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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

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.

As the Members of the people's House regather after our biennial elections, may Your spirit of peace descend upon them. As the 112th Congress moves toward a close, may all here attend to the business at hand, providing what is needed for the benefit of our Nation.

May all Members, regardless of the outcome of the election, trust that their future service, be it in the House or not, will be imbued with Your grace. May they be confident that Americans of goodwill are grateful for their service in the past and wish them well into the future.

We ask Your blessing as well on those newly elected who will be joining this assembly for the 113th Congress. May their transition into office be smooth and marked by the civility of democratic change of government, which is the rightful pride of the United States of America.

And finally, we ask Your blessing on America's veterans. May our Nation be faithful to them, providing whatever their needs may be after they gave years of their lives in service rather than personal gain. They are an inspiration to us. We should not forget nor neglect our responsibility to them.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

SEQUESTRATION IS TARGETING OUR MILITARY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday with Veterans Day, our country celebrated and remembered the brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, dedicating their lives to protecting our freedom and keeping American families safe. Unfortunately, sequestration is targeting these honorable individuals and our national security by being implemented unless taxes are increased. Defense spending, according to The Hill newspaper, is 15.1 percent of the budget but is subject to 50 percent of the cuts.

Raising taxes during times of economic uncertainty limits the creation of new jobs. America's small businesses should be encouraged to create jobs. This will reduce the unsustainable deficit. House Republicans were reelected last week on the premise of not voting to raise taxes. I support the legislation of House Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK MCKEON to stop sequestration and promote peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war or terrorism.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BENGHAZI

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

Mr. KUCINICH. We put together a bipartisan congressional coalition to try to stop the war in Libya. That four Americans, including our ambassador, were killed confirmed our worst fears: that American power was being used to open the door for jihadists, creating more instability in the region.

Congress still doesn't know why our people in Libya were left vulnerable. We still don't know why the U.S. military was not sent to their defense. It is of the highest importance that General Petraeus, who led the CIA at the time, be brought before Congress to testify as to what really happened in Benghazi, whether there was a security lapse or whether the administration temporized on security and stood down to mollify violent, disparate groups which have nothing in common with our Nation.

U.S. involvement in Libya is a disaster, compounded by the deaths of four Americans. It is imperative that we find out the truth about Benghazi, wherever it leads, whoever it affects.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO BLOCK INFORMATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 of this year, four Americans, including our United States ambassador, were killed in an attack at the Benghazi consulate.

On September 25, I sent a letter to President Obama regarding the numerous inconsistencies voiced by people within his administration and what they were saying following the attack. I have not heard back.

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