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No. 15

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 27, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUT TROOP 31

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 31, which is located in State College, Pennsylvania, Juniata Valley Council, Centre County, proudly within the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District.

With Troop 31 scheduled to celebrate this milestone on "Scout Sunday" this

coming February 2, I want to offer my praise to the generations of young men who have given their all through service to others. Chartered by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Boy Scout Troop 31 should take this time to look back on its many accomplishments.

This unit has awarded 170 Eagle Scout recognitions since it was founded, which is no surprise, considering that, in just the last 5 years, Troop 31 has racked up over 40,000 community service hours, giving back to the local community.

As the former president of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council and a long-time scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop in the same county, it has been an honor for me to observe the success of State College Troop 31.

The adult leadership of Troop 31, including scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, troop committee members, merit badge counselors, and parents are to be congratulated for 100 years of molding boys into men through the principles and the values of Scouting.

The countless boys that have hiked the Scouting trail as members of Troop 31 have gone on to become productive members of their communities, leaders in business, and outstanding citizens.

This Scouting unit has exemplified the vision of Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell when he stated, "It is the spirit within, not the veneer without, that makes a man."

Mr. Speaker, Boy Scout Troop 31 deserves our praise and thanks for their service and sacrifice.

Congratulations on this historic milestone.

### SYRIAN CHRISTIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last week the Drudge Report featured an article

with a striking headline, "The World's Most Ancient Christian Communities Are Being Destroyed—and No One Cares." This sentiment was expressed in no uncertain terms yesterday at an event in my district at St. John the Beloved in McLean, Virginia.

People from around the Greater Washington, D.C., area gathered to hear directly from five senior Syrian Christian leaders, part of a delegation from the war-ravaged country and the first of its kind that I know of to visit the U.S. since the hostilities began. These men will speak at The Heritage Foundation at 1 p.m. today and will meet with Members of Congress tomorrow. Their story and that of their communities bears telling not only to policymakers, but to the American church at large, for they represent the very cradle of Christendom. They spoke movingly of their identity as Syrian Christians with ancient roots predating the apostle Paul.

Today these communities face violence, kidnapping, sexual assault, displacement, and more. According to the Barnabas Fund, which is hosting this delegation, an estimated 600,000 Christians in Syria have already fled the country or lost their lives. Of course, general violence plagues Syria, but this ancient Christian community finds itself targeted by Islamist elements in the country, including a significant number of foreign jihadists who have flocked to the battlefield.

Several messages emerged at the talk yesterday, but one held particular relevance for the faith community in America. These Syrian Christian leaders made a plea for engagement from the church in the West. Specifically, they sought for American churches to "adopt" specific Syrian churches—to commit to praying on their behalf and advocating for them when possible. The need is great, but so too is the opportunity.

The plight of Christians in Syria, while horrific, is in some respects a

□ 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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similar story. Time and again, Syrian Christians remark that they fear their fate that befell their brethren in Iraq, where hundreds of thousands fled after being targeted by rival Islamist groups. Today, Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to roughly 200,000 today. In fact, throughout the Middle East, Christian communities are increasingly under siege and imperiled. Christianity is at risk of being ripped from the very fabric of the Middle East when, for centuries, it has been part of the rich tapestry of that region.

Will we permit it to happen on our watch? Will we answer their pleas for help, or will their cries fall on deaf ears? I pray it is not too late.

### 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 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause now in Your presence and acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House, who are returning this day to their stations here on Capitol Hill.

As the new session is in its early days, help each Member to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive and ready to serve You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HOLDING 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.

### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 27, 2014.

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

MR. SPEAKER: It has been an honor to serve my neighbors, friends and family of Florida's 19th Congressional District.

Regardless of some personal struggles in 2013, this year has already been tremendously positive as I focus on my health, family and faith.

Unfortunately, some of my struggles had serious consequences. While I have dealt with those issues on a personal level, it is my belief that professionally I cannot fully and effectively serve as a United States Representative to the place I love and call home, Southwest Florida.

I hereby submit this letter of resignation as the Representative of the 19th District of Florida, effective 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014. Please find the attached letter I have submitted to Governor Rick Scott.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, to you and our colleagues from both parties, I thank you. Thank you for the tremendous support and encouragement. Oftentimes in Congress, our personal relationships and successes are overshadowed by intense but meaningful and necessary debate. However, I leave the House of Representatives with friendships and memories of great men and women dedicated to helping and improving the lives of our fellow Americans.

As an eternal optimist, I know there are great things in store for our country when we find ways to work together. Whether it is as a father, a husband, or in any future endeavor, I hope to contribute what I can to better our country in the years to come.

Sincerely,

TREY RADEL,  
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 27, 2014.

Hon. RICK SCOTT,  
State of Florida,  
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCOTT: I hereby submit my resignation as the United States Representative of the 19th Congressional District of Florida. My resignation is effective at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014.

Please find the attached letter I have submitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

TREY RADEL,  
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 27, 2014.

Hon. KEN DETZNER,  
Secretary of State, Florida Department of State,  
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR SECRETARY OF STATE DETZNER: I hereby submit my resignation as the United

States Representative of the 19th District of Florida. My resignation is effective at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014.

Please find the attached letter I have submitted to Governor Rick Scott.

Sincerely,

TREY RADEL,  
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

### SAVANNAH RIVER SITE FOR CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY

(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, earlier this month I unveiled my legislative priorities for 2014. I promised the people of Aiken and Barnwell Counties that I would continue to advocate on behalf of the missions at the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy facility that has experienced several setbacks as a result of the administration's confused policies on clean nuclear energy.

On Friday, I hosted a roundtable conducted by talented staff members Ted Felder, Sarah Beaulieu, and Baker Elmore with Site contractors, community leaders, and locally elected officials to discuss a path forward. Having all parties in a central setting gave me the opportunity to hear their concerns, thoughts, and proposals for jobs. While many different priorities were discussed, everyone shares the same objective: ensure current and future missions remain intact with a dedicated workforce for environmental cleanup, nonproliferation compliance, and national security.

As the only Member of Congress who has worked at SRS, I am confident that as we all work together for these missions, our goal will be accomplished.

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

### UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today in our country, far too many Americans have been unemployed for too long. Out of every 10 people looking for work, nearly four have been looking for more than 6 months. What for many families began as a crisis has turned into a reality, a new normal.

That's why the House has passed dozens of jobs bills that would create a better environment for hiring and more economic growth. One proposal awaiting action in the Senate is H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act.

Right now, if you want to acquire new skills to qualify for a good job, you are up against a job-training system that is a maze of overlapping programs and waste. The SKILLS Act streamlines and strengthens the system to