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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 19, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 624

In the Senate of the United States, December 18 (legislative day, December 17), 2012.

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served the people of the State of Hawaii for over 58 years in the Territorial House of Representatives, the Territorial Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye became the first Japanese American to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye represented the State of Hawaii in Congress from before the time that Hawaii became a State in 1959 until 2012;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served as the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense, the first Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, Chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Chairman of the Rules Committee, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and

the Nicaraguan Opposition, and Secretary of the Democratic Conference;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye delivered the keynote address at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, in which he expressed a vision for a more inclusionary Nation and famously declared "this is our country";

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye served as a medical volunteer at the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, and volunteered to be part of the all Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II at a time when Japanese Americans were being systematically discriminated against by the Nation he volunteered to defend;

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye was wounded in battle and honorably discharged as a Captain with a Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with cluster, and 12 other medals and citations; and

Whereas Senator Daniel K. Inouye was, awarded the Medal of Honor by President William J. Clinton in June 2000, along with 21 other Asian-American veterans of World War II for their actions during the war: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret of the death of the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Senator from the State of Hawaii;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed concurrent Resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of S. 2367.

S. Con. Res. 64. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the late Honorable Daniel K. Inouye.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recog-

nize 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 each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the reality behind the fiscal cliff is that, if we really get down to work, talking with one another, digging into the details, it really is not that hard.

The nuclear arsenal is a prime example and something that doesn't get nearly the attention it deserves. It is an illustration of why the fiscal sequestration level over the next 10 years for the Department of Defense, which would bring it down to 2007 spending levels, adjusted for inflation, is really not that draconian.

During the Cold War, the United States spent, on average, \$35 billion a year on its nuclear weapons complex. Today it spends an estimated \$55 billion.

The nuclear weapons budget is spread across the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security. And the government doesn't publicly disclose how much it is, but the last year that the elements were aggregated together, it spent at least \$52.4 billion. That's in 2008, according to the Carnegie Endowment for Peace.

That doesn't include classified programs, and it was 5 times the State Department budget, 7 times the EPA, and 14 times what the Department of Energy spent on everything else it does.

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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