

has been a great cornerstone for this world and for any country that wants to have a republic, a democracy, and a people-driven form of government and to really feel that coat of liberty wrapped around them. I think our Constitution is that.

So I think it is time for us not only to make the citizens aware, but to make this whole world aware of what has been going on and what we are going to do to stop it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

As the energy and tensions of the second session gather, may there be peace among the Members of the people's House. Grant that all might be confident in the mission they have been given and buoyed by the spirit of our ancestors who built our Republic through many trials and contentious debates. May all strive with noble sincerity for the betterment of our Nation.

Many centuries ago, You blessed Abraham for his welcome to strangers by the oaks of Mamre. Bless this Chamber this day with the same spirit of hospitality so that all Americans might know that, in the people's House, all voices are respected, even those with whom there is disagreement.

May all that is done 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CARTER 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SPYING ON CONGRESS

(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, last week The Wall Street Journal reported that the National Security Agency, the NSA, is actively spying on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, one of our Nation's closest allies. This revelation comes just 2 years after the President's announcement that the United States would cease spying on our allies.

The Journal wrote: "Officials said Obama insisted that keeping tabs on Netanyahu served a 'compelling national security purpose.'"

Specifically, the President sought to learn about President Netanyahu's opposition to the dangerous Iranian nuclear deal. In so doing, the NSA also intercepted personal, direct communication between Members of Congress, the Prime Minister, and his staff.

An editorial by The Post and Courier—republished in The Hill this week—raised important questions about the legality of the NSA's sharing private conversations with the White House and not discarding or getting judicial permission. Regrettably, this is another example of the President's disregard for our Constitution by spying on Congress, corrupting the NSA.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the family of Staff Sergeant Matthew McClintock, an American hero.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DOUGLAS WILSON WALKER

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my friend, Doug Walker, who passed away on December 31 on Granite Mountain, near Snoqualmie Pass.

It is this wild, rugged landscape that lured Doug to Washington State and that stoked his creativity, energy, and passions for more than four decades.

A gifted mathematician with an insatiable fondness for climbing, he estab-

lished strong roots in the community. The impact he, along with his wife, Maggie, had on our community and on the many charitable causes to which he gave his time and wisdom is unparalleled.

A true champion for conservation, he cared deeply about protecting the North Cascades' most treasured lands, but his greatest passion was in broadening the constituency for conservation. He worked tirelessly to ensure that all people, especially youth and those in underserved communities, could access the outdoors.

For his incredible spirit and generosity, Doug will be remembered and missed by so many whose lives he touched. His legacy of inspiring others to experience and protect the outdoors lives on.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON GUN CONTROL

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out against the proposed executive assault—I mean action—on our Second Amendment rights. The President has yet again overstepped, has fired off another round, and has taken dead aim at the Second Amendment. It is time Congress takes dead aim at his lawlessness.

We have three branches of government for a reason, and one branch cannot continue to unilaterally act. It is tyrannical, and it erodes the foundation of this great Nation: our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, it is very curious to me that the President, who doesn't want his background checked into—his birth certificate, his school records, or his college grades—wants an anti-Second Amendment intrusion into actual Americans' backgrounds.

When is this administration going to realize that denying Americans their constitutional right to carry won't prevent bad people from doing bad things? It simply ensures criminals a safe path to crime.

That is how I see it. Lord help us last over these next 12 months.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO IMPORT HIGHLY ENRICHED LIQUID NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in 2014, the Department of Energy announced plans to import highly enriched liquid nuclear waste into the country via the busiest northern border crossing and through a major metropolitan area.

This route was approved 20 years ago, pursuant to a pre-9/11 analysis, and for