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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Reverend James Stoeger, S.J., President, Jesuit Secondary Education Association, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of love, bless the Members of this House. Please help those who labor here recognize how You are present in their service and leadership. Guide them as they seek to be effective for the good of all Your people.

Loving God, may our leaders be alert to the cares, hurts, and challenges of our citizens and our communities. Help those leaders choose well directions and actions that benefit those likely to be left out and all who express and strengthen our Nation's values, which are our greatest assets.

May we hear and pursue Your sacred message, merciful God, that we be women and men with the capacity of peacemakers, realistic and also deeply thoughtful and wise.

Finally, gentle God, bring to those who serve here a participation in Your own gifts, such as rich insight and also joy, in their care for the well-being of our country and the world.

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. BURGESS. 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. BURGESS. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Texas (SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, President Obama seems hell-bent on striking a nuclear deal with Iran, a deal that would hurt our national security interests and sell out our proven ally and friend, Israel.

Let's be clear: Iran is a foe, not a friend. Just consider: last week, Iran's supreme leader said "death to America"; the regime has blood of American soldiers on its hands; and Iran is working overtime to expand influence in the region.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is determined to be a nuclear power, period. Unfortunately,

the President seems intent to ignore the majority of American people who believe this deal would not prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon.

Mr. Speaker, the President is going rogue. That is wrong. He needs to stop. Nothing less than our national security is at stake.

HONORING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Miami Beach in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Incorporated on March 26, 1915, Miami Beach took its place on the map with only a handful of residents. Now home to nearly 100,000 people, the city of Miami Beach has not only grown in population, but in reputation. This vacation paradise is an internationally recognized tourist destination visited by millions each year, a hub for business, and a trendsetter in the areas of arts, culture, fine dining, and entertainment.

This week, Miami Beach celebrated its centennial with 100 hours of showcasing its history and all that the city has to offer, culminating in an ocean-front concert by Miami Beach residents and cultural icons Gloria Estefan, Barry Gibb, and Andrea Bocelli.

It is a great honor for me to represent the city of Miami Beach in our Nation's Capitol. I thank Mayor Philip Levine, the members of the city commission, and the city's staff for their many accomplishments that have made the city of Miami Beach a wonderful place to work, live, visit, and raise a family.

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CONGRATULATING THE WICHITA STATE SHOCKERS

(Ms. JENKINS of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wichita State Shockers on their victory against the Kansas Jayhawks this past weekend. Despite a valiant effort by the Jayhawks, the Shockers and Coach Gregg Marshall prevailed, just as my friend Congressman POMPEO predicted.

In Kansas, we are proud of our State's rich basketball tradition, from James Naismith to Dean Smith, to Adolph Rupp, to Gene Smithson, to Jack Gardner, to Wilt Chamberlain, to Xavier McDaniel, to Mitch Richmond. I could go on and on and on.

However, as two proud Kansas schools, the real victor here is the State of Kansas. We love the competition, but after the game is over, we are all one big family. My daughter currently attends Wichita State, I attended K-State, and I represent KU, so I know full well the pride we have in all our teams.

So as the Shockers move on to the Sweet 16 for the second time in 3 years, I wish them the best of luck tonight and beyond.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS KILLING HUMANITY

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise because the majority is making worse the one issue that can kill humanity as a species—climate change. The majority's budget exacerbates America's overdependence on foreign oil and reliance on the dirty and unsafe fuels of the 19th century.

But there is a better way. We need to produce more energy-saving appliances and machines that are designed, manufactured, and installed by American workers. It is time to invest in new and renewable energies that never go away, such as wind, solar, and biofuels. It is time to do what is best for America, not what is best for coal companies.

Mr. Speaker, let me end by saying: Go, UCLA.

WISHING SCOTT KELLY THE BEST AS HE EMBARKS ON AMERICA'S YEARLONG SPACE ADVENTURE

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the American people's attention to NASA Astronaut Scott Kelly as he prepares to make history tomorrow when he embarks on a yearlong mission to the International Space Station.

As the proud representative of the Johnson Space Center in Houston,

Texas, I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kelly several times to discuss his historic mission. This will mark the first time that an American has spent an entire year continuously in space.

On the eve of this important moment, I would like to thank Mr. Kelly for his heroic commitment, leadership, and dedication to advancing America's human spaceflight program.

Mr. Speaker, his mission to the International Space Station provides a tremendous boost to our human spaceflight program, while furthering our understanding of the effects that longer term exposure to weightlessness has on the body. This understanding will pave the way for crewed missions to Mars.

On behalf of a proud American public, Scott, we wish you all the best, and thank you.

CALIFORNIA AEROSPACE WEEK

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

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, this is California Aerospace Week.

California is rich in our history of flight. In my district alone, we have seen the sound barrier broken for the first time and the ultimate airspeed record set, and many other flights from the F-80 through our beloved F-22. We have also seen my district build all of the space shuttles, all of the B-1s, all of the B-2s, and most of the fighters that fly over our friendly skies.

Our State has had an over 100-year history in flight, and Aerospace Week culminates that production and that test. Our State and my district have continued to put America in the lead over the skies, and we will continue to do so in the future.

KEEPING OUR COMMITMENTS TO OUR RURAL COUNTIES

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, we have a great opportunity before us today to not only provide certainty for healthcare providers and seniors by repealing the flawed SGR for Medicare, but also to fund rural schools and rural forested counties. So I commend my colleagues for their work on this with me.

Included in this legislation is 2 years' worth of funding for the Secure Rural Schools program. Now, this is like one of those cans of Fix-A-Flat, if you will. It is an emergency repair on the side of the road to solve a short-term problem, when what we really need is a permanent fix for our forested counties. But this is an emergency, and what we are doing here today is providing that lifeline to our schoolchildren in the classrooms in our rural counties that are forested under Federal land and mak-

ing sure that our local law enforcement folks have the resources they need and, in my own State of Oregon, protecting some counties from actually going bankrupt because of lack of management and lack of activity on our Federal lands.

So I remain fully committed to working on forestry legislation that puts people back to work in the woods, reduces the threat of wildfire, and produces the revenue to allow for self-sustaining counties and the people in them. I just hope this time with a new Senate we will be able to move forward.

A BUDGET IS A VALUES STATEMENT

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on the budget that was passed yesterday out of this House by the Republicans.

I come from Scranton, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of our Vice President. Our Vice President is often heard to say that people talk about family values all the time, family values this, family values that. He says: Look, don't talk to me about your values. Show me your budget, and I will tell you what your values are.

This Republican budget was something that I could not support because it will have the effect of cutting over 1 million jobs over the next year. Even worse than that, it will turn Medicare into, effectively, a voucher program. If you are on Medicare and you need treatment and they give you a voucher, you had better hope that that voucher covers the services you need; otherwise, you are out of luck.

So if your values include increasing jobs and employment in this country and taking care of our seniors, that Republican budget was not the one to vote for.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 27, 2015, THROUGH APRIL 10, 2015

Mr. BURGESSION. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 173 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 173

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee