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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.

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