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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given.

The issues of these days and in coming months remain complicated and potentially divisive. Endow each Member with wisdom and equanimity, that productive policies and solutions might be reached for the benefit of our Nation.

Please send Your spirit of peace upon those areas of our world where violence and conflict endure, and threaten to multiply. May all Your children learn to live in peace.

And, may all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

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.

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

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOLD 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

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

HONORING SCOUTMASTER CHIP ANDERSON

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, Chip Anderson has been an integral part of Ken-

ilworth Scouting—more specifically, Troop 13—for the last 8 years. He has provided outstanding leadership and support to the young men of Kenilworth, Illinois, as first the troop quartermaster, and then as the troop Scoutmaster. He is moving to Atlanta with his family for career reasons and resigning his active leadership position with Troop 13, but will always remain a vital part of Troop 13 and its legacy.

During his tenure, the troop has been very active with weekly meetings, community service projects, and monthly camping and overnight trips, including the annual Boundary Waters High Adventure for the rising seventh-grade boys.

Advancement is one, but not the only, measure of success, and during his tenure Troop 13 has had 45 young men attain the rank of Eagle, Scouting's highest rank. Chip has directly supported each of these young men, as well as all the young men in the troop. Most have called him a mentor and friend in the notes they have written to express their thanks.

We are thankful for his outstanding contribution, and as a community we feel very fortunate to have had his leadership and dedication to the Scouting program and to the development of young men in the village.

It is an honor to recognize Chip today. It is an honor to call him my friend.

☐ 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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H3217

LONG-TERM HIGHWAY TRUST FUND REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a long-term reauthorization of the highway trust fund.

Just this week, Mayor Dumas from Attleboro, Massachusetts, came to Washington to tell me how another stopgap bill would negatively impact projects in his city.

The bridges in my home State are some of the oldest in our country. Of the over 5,000 bridges in our Commonwealth, more than half are considered deficient.

Every single day, cars, trucks, and schoolbuses cross our structurally compromised bridges nearly 10 million times. Those numbers underscore the urgency for our government to provide the critical, long-term investments in infrastructure that our constituents demand and deserve.

Each time we approve a short-term patch of the highway trust fund, we are continuing the uncertainty and doubt that prevents States and municipalities from moving forward on projects that not only create jobs but keep all of us safe.

Our refusal to even consider a lasting transportation plan is hindering our ability to maintain the infrastructure we already have, when we should be instead focused on new projects that increase our modern economy in communities across our country.

It is time to fix this problem. It is time to invest in our country. It is time to pass this bill.

TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Ms. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley designated May as Teacher Appreciation Month.

As the husband of a retired teacher, I know firsthand the time, resources, support, and guidance our dedicated educators give to their students. While I regularly take the opportunity to visit schools and honor educators throughout the year, I am grateful for the opportunity to give special recognition and thanks to our hard-working educators this month.

I would especially like to honor my constituent, Daniel Oddo, from Dreher High School, who was a finalist for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year. Staff member Drew Kennedy is a Dreher graduate.

I am grateful for the Palmetto State Teachers Association, led by executive director Kathy Maness, for their tireless work on behalf of teachers across the State. The success of our teachers is amplified by the leadership of State

Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, who is dedicated to recruiting and retaining quality teachers in the Palmetto State.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FUNDING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of long-term investments in our Nation's critical transportation infrastructure.

Across this Nation, our roads and bridges are crumbling, and communities are in need of updated transit systems. Investments in critical infrastructure are necessary to ensure our roads, bridges, and transit systems are in good working condition and updated with the newest technologies to ensure our safety. Jobs hang in the balance. The safety of our constituents hang in the balance.

In North Carolina alone, there are more than 5,000 bridges in need of repair. More than 700 of those are in my district. We must make sure that critical road and infrastructure projects are not put on hold and that jobs are not placed in jeopardy.

My colleagues, I urge you to make the smart decision for our Nation and support a long-term solution to fund our transportation infrastructure.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF FY16 NDAA

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my fellow Republicans and other Members to support the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

My colleagues and I on the Armed Services Committee came together in a bipartisan fashion to pass this legislation out of committee with a vote of 60-2. That seems pretty bipartisan to me. And it should be. Our Nation's security should not be a partisan issue.

The committee had a goal of implementing some lasting reforms to ensure that our military is better prepared for the challenges that we face.

Part of facing these challenges is ensuring that our military has the very best training and weapons systems for the fight. This legislation recognizes that need by preserving the A-10, which is the best close air support aircraft, and flown out of Moody Air Force Base.

This bill also invests in the future replacement of the JSTARS, an important ISR platform that flies out of Robins Air Force Base.

It is an honor to serve as a voice for Robins and Moody in Congress, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legisla-

tion for our Nation's warfighters who bravely serve so that we may remain the land of the free.

FUTURE FARMERS, AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker: "Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve." Those 12 short words comprise the motto of the Future Farmers of America Organization, founded in 1928 by 33 students from 18 different States who came together with a shared mission to develop as the future farmers of this country.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of our economy, supporting more than 23 million jobs in our country. But it is also an industry that requires more than just skills and knowledge that might be learned in the classroom, skills that are necessary to feed our country and to connect with the changing marketplace and consumers.

FAA has succeeded in fulfilling this gap by expanding not only agricultural education in our schools but also in teaching students to be confident participants and leaders, to be honest and fair, and to show respect for others and our land's resources. These lifelong skills are vital not just for farmers but in all aspects of agriculture, whether it is marketing, management, research, communications, or engineering.

I rise today to recognize this organization and the millions of Future Farmers of America, both current and past, and express my gratitude for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to strengthening our towns.

It is that spirit and love for this country that truly represents the heart of rural America.

IRAN REVIEW ACT

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

Ms. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with concern over the President's ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran, and I rise in support of the legislation that the House passed yesterday, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no guarantee that any final agreement negotiated by Secretary Kerry and President Obama will be a good deal. There is no guarantee this agreement will be good for the security of the United States, good for the stability of the Middle East, and good for the security of our close ally, Israel.

By passing H.R. 1191, we are empowering Congress to review the final agreement and block any bad deal negotiated by the President.

Mr. Speaker, June 30, the deadline for the negotiations, is nearing quickly. When, and if, the President is able