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No. 53

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 18, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Minister Yolanda Adams, Bay Area Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are honored to be in Your presence, experiencing Your goodness and glory. We thank You for this day, a day to make a difference in the lives of those who need and depend upon us, a new day to realize how much we absolutely need Your guidance and direction.

Give us the boldness to be the leaders of light and compassion, for we are our brothers' keepers. Allow us to be blessings wherever and whenever the opportunities arise.

Lord, empower us to be leaders of great example. Let us become loving like You, caring like You, unselfish like You, and always giving like You.

Lord, in light of all the recent tragedies, we ask that You give comfort and compassion to those who are hurting and grieving. Be with them in this time of grief, loss, fear, and uncertainty.

Lord, let us be agents of healing, hope, and love. We love and adore You. Thank You for hearing and answering our prayers and petitions. Thank You for Your grace and mercy which strengthens us for daily service. We ex-

pect goodness to follow us this day as we honor You in our living.

In our Lord's name, 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.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BERA of California 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.

### WELCOMING MINISTER YOLANDA ADAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas

(Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have faced enormous tragedies this week with the horrific tragedy of Boston, and now today the tragedy of explosions in West, Texas. I rise today to salute Minister Yolanda Adams, who has taken her music to a step where she is ministering and giving comfort to those who need comfort.

As reflected in her prayer and through her music, Yolanda Adams has taught us to embrace God's grace and mercy, and for those who will listen, to stand in the sunlight of joy as one looks toward the hopefulness of their future or of their lives.

Yolanda Adams is a native-born American, native-born Houstonian, and in fact someone who grew up in the public schools of Houston and began her life in music after she began her life as a teacher. She graduated from Sterling High School in 1979 and is the oldest of six siblings.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, she began a career as a schoolteacher, and then she began her career as a professional singer. But she wanted to do more and combined her singing with ministering.

She is an American Grammy Award-winning gospel singer, but she also has a heart for giving, and she provides every year in our community a health forum for women to make them healthier, to make them take care of themselves, to provide them with information. She has a wonderful album, "Songs from the Heart," with the wonderful song "Fragile Heart." In 1999, she was able to move her career beyond this local community. Her songs included "Yeah" and "Open My Heart." Many of you have heard her sing "Believe," "Never Give Up," and "Battle is the Lord's." Yolanda Adams comes to us as a person who believes that her ministry can comfort, but she can also

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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