

Mr. HOYER. Is it in order to ask unanimous consent to extend that time for 1 minute?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Unfortunately, the Chair cannot entertain that request during morning-hour debate.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may revise and extend their remarks on the issue that has been before the House in these 5-minute speeches.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of the people's House gather on this final day of the 112th Congress, we ask Your blessing upon them.

May our Nation's citizens be grateful for their service rendered these past 2 years, but also justified in their hope that those returning for the new Congress, and those joining them, will move toward ever greater accomplishments to benefit our great Nation.

Bless as well those who leave Congress this day. May they be successful and productive in whatever their future endeavors.

May all that is done this day 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 New York (Mr. CROWLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CROWLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the whole number of the House is 431.

The Chair will entertain up to 2 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as the only New York City member of the Appropriations Committee, what I saw last night is something that I hadn't seen before. Whenever a disaster hit any part of this country, we always got together and found the funds to deal with the issue. We didn't worry about what section of the country it was for or what kind of disaster, we came together and we did it.

In addition, there was something that happened last night that doesn't bode well for this House, and that is that if there's one thing we still have in this House, in spite of all our problems, is that when we give our word, we keep it.

We were given their word that that bill would come up last night or no later than today. To walk away from the people of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, to walk away from all of these people who are suffering right now is really shameful.

But there is still time. That bill can come before us today and we can pass it today. And that's the call. Don't turn your back on the victims of Sandy. Come together as a country, as a Congress, and take care of this now.

FAREWELL REMARKS TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in my final time as a Member of the House of Representatives, as a retiring Member, just to express my gratitude to the people of the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania for allowing me the privilege, for the last 12 years, to serve. I'm a 12-year-term-limit guy, and it's hard to believe that 12 years have come and gone already. But it's been a great privilege to serve with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It's been an experience I will forever remember.

In addition to my constituents back home, my wife, Leslie, is in the gallery today, and I certainly have to convey my thanks to her for standing by me all these years. It's certainly a family commitment, and it's one we've been

honored to have and to do to the best of our ability in serving the people of our community.

A final comment: While I've loved what I've done and I've been proud to serve, I also understand that what I do and what we do pales in comparison to those who serve us in uniform. As a Nation, as a citizenry, can we always keep our men and women in uniform in our thoughts and prayers, along with their families who make tremendous sacrifices so that we can be so blessed here as Americans.

So thank you again and God bless.

□ 1210

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my constituents in Washington's Sixth District for supporting me over the last 36 years.

I want to thank Leader PELOSI and Whip HOYER for supporting me as ranking Democratic member on the House Appropriations Committee, and most of all the Democratic Caucus for allowing me to chair the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and the Defense Subcommittee.

I want to thank Chairman HAL ROGERS and Chairman BILL YOUNG for working together to restore regular order in the Appropriations Committee and strengthening America's military strength and especially supporting the men and women serving us in our services.

I will miss my colleagues in the House, but will remember my friends in this great institution, the people's House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1235

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE REPORTING ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3250) to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide for Debbie Smith grants for auditing sexual assault evidence backlogs and to establish a Sexual Assault Forensic