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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Father Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We thank You that You give us a share in Your creative work, having endowed each with unique and important talents.

On this day we ask Your blessing on the men and women of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the care of this great Nation's people and, because of the great blessings You have bestowed on our Nation, the opportunity to build a better world beyond our borders as well.

Please teach each Member to be generous with the gifts You have given and the opportunities with which they have been presented. May they give and not count the cost; fight for the greater good and not count the wounds; toil in their efforts and not seek to rest; labor and not ask for reward, other than to know that they are doing Your will.

May all that they do 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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 LOCAL HERO ABBY BERANEK FOR FIRE SAFETY PREPAREDNESS

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a local hero from my home district. At just 7 years old, Abby Beranek of Lemont, Illinois, demonstrated quick thinking and courage when a fire broke out in her home, utilizing the fire safety skills she learned as a Girl Scout to keep her family safe.

When she realized her home was on fire, first-grader Abby Beranek remained calm and immediately put in action the lessons she learned when her troop visited the Lemont fire station. Because of Abby's courage and quick thinking, she was able to help her mom and keep her 18-month-old brothers and 3-month-old sister safe.

I also want to commend the Lemont Fire Protection District, especially Jeff Hawthorne and Chief Carl Churulo, for offering lifesaving educational safety courses for our children. Their hard work and willingness to reach out to the community has clearly made a difference and saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a local hero, Abby Beranek of Lemont, Illinois, who has made her community and her family very proud.

JUST THE FACTS: REPUBLICANS WANT TO END MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, you know, we have all heard the jokes about how many people does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Well, I have a variation on that this morning.

How many seniors have to lose their Medicare in order to provide a $104,000 tax cut per year for every millionaire? The answer is 17.

Seventeen seniors will see a reduction in their Medicare or an additional cost of $6,000 a year in order to pay for the millionaire tax cut of $104,000.

Mr. Speaker, even The Wall Street Journal, the conservative Wall Street Journal, has said the House Republican plan will likely result in higher out-of-pocket costs and greater limits to coverage for all Americans.

House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN's solution is to end the current Medicare program for people.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL VINCENT BROOKS ON PROMOTION TO THREE-STAR GENERAL

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor and privilege of representing Fort Riley, home of the 1st Infantry Division, or the Big Red One, which has been under the command of Major General Vincent Brooks since April of 2009, a term that included a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

General Brooks is being promoted to a three-star general and will be moving on from Fort Riley. In his short time in Kansas, he has been a tremendous

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