

In addition, I would plead with my colleagues to not cut our antihunger safety net programs like SNAP and WIC, programs which provide a minimum food benefit. To do so would only worsen the problem of hunger and obesity in America. We must end hunger now, but we cannot do so just by increasing access to high-calorie, low-nutrient food. It is a real challenge, but it's one that we are capable of meeting. We just need to muster the political will to make it happen. End hunger now.

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 16 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. MEADOWS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your Spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems.

May their faith in You deliver them from tensions that tear the House apart and from worries that might wear them out.

All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

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 Oklahoma (Mr.

MULLIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MULLIN 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.

PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER CREATES RISKS

(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, last Friday, our national security was placed at risk when the President's sequester began implementation. Sadly, this nearly \$600 billion budget cut was the third attack on our Nation's military. In 2010, the Defense Department experienced a \$100 billion budget cut. And again in January 2012, President Obama removed \$487 billion from our military in the annual budget.

Maintaining a strong national defense is a primary function of the Federal Government. Removing these resources so drastically places American families and our allies, such as Israel, at risk of future attacks. In fact, nearly half of all of the reductions in spending are on the defense budget, which is only 18 percent of the entire Federal budget.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I appreciate Chairman BUCK McKEON's efforts that our national security not be sacrificed to fight our Nation's debt crisis. It is my hope that the President and Senate leadership will work with House Republicans to address our spending problem by reducing wasteful spending and not by holding our national security hostage.

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

PUT AMERICA FIRST

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I come to you today not as a Republican or a Democrat, but an American committed to the United States Constitution. I regularly hear from my constituents who are fed up with the bipartisan fighting. We pledge allegiance to the United States of America, not our political parties. In President George Washington's farewell address, he said:

With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have, in a common cause, fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

Washington was right. We are all united by common bonds. Although we

have our differences, we are more alike than we are different.

In his address, Washington was not speaking to one party, but to all people of the young Republic. If we don't start putting this country first and partisanship last, we are going to ruin the country our fathers founded.

It is no secret that we are facing difficult decisions, but I am committed to working with any Member of Congress regardless of party, as long as they're willing to put country first.

ENHANCING THE HEALTH OF OUR YOUTH

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, a report issued by the Centers for Disease Control on February 13 made headlines with the news that young adults account for 50 percent of all STD infections.

This caught my attention because, as a father with two of my four kids in their late teens, I want them to avoid such risks. I am not alone. A recent national survey revealed that most parents feel the same way, regardless of race or political affiliation. They want their children to have the best chance for optimal health and, so, support risk avoidance education, sometimes called "abstinence education," for their kids.

However, currently there is a troubling 16 to 1 Federal funding disparity between contraception-centered education and risk-avoidance education. That is why I introduced H.R. 718, the Abstinence Education Reallocation Act. The bill brings some parity to programs that give our kids the facts about contraception and avoiding risky behavior.

Mr. Speaker, our teens deserve the best and most accurate information for their optimal health.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President is wrong to suggest taking more money away from the American people would ease the effects of his sequester or correct the debt crisis his policies have exacerbated.

Despite high tax revenue, Washington has been overspending by at least \$1 trillion each year of the Obama Presidency. When families run out of money, they do the smart thing—stop spending so much. Washington has to do the same, but arbitrarily cutting budgets through sequestration isn't the best way.

Twice since last summer, House Republicans passed legislation to achieve the same savings while completely removing the indiscriminate threat of sequestration. Our plans targeted waste and limited government growth. The President threatened to veto our proposals because they didn't include

taxes, and the Senate never agreed on a sequester alternative.

As the President's sequester begins to take effect, I will continue to advocate for common sense: replacing the arbitrary cuts with less wasteful spending and reforms to debt-driving programs.

SEQUESTER IN PERSPECTIVE

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, \$85 billion is a lot of money, yet it represents just 2 percent of the \$3.6 trillion this Nation spends every year.

I hold in my hand two pennies, two pennies to represent the 2 percent of budget reductions we are asking for in this \$85 billion sequester. Does anybody in this country believe that our Federal Government is so efficient and so effective that we cannot afford to trim two pennies out of every dollar?

Over the last 4 years, too many parents have had to come home and tell their children they're out of work, and too many young people have had to come home and tell their parents they can't find a job. We need leaders in this Nation that will go to work for the people who live here and trim the two cents off every dollar we need to restore a healthy economy and put folks back to work.

□ 1410

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(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, the Affordable Care Act was passed now almost 3 years ago, and the Affordable Care Act was going to lower costs. And why wouldn't you like it? You get free stuff.

Well, how do you pay for that free stuff?

It turns out five new taxes were started on January of this year. What are they, and who do they affect?

Well, there's a big tax on medical devices. Now everyone talks about wanting to encourage American investment, encourage American manufacturing. But with this tax we're encouraging manufacturers to go offshore.

Flexible spending accounts are now limited. Who's affected by flexible spending accounts? Well, people with predictable recurrent medical expenses who might want to set some of those dollars aside and pay for them with pretax dollars. Those amounts are now limited, so people with chronic illnesses, families with special needs children are going to be affected.

There's a surtax on investment income. The economy's trying to recover. Why would we tax investment income?

Itemized deductions are now going to be limited for people who itemize their deductions. So who is affected by that? People with the highest medical expenses.

And then finally, the Medicare payroll tax hike. Might sound like a good idea. Medicare might need more money, but this money doesn't go to Medicare. This money goes to fund new programs.

Look, 3 years ago we were all told, if you like what you have, you can keep it. If you like your insurance, you can keep it. If you like your doctor, you can keep him or her.

Turns out, what we should have been hearing is, you're going to pay a lot more to get a lot less.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN OF HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the centennial of Hayesville, a city nestled between the mountains and valleys of Clay County in western North Carolina.

Located along an old trading route at the site of the former Cherokee town of Quanasee, Hayesville became a resting place for many settlers in the early 1800s during their westward expansion.

As the population in the area grew, the need for local governance increased, and in 1861, State representative George Hayes introduced legislation establishing Clay County, and Hayesville was named to recognize his efforts.

As the county and community continued to grow, a county courthouse and village square were established in the town, and in March of 1913, Hayesville was officially recognized as an incorporated town and the county seat of Clay County.

Throughout the 1900s, Hayesville's importance to western North Carolina only grew as it became a center of commerce point between Franklin to the east, Murphy to the west, and communities in Georgia to the south.

Hayesville continues to be an important representative of the small-town family values and our mountain culture so important to all of us in the western part of the State.

I'm proud to represent such a strong community, and it is with great honor I recognize the centennial of Hayesville, North Carolina.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 4, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 3166(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), I am pleased to appoint former Rep. Ellen Tauscher of Washington, D.C. to the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. POE, Texas, Vice Chair
Mr. SHIMKUS, Illinois
Mr. MILLER, Florida
Mr. GUTHRIE, Kentucky
Mr. MARINO, Pennsylvania
Mr. COTTON, Arkansas

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 1, 2013, at 2:22 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress he has extended the national emergency with respect to Zimbabwe.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-14)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides