

Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Will Mr. Cassidy please take the well.

The Chair will now administer the oath of office to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Cassidy appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, Mr. Cassidy.

PROVIDING FOR A COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 450

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of the House has assembled and that the House is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 450

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 450, the Chair appoints the following Members to the committee to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of the House has assembled and that the House is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) and

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM OF THE HOUSE HAS ASSEMBLED

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 451

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE HOUR OF MEETING OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 452

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays (or 2 p.m. if no legislative business was conducted on the preceding Monday); noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 3, 2013, providing for morning-hour debate be extended for the remainder of the 113th Congress, except that House Resolution 452 shall supplant House Resolution 9; and the Speaker may dispense with morning-hour debate upon receipt of a notification described in clause 12(c) of rule I and notify Members accordingly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas.

There was no objection.

□ 1900

ROSALYN "ROZ" MARIE SHOEMAKER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, she was a little bitty tiny thing weighing barely over 5 pounds. Four days after Christmas, she was born at 4:25 a.m. Sunday morning, December 29, 2013, in Dallas, Texas. Two days later, on New Year's Eve, Rosalyn Marie Shoemaker came home with her adoptive parents, Kellee and Anthony, and 3-year-old sister, Olivia.

Roz, as she is already nicknamed, is a good sleeper, healthy eater, and a cuddler. Kellee, my daughter, and Anthony, her husband, are model God-fearing parents of strong character and have a compassion for children. Being parents is the hardest and most important role and job. Roz could have none better.

During Christmas, Christians honor the most important child ever born, but in our family, this past Christmas season, we know that unto us a special child was also born. Her name is Roz. My hope and prayer for Roz is that she grows in wisdom and stature and favor with the good Lord.

Roz is our 11th grandchild. Like her ten cousins, she too was born in Texas. Of course she was born in Texas, because that's the rule.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LIVERMORE HIGH SCHOOL SCOREKEEPER PEDER ANDERSEN

(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'm honored today to recognize legendary Livermore High School scorekeeper Pete Andersen, who sadly passed away on Sunday, December 29. He was 91.

After emigrating from Denmark to the United States in 1922, Pete went to high school in Pleasanton and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Upon returning home from the war, Pete began keeping score at Livermore High School's sporting events. Pete had an impressive 60-year, 3,513-game tenure and built a reputation for dedication, knowledge, and a passion for sports. It's because of his dedication to our community that Pete was inducted into the first class of the Livermore High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to Pete's wife, Margaret, his family, and friends. In talking about his sacrifice for 60 years to keep score for young athletes, he said: "It was a nice place to go on a Friday night." Well, Friday nights in Livermore won't be the same without Pete.

Pete will be missed dearly. His life is truly an inspiration to athletes, coaches, students, and the East Bay sporting community.

THE SKILLS ACT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today the President called on Congress to take action to help put Americans back to work. Almost 9 months ago, the House passed H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act, with bipartisan support. The SKILLS Act, which I authored, would modernize the vast labyrinth of Federal workforce development programs, increasing access, eliminating waste, and promoting accountability. This bill is languishing in the Senate.

As we gavel in the second session of the 113th Congress, this House will maintain its focus on jobs. Our top priority is creating an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. In last year's session, the House passed more than 30 pieces of legislation designed to decrease bureaucracy, increase opportunity, and restore vitality to our economy. Unfortunately, the majority of this legislation is being held up in the Senate. I join the President in calling for action on jobs, starting with Senate consideration of the SKILLS Act.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the second session of the 113th Congress, Americans all over this country are coming up with their New Year's resolutions for 2014. In Congress, I propose we make this the year we stop ignoring climate change.

Last year, CO₂ concentrations reached dangerous new heights in our atmosphere. We suffered through—and paid for—record-breaking extreme weather events, and we received dire new projections from international scientific organizations on the threats posed by climate change.

What did the Republican-led House do? It continued its anti-environment voting record, voting 109 times in 2013 to weaken environmental protections. This behavior is reckless and irresponsible.

