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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. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 21, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE 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, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week where we have given thanks for the heroism of the brave men who served as code talkers during the world wars. They answered the call to service of their Nation at a time of great danger, and we are grateful to them.

Now we approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

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 Utah (Mr. BISHOP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah 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.

BIG WEEK FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY SUPPORTERS

(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, over 25 years ago, Congress legislated Yucca Mountain as our national repository for nuclear waste. Sadly, the President discontinued the project in 2009 solely for political reasons. On Monday, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered the Department of Energy to proceed with the review process.

This administration has failed to produce a clear plan for storing spent nuclear fuel, putting the environment at risk. South Carolinians have paid \$2

billion into the program for the fees to address spent nuclear waste. Yet because of the President's party politics, a facility does not exist.

Thankfully, the judicial system sided with the American people this week and demanded the Energy Department to stop collecting these fees until a path forward is created. Yucca Mountain is clearly environmentally safe and secure and should be completed.

This is great news for the Aiken-Barnwell community and other commercial reactor sites across the country. The President should abide by the law. America is a strong Nation because we are a Nation of laws.

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

I appreciate the community service of Bill and Anne West.

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST IN THE ILLINOIS TORNADO

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember those who tragically lost their lives this week in Illinois. Last weekend, tornados ripped across my State and six people were killed.

Extreme weather events are sadly becoming the norm across the country; 2012 was the second most extreme weather year to date, with 11 extreme weather events across our country.

Last year, Illinois experienced a total of 113 broken heat records, two broken snow records, 36 broken precipitation records, and one large wildfire. Clearly, this year looks to be no different.

The reality is this: stronger, more destructive storms are pounding our region with distressing regularity and with huge costs to our State, our residents, and our economy.

□ 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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Our task is to aid those devastated by these events, as well as addressing the underlying cause of their increased severity and frequency—climate change.

LOSS OF COVERAGE III

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, President Obama and the Democrats who run Washington spent a lot of time telling the American people that if they like their health care plan, they can keep their health care plan.

So what would they say to the 4 million Americans who have had their insurance canceled under ObamaCare? What would they say to all the folks who have logged onto our House Republican Web site at gop.gov and told us their stories of lost coverage?

Americans need real solutions, not the political fix the President proposed last week.

The House passed our Keep Your Health Plan Act with strong bipartisan support. That is a real solution. We call on the Senate to listen to the American people and support it.

U.S. RESPONSE TO TYPHOON HAIYAN

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the people of the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan, which hit November 8, 2013.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Filipino community in the East Bay, and I have heard from many constituents who are concerned about loved ones overseas. Particularly this weekend, I heard from hundreds at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Union City.

The U.S. Government acted swiftly, sending monetary aid, humanitarian workers, and military personnel. Unfortunately, some people in the most remote areas are still struggling for basic human needs like food, water, and medical supplies. That is why Representative JACKIE SPEIER and I are circulating a letter to Secretary of Defense Hagel and USAID Administrator Shah, which we plan to send tomorrow supporting the use of airdrops of food and supplies to inaccessible areas.

In an ideal world, aid workers on the ground would distribute supplies to those in need, but time is of the essence. People are hungry, need medical supplies, and are thirsty right now.

I am committed to making sure the U.S. is doing everything it can to help the Filipino people as they begin to rebuild their lives following this horrific storm.

INDIANA STORMS

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the destructive tornadoes and severe thunderstorms that struck Indiana and much of the Midwest this past Sunday.

On Monday, I had an opportunity to tour areas that sustained some of the worst damage. Kokomo, Indiana, was particularly hard hit, and Logansport, Lafayette, and Lebanon sustained serious damage as well.

While Hoosier lives were spared during this, some of our Illinois neighbors were not so lucky. All throughout the Midwest, people lost their homes, their possessions, and in some cases their livelihoods as businesses were destroyed.

Some of our communities and neighbors face a long, painful recovery. I encourage all Hoosiers and Americans to keep those suffering from the destruction of these storms in their thoughts and prayers.

As is often the case in our great Nation, tragedy reminds us of the goodness and generosity of our fellow citizens. In the past, I have seen Hoosiers step up in tough times to help their family, friends, neighbors, and even complete strangers in a time of need.

While touring Kokomo, I met two men who had driven all the way up from the Indianapolis suburbs just to lend a hand however they could. Shelters had opened. Charitable organizations had swung into action. Neighbors were helping neighbors.

While the Federal Government may have a role to play in the recovery efforts, Hoosiers were not sitting around waiting for their Federal Government. Individuals attacked problems, helped their neighbors, and showed great generosity and resilience.

It makes me proud to be a Hoosier, and I am humbled to represent so many people full of caring, generosity, and resilience.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND NEW JOBS ARE CREATED IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is in my home neighborhood of South Buffalo to announce a \$225 million redevelopment of a former steel-making plant that will bring 850 new jobs to Buffalo.

This project announcement will transform a 200-acre former Republic Steel site into a new clean energy and research campus that will breathe new life into a formerly contaminated industrial area that is situated along the Buffalo River and that has been economically dead for the past 30 years.

This announcement, along with \$75 million in Federal and private investments to clean up the Buffalo River and shoreline, is creating a dynamic

new economy in Buffalo, an economy marked by new waterfront development and clean-energy manufacturing.

Energy independence and hundreds of new jobs in the new economy are remaking Buffalo, New York; and this project should serve as a national model to grow the economy and for nation-building right here at home.

LOSS OF COVERAGE IV

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, over the last 6 weeks, every Member of Congress has heard from constituents who have been very much concerned about the cancellation of health insurance policies, primarily because someone has determined that their health insurance policy is not adequate.

We are hearing about higher premiums, and then we all know about the difficulty of getting on the Web site to select your insurance policy.

So there is a lot of confusion out there, there is a lot of anger out there, and there are a lot of people that are asking the U.S. Congress to help.

We want to hear how this ObamaCare is affecting individual Americans from coast to coast. We have developed a Web site called gop.gov. We would invite those people who are experiencing difficulty to go on gop.gov, click on "your story," and tell us explicitly what experiences you are having.

This is very important and we appreciate it.

REPUBLICAN 2014 AGENDA

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Republican leader circulated his party's 2014 agenda—their vision for promoting private sector job growth, expanding the middle class, and strengthening our economy; their ideas for improving civil rights and bettering our immigration system; their path forward for ensuring our children and grandchildren inherit a better America.

Now, I would like to read to the House and to the American people the 2014 agenda by the Republican Party. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read them all in the order in which they are presented.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 1170

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation prepares for Thanksgiving, I rise to thank and honor two brothers from Boy Scout Troop 275 and the community that rallied behind them.