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No. 18

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013

The House met at 9 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, thank You for giving us another day.

As the Democratic Caucus leaves for its retreat, bless each Member with skills and the vision to fashion pathways to bringing about what is needed for the benefit of our Nation.

Bless the Republican Conference, which remains at the Capitol, with the same gifts, consistent with their own defining skills and vision.

In Your wisdom, bless both parties with the grace that is needed to work together to benefit our people. May we all be faithful stewards of the Nation bequeathed to us by our American ancestors.

Please keep all who work for the people's House in good health, that they may faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

Bless us this day and every day. 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 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 up to five requests for 1-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WALBERG. Hardworking taxpayers in Michigan and across the country live within their means in large part because they create responsible budgets. It's only natural that they expect the same from their government. A balanced budget is important to those of us who want to protect and save Medicare and Social Security. It's also important to the young workers and families who cannot afford to see their taxes go up. Unfortunately, the Senate and President have repeatedly failed at this basic duty.

Last year, the President sent Congress a budget that never balanced, while the Senate hadn't the courage to even produce a budget in nearly 4

years. However, since the American people entrusted the Republicans with the majority in the House, my colleagues and I have twice passed a responsible budget to address our mounting debt and promote a healthy economy.

Today, we'll also pass the Require a PLAN Act, which would obligate the President to submit a budget that balances within 10 years, or provide a supplemental budget plan identifying when the Federal budget would balance.

We believe there is a better way to tackle our Nation's debt than higher taxes and the President's sequester. Together we can produce solutions that get our debt crisis under control. Our neighbors and our families deserve our best effort.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, February 7, is the 13th National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

We represent 14 percent of the 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, and account for 44 percent of all new infections. My district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, carries a disproportionate burden of this disease.

From 2001 to 2005, the incidence of HIV infection in the territory increased by 19.4 percent, and has increased every year since 1998. In 2008,

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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