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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN 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: Eternal God, through whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

In these days our Nation is faced with pressing issues, while we honor the memory of many who acted courageously a half century ago to bring greater freedoms to all Americans. Grant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to us all, as well as an extra measure of charity.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, who labor within these Halls under public scrutiny. Give them peace and an abundance of prudence in the work they do.

And 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 Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia 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 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SEQUESTRATION IS HERE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, at midnight tonight, the Department of Defense and other government agencies will fall victim to the President's sequester. Every American family will be affected by the shifting of funds.

In South Carolina's Second Congressional District, which I am grateful to represent, the Army's base at Fort Jackson in Columbia is expected to lose \$75 million. Additionally, the Savannah River Site in Aiken and Barnwell will be forced to furlough thousands of hardworking employees and stall critical national missions due to a possible \$200 million budget cut. Both of these shifts will endanger our national security.

The President and the Senate have refused to negotiate with House Republicans on a possible solution until today. House Republicans have voted twice to avoid sequestration. Our Nation has a spending problem we must address before it is too late and our

debt spirals out of control. The President should change course and begin working with both Houses of Congress to tackle the national debt which threatens American families.

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

SEQUESTER

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in a few hours, the so-called "sequester" will begin to take effect, and the things we cannot do without will be cut just the same as the things we don't need and can't afford.

What got us to this point was the failure to compromise, and what's kept us from solving this problem is that same failure to compromise. Only in Washington can so many folks agree on what the problem is, yet no solution is brought to the table.

My home State of Georgia is home to some of this country's vital military installations, including Fort Gordon in my district, the central nervous system of our national defense. Nearly \$1 billion in cuts will spread across these installations and will have devastating impacts on surrounding communities.

I urge my colleagues to come back to the table, find the spending cuts we need to avoid this disaster, and begin the process of putting these partisan games behind us.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, in 2011, I voted against the Budget Control Act and President Obama's sequester because I believed and feared they posed a grave threat 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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national security. That fear has come true. As I stand here today, north Alabamians face job furloughs in the thousands because Washington would rather spend money on frivolous programs than protect national security.

Madam Speaker, I have voted against sequester at every opportunity. I sent a letter to the White House calling on the President to face and avoid the horrendous consequences of his sequester. I've escorted members of the House Armed Services Committee around Redstone Arsenal to help them better understand how our civilian defense workers are critical to America's security, and I have repeatedly cosponsored legislation to end the sequester.

For nearly 2 years I have been fighting sequester and the hollowing out of our Armed Forces. It's time for the President and the Senate to do the same.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Many of my constituents ask the question of what work are we doing for them. I'm very glad this morning that we will finally end the long journey for the Violence Against Women Act and finally vote on a recognized compromise that the Senate has proposed.

But I also say that I'm not here to talk about process and blame when it comes to this pending sequester, which most Americans do not understand. But I'm ready to work, and I believe we should stay and work. We should follow the Buffett rule and provides for modest reductions in defense and does not provide for these devastating cuts until 2014.

We can get this done, but we cannot have any compromise when one side refuses to acknowledge that it takes revenue to run this government to be able to ensure that people have the resources that they need when there's a natural disaster or that our military has the resources that they need. Or, for example, in Texas, for my colleagues who refuted the idea that I stand for children, where we're losing some 4,000 spots in Head Start, we can do something, Madam Speaker. We simply need to stay and work and follow the Senate plan.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the White House to lead and turn away from Mayan politics: the world is going to end.

This strategy over the President's automatic cuts borders on untruthful. For example, the FAA released a list of

238 regional airports that could potentially close due to the President's cuts, saying that at least 100 of them would be closed. How can the FAA list 238 at-risk airports and admit that only 100 of them will close? It's Mayan politics. 238 affected airports puts more fear in people than 100 regional airports. Even with tomorrow's spending cuts, FAA operations and facilities will have \$500 million more than 2008 levels, and air traffic is lower.

More money, less traffic, and dramatic cuts? My seventh-grader would say, "That's fuzzy math, Dad." It's true. He's right.

The truth will prevail.

□ 0910

STOP THE SEQUESTER

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. As a member of the Veterans Affairs' Committee, as an American, and as the proud Representative of Ventura County—we are home to a large naval base with a very significant veteran community—I am extremely concerned about the impact the sequester will have on our women and men and their families who have courageously served, sacrificed, and defended our country.

If Congress fails to stop the across-the-board and unnecessary cuts at this moment, so many programs that help veterans—like transitioning to civilian life and finding employment—will be reduced.

More veterans with less resources is unacceptable. Our brave men and women deserve better. Now is the time to be doing more, not less. For our veterans' sake, we need to come together to stop this sequester now.

DEBT AND OVERSPENDING

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, \$52,653. A lot of numbers have been associated with our skyrocketing debt and government overspending, but \$52,653 is a particularly striking one and should give everyone pause as the specter of an unwanted sequester looms over the Federal budget this week. \$52,653 is the amount each individual American man, woman, and child owes as of today to pay off the country's \$16.6 trillion debt.

Clearly, overspending by the Federal Government has saddled us and our children with unsustainable debt. And just as clearly, any alternative must include reduction in spending.

I'm not looking for winners or losers in D.C.; I want the American people to win when we make the cuts that need to be made. Controlling spending is a necessity. Targeted spending cuts, such as the House has twice proposed and passed, is vital to the sequestration solution.

There is nothing worse than passing on a legacy to our children of a lower standard of living. Madam Speaker, we can and must deal with this issue of debt and overspending so that our children will not have to face \$52,653.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, while Congress is dealing with this manufactured sequester crisis, we have a real climate crisis occurring right outside the window.

There is clarity on what should be a bipartisan issue with the public. Seven out of 10 Americans believe the scientists that climate change is happening and that humans are making it worse. Every day, Americans see the impact. With record droughts and extreme storm events, 2012 set more than 3,500 monthly records for extreme heat, rain, and snow.

This week, 38 leading Republicans and national security advisors urged international action to prevent and mitigate the impact of climate change. The letter highlights the importance of immediate action and expresses national security concerns should we fail to address these issues.

We should be addressing the real climate crisis instead of dealing with a phony, made-up fiscal crisis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANDREW LEWIS

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

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Lewis, who tragically and suddenly passed away this weekend.

Andrew was a volunteer leader for the Sierra Club for over 25 years, serving most recently as the chair of the Washington State chapter. He was a local leader known for his intelligence, humor, and dedication, and Andrew was also a friend.

Over the course of his life, Andrew was a strong advocate for the protection of our wildlands and rivers—natural resources that make the Pacific Northwest such a special place.

As an avid rafter, Andrew had a great love for the rivers of Washington State. His early advocacy work helped lay the groundwork that eventually led to bipartisan legislation to protect the Middle Fork, Snoqualmie, and Pratt Rivers and expand the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, a bill that I'm proud to cosponsor.

I was fortunate to get to know him when we both served on the board of our children's school. Here, I saw his passion and love for his community and his family.

Andrew was a man that was large in stature, voice, and heart. My thoughts and prayers go to his wife Maaike, son