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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2015, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

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: Loving and gracious God, we give

You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions that they will say what they believe and act consistently with their words.

Help them, indeed help us all, to be honest with themselves so that they will not only be concerned with how their words and deeds are weighed by others, but also with how their words and deeds affect the lives of those in need and those who look to them for support, help, strength, and leadership.

May all that is done this day in the people's House 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. HULTGREN. 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. HULTGREN. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. CON. RES. 54. Concurrent resolution authorizing the reprinting of the 25th edition of the pocket version of the United States Constitution.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 615. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1568. An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

REMEMBERING STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BUCKNER

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great public servant to the State of Colorado, State Representative John Buckner of Aurora, Colorado, who recently passed away.

I have had the honor of knowing John Buckner for the last 30 years. We first met in 1985 when we were both members of the first Leadership Aurora

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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At that time, I was a small-business owner and John Buckner was an educator with the Cherry Creek School system. I found John Buckner to always be soft-spoken, warm, and passionate about his dedicated leadership in public education.

State Representative John Buckner had that same passion in representing his constituents in the Colorado General Assembly, and his loss will be felt by our entire community.

FAST TRACK

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the simple truth is these trade agreements are destroying our middle class. They are causing millions of Americans in mining and manufacturing to lose their jobs, millions of others to lose wages and benefits. It now takes two or three jobs to earn the same kind of income that one used to be able to earn from one job before these trade agreements.

The fact is, over the last century, we built the strongest middle class in the history of this world with living wages and benefits and protections for health and safety and the environment; but with the emergence of these trade agreements, we are asking Americans to compete with countries who have little or none of these benefits. To compete, Americans would have to give up on all this progress, give up on the American Dream. That is what this is all about.

I have reviewed the TPP documents and, make no mistake about it, this is a race to the bottom. The time has come for Congress to say “no” to these agreements. The time has come to put an end to them. They have been negotiated in secret for the benefit of a few and kept from the public for the benefit of the few at the top of our economic ladder.

The fact is it is destroying the American Dream—the American economy, the middle class, and, with that, the American Dream.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(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, I rise today in support of the National Collegiate Athletic Accountability Act introduced by my friend and Penn State fellow alumnus, Congressman CHARLIE DENT.

Mr. Speaker, there is no secret that for years the NCAA has failed when it comes to following their own rules. It has certainly failed when it comes to unduly exerting their perceived powers over college athletics.

The bipartisan National Collegiate Athletics Accountability Act will ensure that the NCAA is held to the highest standard possible by providing much-needed accountability and reforms. The NCAA Act would prohibit universities from receiving title IV funds if they participate in athletic associations that do not implement and enforce specific rules related to student athletes' health, safety, education, and due process protections.

For far too long, we have seen the NCAA fail to protect the well-being of our student athletes, and this bipartisan legislation is a huge step in the right direction to help fix that.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan measure.

STOP TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AND SAVE AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, how many times will Congress pretend to be fooled by yet another job-killing trade agreement.

First, there was NAFTA. They told us it would create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Unfortunately, they neglected to say they would be south of the border, and they would be at the expense of American workers.

Then there was the WTO. We are going to level the playing field—yeah, it is at bargain-basement prices—and compete with Chinese workers at 25 cents an hour and unfair trade practices.

Now, the Obama administration has a new paradigm—Korea. “This is the model for the future. It is going to be great.” We are already running larger trade deficits with Korea. We have already lost 50,000 jobs.

Now, the last, biggest, worst trade agreement—the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Ironically, a key vote will be over something called trade adjustment assistance. That is right; it is critical. We have to have that because hundreds of thousands or millions of Americans are going to lose their jobs, so we need to retrain them for McDonald's or other high-level jobs. Secondly, of course, the trade adjustment assistance is funded by cutting Medicare.

So this is the critical vote. Ironically, this is it. They have got the votes from corporate America and the Obama administration to jam this thing through unless we kill trade adjustment assistance. We can stop it here today and save America's economy.

BRINGING MILITARY WORKING DOGS HOME

(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, the actions of the brave men and women in the military sacrifice so much for our country. Many of these soldiers on the front lines are aided by military working dogs who perform countless, dangerous actions on the battlefield. So it is easy to understand why there is a special bond that is formed between servicemembers and their military service dogs.

Currently, the Department of Defense is not required to bring these dogs home after they are retired, and this means veterans are often forced to spend their own money to transport them back to the United States for adoption. That is why I have introduced bipartisan legislation with my colleague, Congresswoman KYRSTEN SINEMA, that would fix this problem by ensuring that military working dogs are returned to the United States for adoption.

Mr. Speaker, there is a waiting list of over 1,200 people looking to adopt these canines, and ensuring that our troops and veterans can easily adopt these dogs honors their service and their partnership.

HONORING CHARLES “BOB” PROVINE, JR., ON HIS 95TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Charles “Bob” Provine, Jr., on his 95th birthday today.

Originally born in Redwood City, California, Bob's family moved to the town of Antioch when he was 1 year old, initially living in a tent. After working with the U.S. Army as a civilian firefighter during his junior year in high school, he enlisted in the United States Army during the Second World War, serving with the 376th Infantry Regiment, 94th Division. During this time, Bob saw combat action in Germany and served in the occupation of Czechoslovakia and Germany, finally coming home to Antioch.

After serving our great Nation at war, Bob served his community in peace as a volunteer firefighter and, for many years, as a volunteer at the public library. Bob saw Antioch grow from 35,000 to over 100,000 people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bob Provine for his service to his community and to our great Nation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEPAL

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to not only the human toll incurred by Nepal's earthquakes in April, but also atrocious exploitation occurring in the aftermath.