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.

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:

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:

WASHINGTON, DC, December 9, 2011.

Hon. John A. Boehner, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

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 agreed to without amendment H.R. 2061.

That the Senate passed without amendment S. 1974.

That the Senate passed without amendment S.J. Res. 22.

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

That the Senate passed S. 974.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 66.

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.