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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 7, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRADLEY BYRNE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

IT IS TIME TO RESTORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S FAITH IN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when a married couple killed 14 people celebrating the holidays in San Bernardino last Thursday, President Obama immediately used this terrible tragedy to renew his call for tougher gun restrictions.

Never mind the fact that the shooting took place in California, which has

some of the strictest gun laws in the Nation, or that authorities would quickly determine this rampage was an act of terrorism that appears to have been inspired by the Islamic State.

This messaging blunder led to last night's televised address from the Oval Office where President Obama sought to reassure the American people that his administration is taking the threat of terrorism seriously. Sadly, the only thing he revealed was he has no comprehensive strategy to confront and defeat ISIS. The President continues to cling to failing policy.

This week the House will vote on a bipartisan bill to update our visa waiver program to reduce the risk of an extremist entering the country from abroad. However, only the Commander in Chief can provide the wide-ranging plan that is necessary to eliminate the danger caused by radical Islamist terrorism.

We need more from President Obama about what can be done with our military, our intelligence-gathering, and our international partners. We are facing a new era of violence and terrorism where danger exists both abroad and on American soil. We must do all that we can to eliminate the extremist threat.

It is easy to see why the American people have no faith in the Federal Government. While the United States remains one step behind our enemy and Americans wonder if our country is safe, the Justice Department is undermining Congress' spending authority by funneling money to President Obama's political allies.

The Justice Department prosecutes cases against corporate bad actors, and those companies agree to settlements that often include financial penalties. However, the Department has begun to mandate that at least some of that penalty money be paid in the form of donations to nonprofits that allegedly aid consumers and bolster neighborhoods.

The purpose of financial penalties is to punish the bad actors and provide restitution to real victims. However, the list of government-approved nonprofit beneficiaries reads like a who's who of liberal activist groups. An investigation by the House Judiciary and Financial Services Committees revealed that DOJ has used mandatory donations to direct as much as half a billion dollars to these activist groups.

These payments also occur entirely outside of the congressional appropriations and oversight process. The Miscellaneous Receipts Act requires money received by the government from any source to be deposited in the Treasury. Directing banks to give money to third parties evades that statute.

Thank goodness the House passed an amendment by Chairman GOODLATTE in June that blocks funding for negotiating settlements that require a defendant to donate to an organization or an individual not involved in the litigation. This commonsense amendment passed by voice vote and should absolutely be included in the omnibus spending bill we are expected to vote on this week.

It is time for Republicans to confront this administration and restore the people's faith in their government.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota) at 2 p.m.

□ 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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PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this season, among the holiest for millions of Americans, many live in fear of the dangers that abound. Just as at Pearl Harbor 74 years ago, violence in our land has been visited upon us.

But in Your Word, You have implored us to have no fear, for You are with us. Help us to put our trust in You and thus live up to our motto, which faces the assembly as a constant call to us. Bless all the peacemakers of our world. May Your eternal spirit be with them and with us always.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important and difficult work they are given to do. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE 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.

KARA ECKERT RECYCLING FOR CHARITY

(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, today I want to recognize a student from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District who is giving back to her community while helping our environment.

Kara Eckert, who is a senior at State College Area High School, teamed up with a waste management company in 2012 to recycle a number of items, including granola bar wrappers and cereal bags. She also set up boxes at her school so her fellow classmates and teachers could contribute to her efforts.

Since 2012, Kara has recycled more than 18,200 granola bar wrappers, around 3,500 cereal bags, and approxi-

mately 1,800 oral care products. More importantly, proceeds from those items have gone to local organizations, including the Boalsburg Cemetery Association and the Penn State Figure Skating Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is so impressive to see charitable efforts such as this one in the communities we represent. What makes this even more praiseworthy, though, is Kara Eckert's regard for her community at such a young age.

I wish her the best of luck as she finishes her high school career and in the next step of her education.

TERRORIST WATCH LIST

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, terrorists shouldn't be able to legally buy guns. However, right now, someone on the FBI's terrorist watch list can go into a gun store and buy a firearm of their choosing—legally. Since 2004, more than 2,000 suspected terrorists have legally purchased weapons in the United States.

Last week, House Republicans voted three times to protect the ability of suspected terrorists to continue buying guns. This made our country less safe.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I just filed a discharge petition that would allow us to vote on a bipartisan bill to close the terror list loophole. The bill makes sure those on the FBI's terrorist watch list can't walk into a gun store, pass a background check, and buy a gun.

If House Republicans are concerned about the accuracy of the list, let's scrub the list. If you agree that terrorists shouldn't be able to have guns, then put your name down in writing, and let's have a vote.

HONORING DOUGLAS "STRETCH" BAKER OF NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Douglas "Stretch" Baker of Nye County, Nevada, for his dedicated service to save and preserve the Tonopah Historic Mining Park. The park, a critically acclaimed tourism site, is a crucial part of the mining heritage of Tonopah and the proud history of the State of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Baker has given countless hours of his time and use of his equipment to make the site safe and attractive to visitors, to build a unique welcoming sign and gate, and to promote the park through appropriate signage.

When it became known that the signature Mizpah shaft was in immediate need of repair, the Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation undertook a momentous fundraising effort to save the structure and was able to raise over \$100,000.

Mr. Baker was invaluable in the effort, even acting as a crane operator and "adviser in chief."

Mr. Speaker, Douglas "Stretch" Baker is to be commended, along with the Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation Board, for bringing the exciting project to a successful conclusion, thereby preserving one of the most important artifacts of Nevada's mining history.

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, the Pacific Northwest has always been a leader when it comes to climate change. However, it is critical the United States shows the same leadership globally. That is why it is so encouraging to hear the reports from the climate summit in Paris. We need to take action not just domestically, but around the world.

Mr. Speaker, in Washington State, we know firsthand how damaging climate change can be. From longer and worsening fire seasons, increased pests and invasive species, an acidifying ocean to more unpredictable natural disasters, a vast majority of the population recognizes climate change as a growing problem in need of international solutions.

We often hear talk about the debt we will be leaving the next generation but not enough about the environment we are leaving our children and our grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, it is long past time for bold solutions and an international approach to combat climate change. This summit comes at a crucial time, and we look forward to its progress.

PASS THE MICROBEAD-FREE WATERS ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district that borders Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes are the source of fresh drinking water for literally millions of Americans. Jobs, recreation, and tourism all depend on a healthy and flourishing Great Lakes ecosystem, and we must do all that we can to protect this vital natural resource.

Mr. Speaker, microbeads are microscopic pieces of plastic that are included in products like soaps and cosmetics. They are designed to help these products to be more effective. But when these products are used, the microbeads inside them can get into the Nation's waterways. They end up accumulating in lakes, rivers, and oceans—where they stay, and where they eventually collect toxic chemicals