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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, through whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

In these days our Nation is faced with pressing issues, while we honor the memory of many who acted courageously a half century ago to bring greater freedoms to all Americans. Grant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to us all, as well as an extra measure of charity.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, who labor within these Halls under public scrutiny. Give them peace and an abundance of prudence in the work they do.

And may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SEQUESTRATION IS HERE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, at midnight tonight, the Department of Defense and other government agencies will fall victim to the President's sequester. Every American family will be affected by the shifting of funds.

In South Carolina's Second Congressional District, which I am grateful to represent, the Army's base at Fort Jackson in Columbia is expected to lose \$75 million. Additionally, the Savannah River Site in Aiken and Barnwell will be forced to furlough thousands of hardworking employees and stall critical national missions due to a possible \$200 million budget cut. Both of these shifts will endanger our national security.

The President and the Senate have refused to negotiate with House Republicans on a possible solution until today. House Republicans have voted twice to avoid sequestration. Our Nation has a spending problem we must address before it is too late and our

debt spirals out of control. The President should change course and begin working with both Houses of Congress to tackle the national debt which threatens American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SEQUESTER

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in a few hours, the so-called "sequester" will begin to take effect, and the things we cannot do without will be cut just the same as the things we don't need and can't afford.

What got us to this point was the failure to compromise, and what's kept us from solving this problem is that same failure to compromise. Only in Washington can so many folks agree on what the problem is, yet no solution is brought to the table.

My home State of Georgia is home to some of this country's vital military installations, including Fort Gordon in my district, the central nervous system of our national defense. Nearly \$1 billion in cuts will spread across these installations and will have devastating impacts on surrounding communities.

I urge my colleagues to come back to the table, find the spending cuts we need to avoid this disaster, and begin the process of putting these partisan games behind us.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. BROOKS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, in 2011, I voted against the Budget Control Act and President Obama's sequester because I believed and feared they posed a grave threat to

□ 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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