

means fully engaging the subcommittees and full committees and all the Members of the Congress, because when we do that, that is when we get things done. When we sit down and we have open, bipartisan discussions, everybody gets their amendment, everybody gets an opportunity to exhaust all the arguments, everybody gets a vote. That is how people come together. That is how you get things done. That is how you fix things, and that is the way the Congress operated for several hundred years. That is not the way it is operating today.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, if we are going to get things done and reverse the terrible reputation of this Congress, I implore the Speaker and the leadership and all of the Members to demand that, starting in January of next year, we restore regular order, we go to work 5 days a week, and we employ the subcommittee and the full committee process that has worked so well for so many hundreds of years in this country, because that is how we get things done. That is how we fix things here in this country. That is how we get our economy back on a pro-growth trajectory, and that is how we restore the people's confidence in what is now a broken government and a broken Congress.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. John Loudon, First Presbyterian Church, Lakeland, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we acknowledge our need for divine guidance and confess we are imperfect people in need of Your forgiveness.

We give thanks that You are not only a God of righteousness, but also a God of compassion and offer us mercy.

Empower us to live in such a way that we strive for balance in our lives and seek to exhibit conviction as well as grace.

May we make our own an old prayer offered daily by Harry Truman:

Everlasting God, help me to be, to think, and to act what is right, because it is right. Make me truthful, honest, and honorable in all things. Make me intellectually honest for the sake of right and honor and without thought of reward for me. Give me the ability to be charitable, forgiving, and patient

with others, and help me understand their motives and their shortcomings even as You understand mine.

Amen and amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. JOHN LOUDON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in gratitude that my good friend Pastor Mike Loudon from my home church in Lakeland, Florida, could give the opening prayer in the United States House of Representatives.

Pastor Mike, as he is known back home, and his wife, Joyce, have lived a life of dedication to their faith and their family. Pastor Mike's ministry serves as an inspiration to everyone. Truly, he is a great man with a legacy of what counts in life and the life hereafter.

Pastor Mike is a pillar in the Lakeland and Polk County communities. He is active in Rotary Club and is a strong leader, a man of God, and has a fantastic sense of humor.

Pastor Mike has served churches across the country prior to coming to First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland in 1999. His messages are uplifting, encouraging, and always resonate with me. I am honored to have him as my pastor and as my friend.

I join countless others in expressing a deep thankfulness for his willing spirit to serve and the privilege of having him give the opening prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OBAMACARE ADS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this administration is desperate to enroll young, healthy Americans in the new exchange plans, and the recent ad campaign from ProgressNow Colorado shows just how low some groups are willing to go to catch young people's attention. The ads depict young men drinking right out of kegs of beer and objectifying young women. They try to encourage people to sign up for health care by making light of unhealthy behaviors.

I recently received a letter from Dr. Julie Welch, an emergency room physician in Indianapolis, specifically concerned about how the ads promoted risky sexual behavior. The Let's Get Physical ad depicts a young woman thanking ObamaCare, with the words:

Oh my God, he's hot. Let's hope he is as easy to get as this birth control. My health insurance covers the pill, which means all I have to worry about is getting him between the covers. I got insurance. Now you can too. Thanks ObamaCare.

Dr. Welch writes:

As a taxpayer, I am puzzled at why advertising campaigns for health insurance appear to promote high-risk behaviors?

Promoting health coverage by condoning binge drinking and promiscuity is not a step towards a healthier America. It is just another way that ObamaCare just doesn't work.

NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN IRAN

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important challenges that this country faces with allies is to make certain Iran does not have a nuclear weapon. For that reason, I, along with virtually all of my colleagues, voted for tough, enforceable sanctions.

There is a question now in this House about whether Congress should present yet another resolution on Iran. There are two questions that raises. Number one, do we send a message to the world that Congress is not on the same page as our President and Secretary of State in their absolute determination to rid

Iran of a nuclear capability? Number two, do we send a message to our allies in the P5+1, that include Russia and China, not exactly our best of friends, but our reluctant allies who we need to guarantee that the tough sanctions that we impose are enforceable?

If we pass sanctions that don't have the cooperation of our allies, they are meaningless. So the question that we have is: Any action that we take, will it increase or diminish our strength in guaranteeing no nuclear weapons in Iran?

