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House of Representatives

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: God of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon the Members of the people's House during these opening days of the first session of the 113th Congress.

Bless the Members of this assembly with wisdom; inspire them to act with justice; and empower them to work toward legislative solutions to the many challenges facing our Nation.

Bless all the people of our Nation as they return to their homes following the celebrations of the past few days. May the work of their hands issue forth to the betterment of their own lives and the strength and vitality of their communities.

And may all that is done 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. McCLINTOCK. 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. McCLINTOCK. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COFFMAN 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. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. Emerson), the whole number of the House is now 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

ENDING THE CONGRESSIONAL PENSION

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing legislation to put an end to the defined benefit retirement plan currently available to Members of Congress.

These are extremely difficult economic times. We are in a debt crisis that will require sacrifices on the part of all Americans. I served in both the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, and I was

taught that leaders should never ask others to do anything that they themselves would be unwilling to do. Congress needs to set an example and lead the way for the country. I think ending the congressional pension system is a good start.

My legislation will honor any retirement benefits accrued prior to the passage of this bill and will keep Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan in place for Members of Congress.

I believe that Members of Congress should feel the same economic pressures the rest of society does, and I firmly believe that the current effort to reduce spending and constrain the size and scope of government requires that all possible solutions be taken, including cuts to the congressional budget.

I urge the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR OF PAT COLLINS

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated educator, a true Miami treasure, a man who inspired me and many others, Mr. Pat Collins.

Mr. Collins has been a social studies teacher and a department head at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School since 1971. Currently teaching AP U.S. Government and Politics and U.S. Government, Mr. Collins moderates Belen's chapter of Amnesty International. Pat is instrumental in the success of Belen Jesuit's model United Nations program, founded the overseas study program in 1994, and teaches civic responsibility to his students.

A charter member of the U.S. Historical Society, Pat has received numerous awards, including the Cornell University Outstanding Educator and the Close Up Foundation's Linda Myers Chosen Award for teaching excellence in civics.

□ 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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