Despite the gridlock in Congress, the Obama administration has been making progress. Under the President's leadership, the Nation has doubled the production of renewable energy like wind and solar, vehicles are more fuel efficient, and toxic air pollution for power plants has been cut dramatically.

Let's work with the President this year to build off of these successes so that, on December 31, we can look with pride that we finally took action on climate change.

OBAMACARE INCREASES HEALTHCARE SPENDING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the White House claimed ObamaCare is partially responsible for helping to slow the growth rate in health care spending. Health care spending did grow at a record slow pace in 2012. Unfortunately, according to NPR:

The Federal officials who compiled the report disagree with the Obama administration about why.

That's right. The annual report from the actuaries for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services disagrees with the White House.

NPR disagrees as well:

One thing that did not lead to slower growth, according to the report's authors, was the Affordable Care Act.

"It's the recession, not ObamaCare, that is slowing health spending," writes the National Journal.

Mr. Speaker, hospital costs are increasing. Out-of-pocket costs continue to increase, and any reduction in the rate of growth isn't due to the Affordable Care Act.

A closer look at the numbers shows us that this law has made matters

worse. A closer look at the numbers tells us more about what the White House would rather not discuss. A closer look tells us that the American people deserve better.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, right now, 1.3 million Americans are asking the question, why? Why is there a debate about my ability to pay for rent or mortgage or food or the necessities of taking care of my family? Why, having worked for many, many years, am I now being denied an unemployment insurance benefit that was utilized for the last 5 years and first voted on and brought forward by the Congress that supported President Bush in extending unemployment benefits?

Why is there not an understanding of what it is like to receive a letter in the mail to indicate that you will get no more benefits, even though you are actively looking for work and even though there are three people looking for every job? Why does this House of Representatives not understand that we can pass a 3-month emergency relief for these individuals and debate for the rest of the year how do we get a pay-for or an offset for funding it after 3 months?

Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency. People are on a lifeline, and we are killing it. It is time to pass unemployment insurance benefits now for the American people.

APPRECIATING JOHN CHAPLA

(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, this weekend, the Armed Forces community lost a great friend and ally. Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel John Chapla was truly a Virginia gentleman of the Virginia Military Institute tradition. After serving our Nation in uniform for over 25 years, John continued his passion for public service as a professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee, eventually becoming the lead staff member for the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

John possessed vast and remarkable wisdom of the military. He always sought to advocate for our brave men and women, their families, and our veterans. I had the privilege of working alongside him for 4 years as he coordinated the annual National Defense Authorization Act. Because of John's efforts, our wounded warriors, military families, and victims of sexual assault have substantial protections. There is no doubt that our country is a much safer place because of John Chapla's hard work and dedication.

My thoughts and prayers are with John's wife, Lee, his two daughters, and three granddaughters during this difficult time. He will be forever appreciated.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, 10 days ago, 1.3 million Americans lost their emergency extension of unemployment benefits.

Today, this afternoon at the White House, one of those individuals, Ms. Katherine Hackett from Moosup, Connecticut, shared her story with our country. She has two sons serving in the military. She was laid off through no fault of her own. She has been actively seeking employment, and yet she still needs help.

Yet this House left before Christmas without taking up an unemployment extension, which in every past recession, any unemployment rate above 5 percent required and resulted in automatic extensions. Yet this House went home.

Curt Edwards, from Norwich, Connecticut, who I spoke to yesterday, 20 years in the U.S. Army, Army Ranger, was laid off last April and is looking for work. His unemployment was cut off on December 28.

The majority leader issued his agenda for the month of January. There was not a word in that agenda about extending unemployment for 1.3 million Americans. Every economist tells us that's a mistake. These individuals need help. It is time for this House to focus on the immediate needs of the American people and extend unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. It is a perfect time to highlight the terrible reality of sex trafficking that is happening in our communities. It is also an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to take steps to combat this growing problem that now puts 300,000 children at risk in the United States—many of whom are 12- and 14-year-old girls.

I'm authoring several bipartisan bills to address sex trafficking. One gives law enforcement additional tools to turn the tide against sex trafficking and help the victims of these horrific crimes receive the support they need