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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 18, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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 6, 2015, 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.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members return from their various districts and our Nation enters a week which ends with Memorial Day, may we all be mindful in the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self and, for so many, of life would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls 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 gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT 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.

REGULATORY INTEGRITY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, and applaud its passage by the House of Representatives. This bill prohibits the EPA from using its Waters of the U.S. rule to expand its authority beyond, way beyond, congressional intent.

Waters of the U.S. is yet another executive overreach by this administration. The Clean Water Act intentionally limited the EPA's jurisdiction to navigable waters, yet Waters of the U.S. would expand Federal jurisdiction to include virtually all water flows—from ditches to prairie potholes—even on private land.

Nebraskans are concerned Waters of the U.S. could severely harm our ag economy by increasing costs and uncertainty for producers.

America's farmers and ranchers are already great stewards of the land and take numerous steps to protect our natural resources. By blocking the Waters of the U.S. rule, H.R. 1732 stops the administration's latest power grab and supports ag producers across the country.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON ROCKETS AND HOUSTON ASTROS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take long for a Texan to brag about things that we do in Texas. But I wanted to take my 1 minute today to talk about what the Houston Rockets have done for the first time in 19 years to advance to the next level of the NBA playoffs, being a Rockets fan for as long as we have had them. I know all Houstonians and basketball fans were amazed that they came from three games behind to win.

Also, basketball is not the only thing. In fact, a couple blocks from

□ 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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