

scrutiny. I pray that You would grant them wisdom, grace, and the fortitude to execute their responsibilities.

Lord, You know, as a Nation, we are facing some of the biggest challenges in our young history. We ask for Your guiding hand. We seek Your guiding hand to do what we cannot do. We acknowledge Your ability to move us past our failures, our sins, and our humanity.

I pray that this session be a time of healing, humility, and laying down our differences to unite us, even as Your son, Jesus Christ, laid down his life for us, a greater purpose. Help our government officials to lay down their own agendas for the greater good: providing for the underserved, caring for the disenfranchised, and fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Bless and protect these men and women and their families from those who would be unreasonable and those who would try to harm them. We pray, Lord, that You would bless the United States of America. In Your name, we pray.

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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND GARY GROGAN

THE SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Gary Grogan. Pastor Grogan has served as lead pastor of Stone Creek Church in Urbana, Illinois, for over 25 years, and today he is our pastor.

Thank you for leading the prayer.

Pastor Grogan and his lovely wife, Bonnie, have two children and five grandchildren. Both of his children also serve in local church ministry.

Under Pastor Grogan's leadership, Stone Creek has grown into a thriving, multiethnic congregation, leading many community outreach programs focused on justice and compassion.

Some of the many projects Pastor Grogan has led include fundraising to build educational community facilities, assisting those trapped in sex trafficking, support for returning war veterans from Afghanistan, and providing medical supplies and other necessities to victims of natural disasters.

The Bible says, in Proverbs 11:25: "Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Pastor Grogan has spent a lifetime refreshing and encouraging those around him.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to Pastor Grogan and his entire congregation in Urbana, Illinois, for allowing him the opportunity to be here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minutes speeches on each side of the aisle.

IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT, NOT UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, today in our country, too many families and small businesses are struggling. Unemployment remains high; wages are stagnant; prices for everything from gas to groceries are rising faster than paychecks. The middle class is getting squeezed, and the policies from this administration have not worked.

Five years after the President took office, many Americans are still asking the question, Where are the jobs? Unfortunately, instead of helping to create jobs, the President is focused on making it easier to live without one. The House is focused on making it easier to find a job, to break the status quo, not to sustain it. We have passed dozens of bills that are sitting over in the Senate. Our focus is on ending this new normal, improving employment, not unemployment.

The President says he wants to make this year a "year of action." Sounds good to me. He can start by calling on the leaders over in the Senate to pass

our jobs bills. He can start by approving the Keystone pipeline and the tens of thousands of jobs it will create. He can start by leading on trade promotion authority that will help employers and provide more employment in our country. And he can start by working with us on education and skills training to give people more opportunities.

Let's make this a year of bipartisan action. I am sure the American people would welcome it.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

As unbelievable as it may sound, it is estimated that 20.9 million people were victims of some form of forced labor, including trafficking, in 2012. Most of these victims, sadly, were women and children. While we may believe or hope to believe that this is happening across oceans, it is actually occurring rampantly across the East Bay. I saw this firsthand when I worked for 7 years as a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, mostly with victims who were, too often, young teenage girls.

We cannot sit by as millions of people are exploited in this way—denigrated, demeaned, and disparaged. It is in this month that we recommit ourselves to ending these horrors of slavery and human trafficking once and for all.

My home county of Alameda, under the direction of District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, is doing its part. They run a coordinated effort called H.E.A.T. Watch to fight trafficking. In fact, District Attorney O'Malley recently announced a massive public relations campaign to draw attention to this issue and help victims. I have one of the posters, and I hope people will call (510) 645-9388 if they suspect trafficking is happening. With their hard work and that of people around the world, we can bring trafficking to an end.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Dream. Our country is the land of entrepreneurs. We get up every morning, put our boots on, and go to work. Americans should have the opportunity to have a good job and a good life rather than develop a life of dependency on unemployment.

As a business owner, I don't want my company to simply maintain the status

quo. In the business community, if you don't grow, you die. So why would we want to keep our country at the status quo?

If we only focus on maintaining our current unemployment structure and we don't focus on job creation, we simply are admitting we don't want to grow. The goal should be to provide a way forward for people, not keep them on government assistance even longer. We need to focus on ways to combat joblessness.

Let's rein in overreaching regulations that are killing jobs. Let's grow the private sector. Let's grow the energy sector, and let's approve the Keystone pipeline. The result will be the creation of private sector jobs and living above the status quo.

