to get rid of ObamaCare, the worst legislation in our lifetime.

NOTEWORTHY BREAKTHROUGH FOR NEUROSCIENCE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important breakthrough in statistics and neuroscience research. Neurological conditions are caused by the brain's communication networks, and these conditions can be studied at a systems level. Functional MRIs capture 3-D images of the brain over time, resulting in millions of measurements per subject and billions of possible connections.

A Rice University statistics professor, Genevra Allen, and her collaborators recently developed statistical methods to model how each individual's brain is wired and then applied these methods to synesthesia, a condition in which individuals automatically associate specific colors with numbers and letters. The team discovered that areas of the brain responsible

for processing colors are functionally connected to areas that process letters and numbers in synesthetes. This breakthrough is relevant to other neurological diseases, such as autism and Alzheimer's, and demonstrates how statistical science is vital to neuroscience research.

I urge my colleagues to support critical science funding so that this type of work may continue.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the economy and jobs. The White House believes we're moving in the right direction. But for most Americans—especially for those 4.3 million Americans who have been out of work for more than 27 weeks—that is just not good enough. Progress is not happening fast enough.

Sadly, our Nation's labor participation rate now stands at 63.2 percent, the lowest rate since 1978. The news for our younger Americans is even more sobering. This year, collective student debt loans topped \$1 trillion. And a recent poll by Accenture found that 41 percent of recent college graduates were underemployed relative to their education, making paying off those student loans extremely hard.

What can we do to speed up job creation? Well, folks from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce visited me this week and they said we must reduce uncertainty. Washington can do that by solving our fiscal challenges, reforming our regulatory system, and stopping the job-killing taxes and disincentives set up by ObamaCare. House Republicans have a clear plan to create jobs and stimulate our economy, and it's time for our friends across the aisle to realize the status quo is just not acceptable.

AVOIDING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, as we all know, on September 30, the government will run out of funding. And I rise today to urge my colleagues here in Congress to stop the partisan bickering, to stop the games, and to work to avoid a government shutdown.

For folks back home on the Olympic Peninsula and around Puget Sound, a shutdown would have serious consequences. Troops at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard could go without pay. The Olympic National Park could close to tourists. Senior citizens could be delayed in receiving checks for Social Security. Veterans may go without the benefits and the care that they have earned.

Madam Speaker, I've spent the last 10 years working in economic development. The main thing that employers want from government is trust and predictability. And now, between sequestration and a potential government shutdown, Congress is on the cusp of fracturing both. What my constituents want is for us to get to work to solve our Nation's problems, not to make them worse. That's why we need to pass legislation as quickly as possible to avert this shutdown and then move forward on a bipartisan balanced budget that the American people deserve.

CONGRATULATING UNITED LAUNCH ALLIANCE

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the 852 employees of United Launch Alliance in Decatur, Alabama, for their hard work and commitment both to their jobs and to America. Because of their dedication, when using United Launch Alliance, America has secure access to space 100 percent of the time.

Two days ago, on September 18, 2013, ULA completed their 75th successful launch using an Atlas V rocket at Cape Canaveral. This was ULA's fourth launch in 2 months, ninth launch this year, and 40th successful launch of the Atlas V rocket.

Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the United Launch Alliance workers of Decatur for their achievement that embodies American exceptionalism. It is an honor to represent them in Congress.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, tragedy happens, and we say we are shocked. "This is a quiet neighborhood." "This is a quiet town." "This is a quiet city." When you examine the mass shootings in America over the last decade, it becomes abundantly clear that there are serious cultural and spiritual problems that have not been recognized. Any attempt to be reasonable, thoughtful, earnest in facing the recognized horror is, even in the Congress of the United States, met with downright skepticism or outright hate.

I wonder if we want to resolve this unique national paralysis. Somewhere between taking everyone's guns away and maintaining the status quo, we must find some workable answer. Do Senators and House Members have to be directly threatened before we agree to work together? One of our own has been shot down in her own district. We all said all the appropriate things and didn't do anything to prevent this kind of violence from happening again.

It would seem to me, Madam Speaker, to be very desirable to review the