DMF INCLUDED IN BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the last 30 years, Social Security has been required to make deceased Americans' Social Security numbers and other personal information public through the so-called "Death Master File." Unfortunately, identity thieves have been using this file to obtain fraudulent tax refunds based on the identity of deceased Americans, particularly children like 4-year-old Alexis Agin here. No grieving family should have to go through this.

To put a stop to this heinous crime, earlier this year, I introduced the Alexis Agin Identity Theft Protection Act with my Democrat colleague XAVIER BECERRA. And thanks to the budget deal, which includes a provision to restrict access to the Death Master File, American families will be better protected from tax fraud.

I salute the Agins for their tireless advocacy, and God bless America.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of over 90,000 unemployed New Jerseyans at the risk of losing their unemployment benefits on December 28 if Congress fails to act before the end of the year.

Despite what my colleagues on the other side think, unemployment insurance helps during hard times, and people forget that we are still recovering from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Patrick, a carpenter from Rahway, New Jersey, struggles to find employment through no fault of his own. His family will not be able to afford their mortgage if this critical lifeline is cut.

Malene from Maplewood, New Jersey, is an educated professional, but has been unable to find work since February. In her letter, she wrote:

When do my elected officials start caring for me and the millions of other people

struggling to survive—not living, but scraping by?

Vote to extend the unemployment benefits which equate to hope for many families in the new year. I urge the House leadership to address this looming expiration of the unemployment benefits for millions of Americans before leaving this year.

YEAR IN REVIEW

(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 last night's town hall by telephone with constituents, I conducted a poll and asked what should be done first to tackle our national debt. Fifty-one percent of participants want Congress to repeal ObamaCare. ObamaCare will add to our national debt as higher premiums and taxes are placing burdens on families and destroying jobs.

Rachel from West Columbia says:

ObamaCare is still very costly for me and my family. At times we have difficulty purchasing food for our family because of my insurance costs.

Robert from Aiken spent time on the Web site and found he "would be paying about two-thirds more for a much worse insurance plan."

2013 should be remembered as the year further revealing the failure and threat of Big Government, with the ObamaCare train wreck, continuing of the Benghazi cover-up, IRS targeting, NSA spying, and DOJ-FBI eavesdropping on media. Congress should act, passing limited government reforms that encourage job creation and expand freedom.

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

FISHER HOUSE HERO MILES PROGRAM

(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, this time of year, as we gather with family and friends, it is important for us to remember the men and women in the military who sacrifice so much for our country. Those who have been injured in battle oftentimes find themselves a long way from home during the holidays.

This year, like every year, I am donating the over 68,000 frequent flyer miles that I received from congressional travel to the Fisher House Hero Miles program, which provides free airline tickets so that American soldiers and their families can be together.

The Fisher House has provided more than 40,000 flights worth some \$63 million to wounded troops and their families. We have got no business keeping these frequent flyer miles for personal

use anyhow, and I don't know of anyone who could make better use of them.

I encourage all Members of Congress to follow my example and give their frequent flyer miles to some charity like the Fisher House. It is not just a good thing to do; it is the right thing to do.

MAGNESS LIBRARY

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to commend Magness Library on its 100 years of service to the people of McMinnville in the Fourth District of Tennessee.

Magness Library began as a service project in July 1913 by Mrs. Mary Cunningham and the McMinnville Women's Civic League, with benefactors Colonel Gentry Moffitt and W.H. Magness, to provide a rest stop for families coming into town to sell and trade. In 1917, the library moved to its current location on the corner of Chancery and Main Street, and in 1946, Magness Library joined the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Thanks to generous donations from thousands of patrons, the Magness Library flourished into one of the longest running libraries in our State over the years. The library provides invaluable services to McMinnville, including a strong summer reading program for children and genealogy research for adults.

Congratulations to the Magness Library on their centennial, and I look forward to seeing their successful future endeavors.

IRAN INTERIM NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, if the interim nuclear deal negotiated last month leads to a final agreement, Iran can be prevented from developing a nuclear weapon. This would neutralize one of the greatest threats facing the United States, Israel, and the international community and could set the stage for a new era of relations between Iran and the West.

The unprecedented sanctions already in place have brought the Iranian economy to its knees and the government to the negotiating table. We are entering these talks from a position of strength; we have a strong hand to play.

But if Congress rushes through another round of sanctions or takes other action perceived as undermining the negotiations, we will be giving up our hand before we have a chance to play it. Iran would then have an excuse to walk away from the table, and the