Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the important work that faces them. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

May they be empowered by what they have heard during their home district visits to work together. May they realize that each of them represents voters who side with their opponents, and that there are millions of Americans who voted for their opponents as well. The work to be done must benefit all Americans. Give them courage to make difficult choices when they are faced with them.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done 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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS 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.

STOCK ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the STOCK Act will prohibit Members of Congress and Federal employees from using nonpublic information for their own personal profit and help prevent insider trading.

Representative TIMOTHY WALZ of Minnesota has introduced this legislation in the House. The Senate has already voted to move forward on the STOCK Act.

I join a bipartisan group of 217 Members in supporting this legislation. Several media reports have indicated that insider trading is a problem in the Halls of Congress.

Madam Speaker, we work for the American people and cannot lose their trust. The STOCK Act or similar legislation is needed because it brings more transparency and oversight.

Insider trading, any way you look at it, is not only illegal in the United States, but it is corrupt and morally wrong. In Washington and in Congress, things must not only be right; they must look right.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S LEADERSHIP IN SUPPORTING WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, as required by our Constitution, last week President Obama addressed our Nation in his annual State of the Union message before a joint session of Congress. President Obama outlined his blueprint for an America Built to Last, a plan that begins with American manufacturing.

President Obama noted in his address that the American auto industry is back. The President's decision to provide emergency loans to the auto industry saved more than 1.4 million American jobs. This decision by President Obama also prevented personal income losses over 2 years of more than $96 billion and helped make the Big Three automakers—Chrysler, General Motors, and Ford—all profitable for the first time in years.

After taking office, President Obama signed the Recovery Act to get our Nation back to work. As a result, the U.S. has seen 22 consecutive months of private sector job growth, adding more than 3.2 million jobs. Last year we added the most private sector jobs since 2005.

Madam Speaker, I commend President Obama for his vision and leadership. I commend his bold actions and, most of all, his commitment to serving our Nation in these difficult times.

BEYOND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, this year the Supreme Court agreed to hear and issue a decision on the Affordable Care Act. Of course, I'm eager to see what happens, and I'll be following the case very carefully, as will millions of Americans. But important steps will need to be taken depending upon how the Court rules. Right now, we do not know if the Court will rule solely on the individual mandate or say that the entire law is unconstitutional. Either way, this House must be prepared.

Now, House conservatives have been working for at least the past 3 years, well before the Affordable Care Act was even passed, to craft policies that focused on patients instead of payments, that focused on quality instead of quantity, innovation instead of stagnation, and affordability as opposed to just being cheap.

I'm fully committed to continuing this work and producing alternative legislation that will benefit the American people without putting an undue burden on the economy.

The Congressional Health Care Caucus discussed this issue today at a briefing. James Capretta and Thomas Miller discussed and shared ways on which we can prepare in the coming months with specific policy ideas. Although no one has a clear idea of how the Court will rule, we do know that we need to work together to consider ideas and craft policies to take care of the American people when their decision is rendered.

DUCKS UNLIMITED

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is so true that ''to whom much is given, much is required,'' especially when it comes to ensuring the blessings of creation for our children and grandchildren. Seventy-five years ago, a group of concerned citizens came together to offer their time, talents, and treasures to protect waterfowl populations and preserve wetland habitats.

Ducks Unlimited has a purposed beginning. During the 1937 Dust Bowl, drought-plagued waterfowl populations were at unprecedented lows. Recognizing the waterfowl were dangerously near to unrecoverable populations, a small group of sportsmen organized themselves and got to work.

Over the past 75 years, the members of Ducks Unlimited have worked to conserve, restore, and manage habitats essential to the well-being of our continent's waterfowl populations. Through public-private partnerships and the hard work of Ducks Unlimited volunteers throughout the country, more than 12 million acres across North America have been preserved.

Madam Speaker, it never ceases to amaze me how the citizenry, bound together by common dedication, determination, and focus, and not by government fiat, can change the world. Ducks Unlimited has spent the last 75 years improving water quality, mitigating the effects of floods, safeguarding and expanding recreational opportunities. They are to be commended for their 75 years.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 31, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 31, 2012 at 10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1236.