CELEBRATING OFFICER MORGAN DAY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of 5-year-old Morgan Steward, who, despite suffering from spinal muscular atrophy that affects his muscle movement and leaves him in a wheelchair, has been an inspiration to us all.

Some may question whether bipartisanship is real, and I say it is alive and getting better. Take, for instance, the recent joint venture by myself and my neighbor, Dr. PAUL Broun, to bring cheer to a young man and his community. This young 5-year-old dreamed of being a policeman. I am proud to say that the Covington Police Department, which is split between Dr. BROWN's district and my district, made this happen.

Young Morgan always wanted to be a police officer. In conjunction with honoring him, 11Alive TV and we held an Officer Morgan Day. He was sworn in as the newest member of the Covington Police Department. And just hours after he was sworn in, he was able to solve a bank robbery, an art heist, and he secured the freedom of a kidnapped mascot. It was a great day in Covington, and his unwavering bravery grabbed all of our hearts and raised our spirits.

I thank Dr. BROWN for his involvement.

CELEBRATING OFFICER MORGAN DAY

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

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Morgan Steward, a 5-year-old boy from Covington, Georgia.

Morgan was born with a genetic condition that affects his muscle movement and confines him to a wheelchair.

However, Morgan's physical limitations have in no way hindered his goal of becoming a police officer.

When the Covington Georgia Police Department heard of Morgan's dreams, they sprang into action, swearing him in as a police officer. And on December 17, 2013, the town of Covington celebrated Officer Morgan Day, and Morgan Steward was cheered on as he fought crime and captured the "bad guys" during Covington's annual Christmas parade. Morgan even teamed up with basketball star Shaquille O'Neal to rescue a cat from a tree.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I commend Officer Morgan for his service as a police officer, and thank him for the strong example that he sets for all those who face medical and physical hardships.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge our Republican leadership to immediately renew the emergency unemployment insurance that expired December 28. It affects 1.3 million families. Failing to extend the emergency unemployment insurance will cost the economy some 240,000 jobs this month.

You see, I believe you can extend the emergency unemployment insurance and grow the economy at the same time. These families depend on it to put a roof over their head, to feed and take care of their families.

In my district in Ohio, there are 26,000 individuals unemployed. I say let's work together as Democrats and Republicans and make a difference for the families who count on us.

DEMOCRATS ARE THREATENING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(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. Madam Speaker, in a recent Washington Times op-ed, David Keene writes:

Lengthy unemployment benefits that actually encourage people to drop out of the workforce and minimum-wage laws that make it difficult for the young and poor to reach for the first step on the ladder of success are, like the rhetoric of progressive populists, attacks on the American Dream.

The most recent jobs report provides no certainty that our economy is on its way to a full, healthy recovery. The unemployment rate continues to drop simply because people are discouraged and have given up the search for a job.

The American people are resilient, hardworking, and need limited government. The President and Washington Democrats continually support Big Government, which destroys jobs and undermines the ability of small businesses to grow.

House Republicans have a clear path forward to put the American people back to work. I urge the President and Senate Democrats to change course and support plans to create jobs.

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

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PROTECTING WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of tens of thousands of my fellow Texans, the working poor and the unemployed, whom our economic recovery is leaving behind.

Blessed with ample resources, many of our Nation's leading companies and universities, and a "can do" attitude, Texas has been America's leader in job creation and economic growth for the past decade.

Unfortunately, this economic success has not reached all Texans. Last year, the Labor Department announced that over 450,000 Texans earn at or below the Federal minimum wage, more than any other State in the country.

Nationwide, 3.6 million Americans earn at or below minimum wage at \$7.25 an hour. This is just over \$15,000 for someone working 40 hours a week for a full year, or more than \$4,400 below the poverty line for a family of three.

These aren't just kids in high school or college earning minimum wage. Less than a quarter of the minimum wage workers are teenagers and nearly 40 percent are over the age of 30. This is simply not right. Nobody, no matter the city or State, can survive, let alone raise a family, on \$15,000.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the economic recovery to benefit all Americans, not just the fortunate. Too many of our friends and neighbors are being left behind, and I call on this Chamber to bring up legislation that would increase the minimum wage and renew critical emergency unemployment benefits.

MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Speaker, I serve on the House Intelligence Committee, where I spend time trying to figure out how to keep America safe, and on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where I think about how to keep America free.

But today, I want to talk about how American law and our Constitution treats the least amongst us—the unborn.