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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, through Whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

In these days, our Nation is faced with pressing issues, including, once again, a troubling impasse. Grant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to Members of each party, as well as an extra measure of charity, that a workable solution can be reached to the benefit of all Americans.

Help us all to be patient, yet resolute in the desire to do what is the right thing to do, however Your inspiration might impel.

And 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.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ORRIN G. HATCH, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2015.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Pursuant to section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 601), the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate hereby jointly appoint Dr. Homer Keith Hall as Director of the Congressional Budget Office, effective April 1, 2015, for the term expiring January 3, 2019.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President Pro Tempore
of the Senate.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NET NEUTRALITY

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Obama majority on the FCC seized unprecedented control over the Internet under the guise of "net neutrality."

Net neutrality is the notion that the latest cat video is of equal importance to a teleconference consultation for a heart patient. To impose this leftist ideology on the Internet, the FCC has just placed it under the same stifling regulatory structure as the phone company or broadcast stations.

This gives them potential control over content and it destroys the price-driven incentives for innovation, expansion, speed, economy, and service that Americans have long enjoyed. It means higher costs as government piles on new fees. It means slowed expansion as the natural incentives to invest are stifled. Europe operates under this sort of regulatory scheme, and its Internet service is conspicuously inferior, slower, and ponderous.

The reason the Internet has grown and thrived is because government has kept its fat, corrupt, incompetent hands off of it. That era ended yesterday, and that is a shame.

PUBLIC APOLOGY TO THE HONORABLE KEVIN MCCARTHY

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to publicly apologize to Leader MCCARTHY for a remark I made to myself that was picked up by the House microphone yesterday.

It was said out of frustration and anger, it was wrong, and I have apologized privately to Mr. MCCARTHY, who I believe is a man of integrity in this House.

□ 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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H1375

CHRIS KYLE MEDAL OF HONOR
ACT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced a bill that would authorize and request the President to award our Nation's highest military honor to a Texan who served this Nation with distinction and bravery.

Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL, protected countless American troops as they went into battle. Chris Kyle voluntarily put his life on the line when he completed his first tour in Iraq, and when he returned not once, but three more times.

Make no mistake, the Medal of Honor will not bring back a husband, father, son, and a model Texan. But the Medal of Honor will show Chris Kyle's family our gratitude for his relentless devotion to our country.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, the Medal of Honor has been awarded 3,507 times. I challenge someone to tell me Chris Kyle didn't show the bravery that is a prerequisite for this high honor. I challenge anyone to tell me that his courageous acts are undeserving of this recognition.

Chris Kyle is someone who we should strive to be. He is a true American patriot whose acts of valor must be permanently etched in our Nation's history.

In God we trust.

CENTRAL KITSAP IMPACT AID

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of impact aid, which helps more than 1,300 school districts in our country make up for lost revenue due to the impact of Federal activity and Federal lands that reduce the available tax base.

Among the most heavily impacted districts in the country, the Central Kitsap School District is home to many students whose parents work at naval facilities. For too long, this school district has not received the heavy impact aid funding that it has historically relied on to support these military-connected kids.

I would like to thank the Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Mr. SCOTT for working with me to include a provision in an amendment that we will soon consider to help school districts like Central Kitsap get the impact aid funding they rely on.

I look forward to working with the committee and our colleagues in the Senate to include this provision in any final legislation that reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is important to kids.

HONORING ALLEN HARRINGTON

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an American hero.

Allen Harrington of Anderson, Indiana, was one of the Nation's first African American Marines. He and his fellow Montford Point Marines broke the U.S. Marine Corps color barrier during World War II. Mr. Harrington specifically worked in an ammunition factory and aided efforts to rescue prisoners of war being held by the Japanese.

How many Americans can say they broke racial barriers while serving our country when the future of the free world was on the line? Allen Harrington could.

Unfortunately, he passed away in 2002, 9 years before legislation was passed awarding living members of the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal.

This weekend, residents of Anderson and his family will gather at city hall to pay tribute to his tremendous legacy. I look forward to presenting his daughter, Darlene, a special certificate and letter from the President and a replica Montford Point Marine medal.

I am proud to know this American hero hails from Indiana's Fifth District. I am even more proud his remarkable life will finally receive the recognition it deserves.

DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, once again, the Republicans have brought us to the brink of a government shutdown, this time, the Department of Homeland Security.

For weeks, the Department specifically designed to keep America and Americans safe has been forced to spend time and resources making plans to lay off 30,000 workers and stop paychecks for hundreds of thousands of critical workers like the Coast Guard and Border Patrol agents and TSA at the airports.

Why are they on this dangerous mission? So they can continue their futile and cruel war against immigrant children and families.

Now I hear they will try to put the Department of Homeland Security back in limbo for another 3 weeks while they figure out some other mischief. This is reckless. This is irresponsible and dangerous.

Shame on the Republicans for doing this. Stop it. Just pass a clean bill for a continuous funding of the Department of Homeland Security.

RARE DISEASE DAY

(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, tomorrow is Rare Disease Day, and I stand to help raise awareness for more than 7,000 different types of different rare diseases and disorders that affect more than 300 million people nationwide.

Today, the National Institutes of Health is celebrating its eighth annual Rare Disease Day, and I applaud their efforts to bring awareness to this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States, a condition is considered rare if it affects fewer than 200,000 people combined in a particular group. In the U.S. today, there are approximately 30 million people living with rare disease, many of whom are inflicted with diseases whose symptoms are so complex that they simply remain undiagnosed. It is estimated that 80 percent of rare diseases are genetic in origin, and about half of all rare diseases affect children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me not just today but every day in helping to raise awareness on this very important issue that affects so many people in this Nation and around the world.

DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge House Republican leadership to put a clean bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security on the floor for a vote.

It is our job to lead this great Nation, and America deserves better than political gamesmanship. The threats facing our country are real. The Department of Homeland Security is on the front lines making sure our communities are safe. They secure our boarders and ports and ensure airports are safe for millions of travelers.

If Congress fails to fund DHS, 169,000 Border Patrol agents, Customs and Border Protection officers, TSA aviation and security screeners, and Active Duty Coast Guard military will report to work but will not receive a paycheck. And that is just wrong.

I joined several of my colleagues this week to introduce legislation to withhold congressional pay if Homeland Security is shut down. It is simple: if the hardworking men and women in the Department of Homeland Security will continue to go to work but not receive a paycheck, Members of Congress who have failed to do their job should not receive a paycheck either.

Let's do the right thing. Cleanly fund our Homeland Security and quit political gamesmanship.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS BENNETT

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