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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 9, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GARRET GRAVES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

With many pressing issues, the House currently ponders the future leadership of this assembly. Though uncertainty might breed fear or confusion, dispel such dark spirits and enlighten the Members of the people's House with wisdom, patience, good will, and perseverance.

Often, when things seem to us to be out of control, perhaps You are calling us all to place our trust in You, as we claim to do. We thank You for continuing to call us to be true to our word.

We thank You as well for continuing to walk with us, always offering us the light of Your spirit.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HECK of Washington. 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 pro tempore. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ABRAHAM 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING PILOTS FOR PATIENTS

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a group called Pilots for Patients, an organization founded by Philip Thomas back home in Monroe, Louisiana.

This group flies patients with debilitating conditions to specialty hospitals all over the Nation. My district is very rural, and some of my patients have to drive several hundred miles to see their doctor. And like Philip says, this could be like a trip to the Moon for some patients to drive that far.

Pilots for Patients has flown over 2,600 missions to date so far, 15 to 20 patients a week. They are part of a larger group of Air Care Alliance pilots that have flown over 20,000 missions a year. All the pilots are volunteer, and I am proud to be one of them.

Pilots for Patients is a shining example of what goodness of the human spirit and working together can accomplish. I wish them continued success in many years to come.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PERMANENTLY REAUTHORIZE THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to our looming budget crisis and, in particular, the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

For over 50 years, this fund has been one of our most effective tools to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Nation.

In Hawaii's case, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped to maintain and support some of our world-famous beaches and nature preserves. The fund expired on September 30 because of congressional inaction. With that, the American public has lost one

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of our greatest tools to ensure the protection of our public lands and waters.

We need to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities we have to enjoy our Nation's majestic natural beauty.

I call upon our colleagues to bring forward legislation to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

HONORING GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Georgia Military College on 136 years as an outstanding educational institution in Milledgeville, Georgia. On October 14, GMC will celebrate its anniversary, and I am honored to represent this outstanding institution.

I commend the hard work and dedication of the faculty members and friends who continue to make GMC exceptional.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Georgia Military College President Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, the educators, administrators, and alumni for their unyielding commitment to give students a superb education.

GMC is a scholastic institution that offers a world-class experience for students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Georgia Military College for its outstanding achievements and to wish them continued success.

WEATHER FORECASTING

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an example of the real-life consequences of underinvesting in scientific research and development.

Last week, with the development of Hurricane Joaquin, we were reminded that U.S. weather forecasting is not what it should be. Our system, GFS, predicted that Joaquin would hit the Mid-Atlantic States, while the European model correctly predicted that it would remain at sea, and nobody predicted the severity of the flooding that would hit South Carolina. This wasn't the first time that our predictions have missed the mark.

Three years ago we failed to predict the path of Hurricane Sandy, while the European model correctly identified that it would be a direct and devastating hit on New Jersey. After Sandy, we invested somewhat more money into the computing ability of the National Weather Service, but, as Joaquin has shown, it was too little, too late.

The economic costs of unnecessary evacuations are as real as missing evacuations. Scientific research requires a steady investment of time and talent to be successful. If we continue to underinvest in essential infrastructure like weather forecasting, we do it at our own peril.

I urge my colleagues to heed this warning and to start taking seriously the long-term investments that our R&D infrastructure requires.

ENERGY FLEXIBILITY FOR OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 702. This measure will amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 to repeal the President's authority to restrict the export of coal, petroleum products, natural gas, or other petrochemical feedstocks.

The bill specifically prohibits any Federal official from imposing or enforcing any restriction on the export of crude oil.

Why is this important? Because at a time when America's energy innovation is at an all-time high, we can be a helpful strategic partner to our partners overseas that need energy and don't have to turn to unreliable partners like Russia, like the Middle East, and others to have their energy needs met.

America can be helpful in that regard and, therefore, have stronger allies that don't have to be beholden to those other sources. It will bring jobs back home to the United States in our ever-developing energy sources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House today to support H.R. 702, to strengthen U.S. options, U.S. jobs, and strengthen our allies in our ability to be able to serve them with our energy development that we have had in this country and, therefore, have a stronger bond with them.

CONGRATULATING BILL LEAVER

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I know we have very serious matters in front of us today and facing our country as well. But I would like to take just this 1 minute to mark the retirement of my former boss, a guy named Bill Leaver, who is now CEO of a health system called UnityPoint. It is one of the largest nonprofit nondenominational health systems in America.

I met him first more than 10, 15 years ago when I wrote a profile about him as a newspaper reporter. I knew from the very start that this is a guy who understood the needs of the community, the needs of those who needed to acquire health care and have access to quality health care.

He was my mentor, my friend, and my boss. I wish Bill Leaver all the best in his future. He and his wife, Jeannie, are more than deserving of having this next chapter of their life be one of their most successful.

MANUFACTURING MONTH

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate October as Manufacturing Month, established to highlight the importance of manufacturing in our Nation's economy and to draw attention to the many rewarding high-skilled manufacturing jobs across the Nation.

Each day roughly 1,600 American manufacturers open their doors and take up the important work of job creation, keeping the U.S. economy thriving and inspiring our young people to pursue careers in manufacturing and engineering.

Student tours like those in my home State of Florida also expose young adults to careers in the manufacturing industry like engineering, design, and robotics, tours led by the Florida Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to join me in celebrating Manufacturing Month and recognizing the many ways manufacturing is a cornerstone of our economy, both in my home State of Florida and also across the United States.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO RETURN TO THE REAL BUSINESS OF GOVERNING

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, if you look at the headlines, words like "dysfunction" are being thrown around and there is a whole lot of drama focused on the Capitol today. But people all around this country are not focused on that. They are focused on their families and their lives.

If they are focused on Congress, it probably has something to do with the expiring pieces of legislation that are so important, things like transportation, things like funding the government, all these critical questions in front of us, yet the distraction of this leadership fight seems to be capturing our attention, but it is not capturing the attention of the American people.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to return to the real business of governing. We work for the public trust of the American people, and this thing here is a useless distraction away from the real business. Let's pass the legislation we are sent here to pass, and let's refocus on what the bread and butter issues are for the American people.