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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. DOLD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 5, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT J. DOLD 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: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work to contribute to the common good. May they use their talent as good stewards of Your many gifts and thereby be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

As this second session of the 112th Congress draws near its end and pressing legislative business once again weighs heavily on this Hill and throughout our land, withhold not Your spirit of wisdom and truth from this assembly. Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive so that they may render their service as their best selves.

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 gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN 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.

REMEMBERING CALEB LOGAN COOKE

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Caleb Logan Cooke. Caleb was born January 22, 1997, and passed away Saturday, December 1, 2012, at the age of 15. Caleb was a blessing to his parents and entire family from the day God placed him on His Earth. Though life was often a struggle for Caleb, he met every challenge head-on and always with a thoughtful and caring disposition. He was an accomplished Boy Scout, earned his black belt in tae kwon do, and was recognized for having the highest GPA in his freshman class.

In addition to all of his high school and extracurricular accomplishments, Caleb was engaged politically and always ready to discuss the day's news. A civically active young man, he was truly a shining example of our youth. Most of all, Caleb was a good friend to my son, Jeffrey, a delightful son to his parents, a loving sibling to his sister and brothers, a blessing to his entire family.

Caleb will be missed by all and always remembered.

AMERICANS WANT JOBS, NOT UNEMPLOYMENT CHECKS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Nearly 50 million Americans—over 10 million children—live in poverty and 46 million Americans on food stamps. According to the Census Bureau, without Social Security over 50 percent of people 65 and older would live and die in poverty. Why do we accept poverty? Why do we accept massive unemployment? Over 20 million Americans are without work. You cannot escape poverty without a job. Americans want jobs, not unemployment checks. If you don't have a source of income, you can't own a home.

The middle class is disappearing. An unfair tax system is causing wealth to accelerate upwards, which is why I oppose the Bush tax cuts. But more tax increases and no massive jobs program are a prescription for disaster. We need more taxpayers, not more tax increases. You can't rebuild America by retaxing America. Poverty and joblessness constitute a national emergency. The private sector is not creating sufficient jobs. Congress has a constitutional obligation and power to coin or create money. We can use our power to put millions back to work rebuilding our infrastructure.

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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H.R. 2990, the National Employment Emergency Act, can accomplish this. It's our choice: increase taxes, cut spending, put the economy in a stall, or put millions back to work.

CONGRATULATING MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ohio High School Athletic Association's 2012 Division I State football champions, the Moeller Crusaders. Last Saturday, the Crusaders, led by Head Coach John Rodenberg, defeated Toledo Whitmer 20-12 to capture Moeller's eighth State football championship title.

Archbishop Moeller High School, a Catholic institution in the Marianist tradition, currently has a student enrollment of 925 outstanding young men. Since its inception in 1960, Moeller High School has earned itself a well-deserved reputation for promoting both academic excellence and athletic prowess. Under their very first coach, Gerry Faust, who later went on to coach for Notre Dame, the Crusaders compiled a record of 178 wins, 23 losses, and two ties, while winning four national football championships, five State football championships, and enjoying seven undefeated seasons. One of Coach Faust's most favorite players was our very own JOHN BOEHNER. Speaker BOEHNER played as a linebacker for the Crusaders.

Following Coach Faust's tenure at the helm, the Crusaders have won three additional State championships, including the one last weekend in front of a crowd of 8,834 people at Fawcett Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

So to the Moeller High School football players, coaching staff, parents, student body, school administrators, teachers, faculty members, and fans, I offer you my heartfelt congratulations on this auspicious occasion of winning your eighth State championship. God bless you. God bless the Moeller Crusaders. God bless the men of Moeller. Take care.

Go Crusaders!

CREATING JOBS FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, no Republican in Congress is trying to protect millionaires or billionaires. In fact, Republicans lose most of the wealthiest counties and neighborhoods by very large margins. Much of the impasse in the current negotiations is over who is going to spend the money. Republicans do not want higher taxes simply because so much of what the Federal Government spends is lost to waste, fraud, and abuse.

The most wasteful, inefficient way to spend money is to turn it over to the Federal Government. The best way to create jobs and hold prices steady is to let private citizens spend and invest as they choose. The wealthy do all right even in socialist countries. But lower-income and working people come out much better in countries that allow the most free enterprise. Millionaires and billionaires can take care of themselves. Republicans are simply trying to help create jobs and keep the cost of living from going out of sight for ordinary people.

□ 0910

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans agree that we should preserve tax cuts for all Americans on the first \$250,000 of family income. This will protect 98 percent of Americans from a tax increase and 97 percent of small businesses.

We have different ideas on the best and fairest way to set rates for the top 2 percent, the wealthiest Americans. Let's have that debate in the coming weeks, but let's act on the overwhelming areas of agreement today. This is not about a Democratic or Republican victory in this Chamber. It's about a victory for the American people.

Instead of moving forward with middle class tax cuts, our friends on the other side of the aisle are trying again to put forth a plan that gives tax breaks to the richest Americans at the expense of our seniors, veterans, the disabled, and the middle class.

It's time for the partisan games to end. Let's prove to the American people that this is the people's House. Pass the middle class tax cuts today.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was proud to join my colleagues in signing a petition to bring the middle class tax cuts to the House floor for an up-or-down vote. While there is much left to negotiate, there is one step that we can take today. It will provide millions of families and 97 percent of all small businesses with the security of knowing that their income taxes will not rise on January 1.

Both parties and the American people agree on the need to pass an extension of the tax cuts for every family on the first \$250,000 of income. The Senate has passed such a bill, the President stands ready to sign it today, and I have heard from hundreds of constituents urging support for this now.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join us today in protecting middle class

Americans and send the Senate-passed bill to the President.

THE GIFT OF FREQUENT FLYER MILES

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, the holidays are a time to reflect on the things for which we are grateful. As we enjoy the company of family and friends, we should also take time to thank the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Every one of us knows the tremendous debt we owe our military families. This year, as a token of my thanks, I'm donating over 79,000 frequent flyer miles that I received for congressional travel to the Fisher House's Hero Miles program, which provides free airline tickets to American soldiers and their families.

Flying to Washington is part of our job, and there's no better way to use the miles we accumulate from those trips than to help our troops and their families see each other. I encourage all of my colleagues to donate their miles to the Fisher House or a similar charity that helps make a difference this holiday season.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012 AMENDMENTS

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 825) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2838, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 825

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 2838, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendments with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.