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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, December 12, 2011.

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.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today. Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing as we approach the end of the first session of this 112th Congress. You know well the contentiousness of this session. Look into the hearts of all the Members of this people’s House to discern the goodwill within. May the goodwill You find be rewarded with Your grace. May any contrary spirit be banished.

In the days that come, help each Member to understand well and interpret positively, as they are able, the positions of those with whom they disagree. Grant to each the wisdom of Solomon, and to us all the faith and confidence to know that no matter how difficult things appear to be, You continue to walk with our Nation, as You have done for over two centuries.

May all that is done today in the people’s House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLYBURN 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2011.

Dear Mr. Speaker:
Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 9, 2011 at 10:02 a.m.:

That the Senate concur in the House of Representatives amendment to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 22.

That the Senate agreed to S. 1974.

That the Senate agreed to without amendments H.R. 2061.

The Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 86.

That the Senate passed S. 1974.

That the Senate agreed to without amendments H. Con. Res. 86.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 86.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Grant Scherling, Principal Engineer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

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.