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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2014, at 2 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 28, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY HULTGREN 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: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world.

We pray especially for the people of Ukraine and Venezuela, but know that You are aware of those worldwide who suffer from violent unrest. Cover all with the balm of Your healing and peace.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, sometimes difficult work they do. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

And bless all peacemakers for their work. May Your eternal spirit be with them, and with us always.

May all that is done this day in the people's House 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 his approval thereof.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Eating Disorders Awareness Week, a time to learn more about eating disorders, what causes them, and how to best treat and prevent them.

Eating disorders are widespread, affecting at least 14 million Americans, and are so common among our youth that at least one to two out of every 100 children in America has an eating disorder.

Research has shown that while many eating disorders are caused by a genetic predisposition, environmental factors like peer pressure and false advertising can be overriding contributors.

By the time our children turn 17, they have been exposed to over 250,000 television commercials depicting unrealistic body sizes. Too often this exposure leads to an eating disorder.

I will offer legislation to look at how advertising can more closely resemble true human form. I look forward to working with my colleagues to fight this tragic epidemic of eating disorders.

### COMMEMORATING JUDY HARRIS

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate a friend, Judy Harris, a home care worker who passed away last week.

The most glorious part of the job I have is the opportunity to meet and learn from people from all walks of

□ 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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life. I met Judy on her doorstep, and over several years she became someone I cherished—her commitment to serving, her compassion, and her advocacy.

Despite her small frame, Judy had an enormous presence as she fought fiercely for justice in the community and in the halls of government. Judy's advocacy and work with the Service Employees International Union led her to traverse the Nation to make sure those depending on care and those providing care had a voice and had dignity and had respect.

I will remember until my last days the afternoon I spent with Judy for a day in her shoes. By the end of the day, I was exhausted, physically and emotionally. I was so grateful to Judy and to caregivers who do the work they do to help people live with dignity.

Andy Stern used to say that the "power of SEIU was that it was the way that ordinary people could accomplish extraordinary things and the way that the powerless could become powerful." No one demonstrated that better than Judy. I will always be grateful for her tireless work.

#### FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE PROTECTED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost faith in the President and his administration's ability to serve in an unbiased manner. Sadly, last year's scandal revealed the IRS is targeting organizations who disagree with the President's Big Government agenda.

We should never have to worry that our First Amendment rights are in jeopardy because the government opposes our beliefs. Based on last year's revelations, it is clear that these actions were deliberate. The Founding Fathers treasured the rights of freedom of speech and to petition the government, which is why they were protected first in the Constitution.

On Wednesday, the House acted in a bipartisan vote to prevent future abuse by passing legislation that bans the Treasury Department and the IRS from implementing new requirements targeting political groups. I hope the Senate will take action on this bill so we can ensure that every citizen's First Amendment rights stand protected.

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

#### A GEM OF THE TEXAS WINTER GARDEN AREA—CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS

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

Mr. GALLEGRO. Mr. Speaker, I use some time to talk about the 23rd District. It comprises nearly a quarter of the land area of Texas.

Everybody has heard of the character Popeye and his penchant for spinach, and the spinach capital of the world is Crystal City, Texas. It was named by its early settlers for the clear artesian spring water, and a statue of Popeye was erected there in 1936.

The Spinach Festival is now one of the biggest and best festivals in all of south Texas. It was started in 1936, stopped for a period of time during World War II, and didn't go back up until the 1980s, but it has grown significantly over time.

Crystal City also occupies a unique spot in Texas' political history in that it was the birthplace of the first Latino political party in Texas, La Raza Unida Party, which, for a time, received enough votes to qualify for a statewide ballot.

Crystal City has long been known as a core of civil rights activism, and its rolling fields are now sharing space with the booming Eagle Ford Shale economy of our region.

Come see a gem of the Texas Winter Garden area, Crystal City, Texas.

#### MAKING RARE DISEASES A THING OF THE PAST

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

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an issue that affects millions of American citizens.

A rare disease is defined as a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 people. There are over 7,000 rare diseases that affect close to 30 million people.

My family knows the difficulties of dealing with a rare disease. My daughter, Chloe, has suffered from cystic fibrosis her entire life. CF is a life-threatening rare disease that causes mucus to build up and block major organs. Chloe is one of only 30,000 people affected by this disease in the United States.

As a rare disease, CF requires specialized care that can cost an individual hundreds of thousands of dollars over their lifetime. Even though there have been advancements in medicine, a CF sufferer may only survive into their thirties. This is much different than it was 50 years ago, where a child was lucky to live to the age of 10.

Today we observe CF and all other rare diseases to stress the importance of funding for rare disease research. Hopefully, we can make rare diseases a thing of the past.

#### NEED TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the urgent need to raise the minimum wage for hard-working Americans just struggling to get by. The cost of living has increased, but wages have not.

In Illinois alone, more than 1 million people—a full 20 percent of our workforce—could benefit from an increase in the minimum wage. It could also lead to close to a billion-dollar economic shot in the arm to my State.

Currently, my State's small businesses are at a competitive disadvantage because in our neighboring States of Wisconsin and Iowa, the minimum wage is lower than in ours. Raising the Federal minimum wage could help level this playing field and make small businesses in my region stronger.

Increasing the minimum wage is a win-win situation for the people I represent and for our local economy. I believe strongly that anyone who works full-time should not have to live in poverty.

Let's work together and get this done.

#### ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2014

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act of 2014.

Another day in Washington, another boondoggle on the backs of American taxpayers.

I am flabbergasted that in the same week our Secretary of Defense warns of severe defense cuts caused by America's deteriorating financial condition, cuts that risk national security, Congress seeks to force American taxpayers to help build electrical power plants and transmission lines in Africa.

Financial prudence dictates that we reduce our deficits by not spending the money at all. If we must spend it and must choose between Africa or America, Mr. Speaker, I choose spending it in America.

America spends more than \$40 billion a year on foreign aid with money we do not have, borrow to get, and cannot afford to pay back. Mr. Speaker, if financial irresponsibility and economic insanity have a home, rest assured they live in Washington, D.C.

#### EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago today, emergency unemployment benefits expired for over 1 million Americans, including 20,000 veterans, and yet this House still has not taken up legislation to provide these workers and their families necessary relief. That is shameful.

I rise to ask immediate action on my legislation, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, which provides a 3-month extension of benefits. 183 Members of the House—over 90 percent of the Democratic Caucus—have signed on to my bill.