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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 21, 2013, at 11:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

The people's House gathers today and celebrates in its gathering the wonder of our constitutional form of government. Our Nation has once again achieved something so often lacking in our world's history: the peaceful transition of democratic government.

Though major change of party in control did not take place, it is still the American experience that our streets are peaceful, and winners and losers of elections move on with their lives in dignity.

We thank You again for the inspiration of our Nation's Founders and the legacy they left us with. May the Members of this assembly, and all Americans, be worthy of that legacy.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WALBERG 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 1-minute speeches at a later time today.

READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a) of House Resolution 5, the Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for the reading of the Constitution.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, for only the second time in the history of the House of Representatives, we will read aloud the full text of the Constitution of the United States.

We hope this reading will inspire many more Americans to read the Constitution. We also hope that this reading will help demonstrate to the American people that the House of Representatives is dedicated to the Constitution and the system it establishes for limited government and the protection of individual liberty.

The text we are reading today reflects the changes to the document

made by the 27 amendments to it. Those portions superseded by amendment will not be read.

In order to ensure fairness to all those interested in participating, we have asked Members to line up to be recognized on a first-come, first-served basis. I will recognize Members based on this guidance. Each Member will approach the podium and read the passage laid out for him or her.

In order to ensure relative parity and fairness, I may recognize Members out of order to ensure bipartisanship and balance. Additionally, because of his long-term leadership on civil rights issues, I will recognize Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia out of order to read the Thirteenth Amendment.

I thank the Members of both parties in advance for their participation in this historic event, and I will begin this historic reading by reading the preamble to the Constitution:

"We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ENYART).

Mr. ENYART. Article I, section 1:

"All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

☐ 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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