

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

There was no objection.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

SUGAR BOWL CHAMPS!

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 2013 Sugar Bowl Champion, University of Louisville Cardinals. From Muhammad Ali's opening toss, this game was destined for greatness. The Cards followed the Champ's lead by shocking the world. They became the first team in a decade to score a touchdown in the first 15 seconds of both halves en route to the biggest upset in BCS history.

Against a team averaging one turnover and holding every opponent below 30 points, the Cards forced three turnovers and reached the 30-point mark a mere 8 seconds into the second half. Facing a defense that had never allowed a touchdown pass of 15 yards or more, Cards quarterback Teddy Bridgewater completed two.

This team proves what U of L Athletic Director Tom Jurich has said for years: "If you doubt Charlie Strong—on field or off—you're in for a surprise."

Coach Strong dedicated the game ball to the fans, who were 30,000 strong in New Orleans. It was a fitting tribute, and I think it's safe to say Card Nation is still on a Sugar Bowl high.

This was a great triumph for the University of Louisville and a victory for our whole community. So for the city, the University of Louisville, and this outstanding Cardinal football team, I'm proud to honor the 2013 Sugar Bowl Champion Louisville Cardinals. How sweet it is!

I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Coming from a University of Kentucky football and basketball fan, to my friend from Louisville and the Cardinals, congratulations. Fantastic for the State of Kentucky.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank my colleague very much. I appreciate that.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
CONGRATULATES THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I just want to join in congratulating the University of Louisville on their success.

The University of Louisville has long been a rival of the University of Memphis. But this past year or so, the Louisville basketball coach, Rick Pitino, was good enough to champion the University of Memphis' getting into the Big East Conference. It was support we needed and support we appreciate. The conference isn't quite the same as it was when he did that, but it was a good thing to do.

We have a great rivalry, and I think we need to support our rivals and thank Coach Pitino for his helping the University of Memphis get into an additional conference, and we hope that the rivalry between the University of Louisville and the University of Memphis continues for many more years to come.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO
UNITED STATES GROUP OF NATO
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. TURNER, Ohio, Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. SMITH, New Jersey, Co-Chairman.

THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the topic in this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor and privilege to stand here today in what I hope to have as the first of many Special Orders that the Republican freshman class does together.

Today, we want to highlight the importance of the upcoming debt ceiling

debate and the need to get serious about addressing the out-of-control spending and borrowing that is jeopardizing the American Dream for our children and grandchildren.

I'm honored to represent Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, a 19-county area of east central and southeastern Indiana that was formerly represented by now-Governor Mike Pence. My constituents work hard, play by the rules and deserve what they've earned. They should be able to keep a little more of their paychecks for things like college tuition, family vacations or to retire just a little earlier. But Washington is standing in their way.

The fundamental question that this Congress needs to answer is whether Washington should take more than it already does from these hardworking, taxpaying Americans. The answer, of course, is no. Washington doesn't tax too little; it spends too much.

One would hope that since the last Congress raised taxes to avoid falling off the fiscal cliff, everyone's attention now would turn to our biggest fiscal problem, the out-of-control spending—now 24 percent of our gross domestic product—and the explosive growth of entitlements and interest on the debt that are adding to our more-than-\$16-trillion national debt and pushing us up against the debt ceiling. But, remarkably, President Obama is now calling for even more taxes, more spending and more borrowing in return for any future spending controls. He said yesterday that we can't finish the job of deficit reduction through spending cuts alone.

Simply put, the President got his tax increases in the last Congress, and it's time for this Congress to tackle Washington's spending binge.

I'd like to recognize the gentlelady from Indiana.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, my message today is simple: On too many big items, Congress has been kicking the can down the road for years. It's time to supply real leadership on the most pressing challenges we face. This is the only way we can restore trust in Congress.

We are fast approaching a dead end. The Social Security Trust Fund will be bankrupt in 20 years. Medicare and Medicaid are not on a sustainable path. It is wrong for us to make promises to the American people we know we cannot keep. We must address the drivers of our debt—Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security—not because these programs don't have merits, and certainly not because the seniors currently benefiting from them don't deserve what they've been promised, but because real leadership isn't about making the easy choice, it's about making the right choice.

Social Security and Medicare alone account for 36 percent of our Federal