

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT 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 PASTOR MARK TURNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Pastor Mark Turner of South Valley Community Church in Gilroy, California, as our guest who delivered this morning's opening prayer.

Over a decade ago, Pastor Turner left his career to answer a higher calling to serve his fellow persons in the ministry. In serving others, Pastor Turner has become a respected leader in our community, making a difference in people's everyday lives.

Working with local partners and businesses, Pastor Turner and hundreds of volunteers serve our community through outreach projects that feed children, seniors, and underprivileged residents. They help local children through programs that encourage them to be active and strive for success, and they bring compassion and services to people in need.

Answering a call to serve something larger than one's self is a trait we deeply admire and value as Americans. So it is a pleasure to welcome Pastor Turner to our Nation's Capitol today and to thank him for his service to our community and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, our hearts go out today to those in Oklahoma who are suffering as a result of this storm. I've asked that

the flags here in the Capitol complex be lowered to half staff in honor of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, this House is going to continue to be focused on the issue of jobs. It's the number one issue of concern to our fellow citizens. We're going to continue to be focused on the things that get in the way of job creation in our country.

Most notably, this week we will work on trying to get the Keystone pipeline approved that will create some 20,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs, and trying to make sure that those who have student loans won't see their interest rates double. That will be the work of the House this week.

But in addition to that, we have a responsibility to the American people to provide oversight of the executive branch. I think Americans understand and my colleagues understand that the American people deserve the truth. Whether it's Benghazi, whether it's the IRS, whether it's the Justice Department investigating journalists, the Congress of the United States and the American people need to know what the truth is—to hold this administration accountable.

Those of us in public office understand that our job is to serve the American people, and not the other way around.

SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, newspapers in my district in Pennsylvania have reported that local housing authorities are facing a "nightmare" due to sequestration cuts in HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Speaker, fewer people are going to be able to access housing as a result of this Congress' nightmare policies.

In Northampton County, Pennsylvania, alone, 85 people are going to have to leave the section 8 voucher program through turnover or there will be evictions. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 900 people will be removed from the program's waiting list.

Our social safety net is disappearing. And what happens if these people fall into homelessness? According to HUD, the annual cost of a shelter bed funded by the Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately \$8,067 more than the average annual cost of a section 8 voucher. This Congress is being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEFFREY BAKER

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week, the EOD community lost one of

its best and brightest. Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Baker was killed 1 week ago today in an IED explosion that killed four of his fellow soldiers and injured multiple others. Sergeant First Class Baker was assigned to the 766th EOD Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and was serving in Sanjaray, Afghanistan, at the time of his death.

EOD soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are the preeminent explosive experts in our Armed Forces. Our joint EOD forces lead the fight against the use of IEDs and protect their fellow servicemembers and our interests both at home and abroad.

Too often, the lives of these brave men and women are claimed by the very devices they are trained to neutralize. Sergeant First Class Baker gave his life along with four of his fellow soldiers in defense of our freedoms. It's important that we honor their sacrifice and the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Next week, as the Nation honors the veterans who have given their lives for this country, it's important that we take time to recognize the risks our troops take on our behalf every day and the need to support our veterans and their families.

Jeffrey Baker was from Hesperia, California, and was just 29 years old. He is survived by his wife and his young daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeffrey's entire family, the families of his fellow soldiers who were killed, and the soldiers recovering from the blast.

God bless our Armed Forces, and God bless America.

WELCOMING LONGABERGER POTTERY BACK TO U.S.

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Democrats' Make It In America Working Group, I was pleased to attend a ceremony yesterday welcoming Longaberger Pottery to Niagara Ceramics Corporation in Buffalo.

In 2005, Longaberger moved its production line to China. Its return will create 22 American jobs. Under CEO Tammy Longaberger, this fifth-generation family business manufactures in the true American artisan tradition.

This story is further evidence that we are approaching what the writer Charles Fishman calls "the insourcing boom." American companies are reconsidering their decisions to move operations overseas. The issues of rising transportation costs, quality control, and the productivity of American workers is driving this trend. Congress should be working to ensure the new trend becomes a sustainable, large-scale movement.

And austerity is exactly the wrong response. We should be investing in our infrastructure, in education, and in science. We should adopt the House