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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 14, 2014

I hereby appoint the Honorable REID J. RIBBLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

During the upcoming week of constituency visits, give the Members of this assembly insight, inspiration, and industry to work for the good of our country. Sustain our citizens with Your power, that they might be true to the highest and best they know and are able to achieve.

As Members visit with those whom they represent, may solutions that work toward the betterment of all in our Nation emerge in open and respectful conversation.

May the assurance of Your love and the presence of Your truth abide in all our hearts and all our homes.

And may all that is done 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 Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MULLIN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WE ALL KNOW THAT OBAMACARE IS AN ABSOLUTE FAILURE

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, time and time again, we have been reassured by this administration that ObamaCare is working, but when I talk to my constituents in Oklahoma's Second District, this is not the case. When I read the news headlines and discover yet another delay in ObamaCare, this is not the case.

Even this week, this administration was unable to provide—you know, I am up here, and I am reading talking points to you that you have heard over and over and over again, and yet we all know that ObamaCare is an absolute failure.

We all know that. The media knows that. This President knows that; and yet, he continues to force it down the throat of the American people, just because it is his signature piece of legislation.

What is sad is that this is just one of many things that has made this President and his administration an absolute failure. What is unfortunate is the American people are the ones that are having to pay for his mistakes. I, for one, have had enough.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST J. REYES

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of a very positive man, my friend, Ernest J. Reyes, who passed away recently at the age of 73. Though Mr. Reyes is sorely missed by friends and family, I know his legacy will endure.

Ernest J. Reyes was a native of Madera, California. He was dedicated to the California real estate community and used his knowledge to help families thrive and realize the American Dream of homeownership.

He cofounded the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals and advocated for Spanish language services and documents for Hispanic homeownership. Mr. Reyes was also an exceptional public servant, holding various roles throughout his long career.

I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife of 50 years, Patricia Pedregon Reyes, along with his children, Denise Johnson and Daren Reyes, and his three grandchildren.

Mr. Reyes was an inspiration, and I know his loss will be felt by many, including the 29th Congressional District.

POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ 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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minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, I had the opportunity to celebrate the cold winter in Minnesota by getting together with hundreds of others and jumping through a hole in the ice and into a freezing lake.

Now, while some may think that many Minnesotans consider this normal recreational activity in the winter, it actually was to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

The Polar Plunge, which takes place throughout Minnesota and other areas of the country all winter long, raises millions of dollars for the Special Olympics programs. This important funding allows more than 7,200 Special Olympics athletes in Minnesota to grow and thrive through a variety of competitions.

I want to thank our State's law enforcement for organizing the plunges, Channel 9's Ian Leonard for giving his selfless time and energy to support this cause and events, to all those who pledged their support for the participants, and of course, those who are crazy enough to jump in the middle of the winter through a hole in the ice.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer and congratulate the support for the Special Olympics, an organization that is truly life-changing for its participants and their families.

GIRL SCOUTS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of our Nation's Girl Scouts.

On this week, more than 100 years ago, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low officially registered the Girl Scouts' first 18 members. Since that time, the Girl Scouts experience has enriched the lives of millions of girls, their families, and our communities.

I am especially proud to highlight the hard work of Felicia Dodge, a Girl Scout from Glenville, New York. Felicia is currently working on her Gold Award project to help create a sustainable sewing program at a local school in Haiti.

Felicia's project empowers the community to clothe themselves and hone the skills to run a sustainable business. Her hard work and certainly her involvement will send over 600 pounds of materials and supplies to the school. I applaud Felicia for her thoughtful and certainly inspiring endeavor.

On behalf of the citizens of the 20th Congressional District of New York, I thank the Girl Scouts of northeastern New York for their commitment and for their service to our communities.

EDUCATION IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor America's teachers. I do that because I spoke with my 17-year-old son, who is a junior at Silverdale Baptist Academy, and he was asking me about teachers.

Now, most of you all know I had two elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools in my own career. I told my son how important teaching is. Just think about it: all across America today and in all of our 50 States, teachers are teaching and inspiring our children.

Education is critically important, whether it is in the private sector or in the public sector. It is so critically important that we get it right, and teaching is such a noble profession.

I wanted to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and just say thank you to our Nation's teachers. Keep up the great work. Keep inspiring our young minds, so that we can continue to move ahead as a great Nation.

THOMSON PRISON

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Thomson Correctional Center, a facility that has sat vacant in the town of Thomson, a small village in northern Illinois, since it was built by the State of Illinois in 2001.

For more than a decade, the people of my region have been thirsting for the jobs and the economic opportunity that the opening of this facility would bring.

Yesterday, we received the very good news that we had been waiting for, for a long time. This was delivered to us from the Bureau of Prisons, which announced that they will designate the funding to activate the Thomson Correctional Center.

This investment means construction can soon begin. It means that workers can soon begin competing for good-paying jobs, and it means that northern Illinois will no longer be home to an empty prison.

When fully open, the Thomson Correctional Center will add 1,100 jobs to our region and will add \$200 million in annual economic impact. The prison's activation will not only be good for our economy, but it will also generate a sense of pride among the people I serve in the surrounding communities. We finally will see the dormant facility put to good use.

REINING IN EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, President Obama and the administration have taken the uber-Presidency to a whole new level.

Time and time again, we have seen President Obama stretch the constitutional limits of the office. When President Obama simply disagrees with a law, he just ignores it. Mr. Speaker, no person is above the law.

The House of Representatives is committed to living by the Constitution and holding the administration accountable. The ENFORCE Act will give Congress the ability to bring a lawsuit against the President for failing to execute our laws.

The Faithful Execution of the Law Act will require any Federal official who is not enforcing a Federal law to report to Congress on the reason for nonenforcement. Mr. Speaker, the ENFORCE Act and the Faithful Execution of the Law Act uphold the Constitution.

These bills send a clear message that no one is above the law, and we will not have the Constitution be disregarded.

TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS COMPLEX

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the important research being done at the Department of Defense into treating tuberous sclerosis complex or TSC.

Individuals with TSC experience tumors in the brain and other vital organs, which can result in seizures, kidney failure, and other serious health problems. I have had the opportunity to meet with people affected by this illness and understand how critical it is to continue medical research into treatments while scientists develop a cure for TSC.

Funding the DOD TSC research program is essential in developing new clinical treatments and medical breakthroughs for the disorder. In addition, this research has applications for other medical conditions, such as traumatic brain injuries, which are common in combat and sports injuries. TSC research breakthroughs will likely also have applications to some specific cancers.

By committing support and funding for this important research, we give hope to those living with TSC and other chronic illnesses to help them live long and healthy lives.

SITES RESERVOIR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California is suffering from its worst drought in at least 35 years, maybe as much as 400 years; though lately, the Good Lord has sought to bless us with about 5 inches of rain on my farm and my neighborhood, we can't let that be a cause for inaction. Indeed, the Good Lord helps those who help themselves.

It is time to build. It has been time to build, for a long time, the type of