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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.,

February 15, 2013

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF FORTENBERRY 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: God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

Quicken our spirits so that we will know the blessings of living together in unity and peace. We have our personal aspirations and ideas of what is best. Grant that we might know the satisfaction of sharing our common concerns and experiencing the joy of mutual accomplishment.

Bless the Members of the people's House with success in bringing fruition to all efforts to work toward common solutions to the issues facing our Nation, solutions which seem so distant in these days.

During the days of the coming week, may the American people be able to communicate their hopes for the efforts of their Congress men and women. May they understand as well that a unified Nation is equally the work of each of us where we live.

May all that is done this day 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT 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.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I had a career in the military with a combined 21 years between the United States Army, the Army Reserve, the United States Marine Corps, and the Marine Corps Reserve.

During the course of my military career, I met so many extraordinary young men and women who served our country in uniform and who made tremendous sacrifices in defense of our freedom. I strongly believe that the highest expression of citizenship in America is exemplified by those who serve in our Armed Forces.

In my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, I've recently met young people who grew up in Aurora, went to school in our community, and know of no

other country than America. Some of them want to join the military, but because of their immigration status, they cannot.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that they should be allowed to join and given an opportunity to earn their citizenship by serving our country, their country, in the military.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in advance of the Forward on Climate Rally this Sunday here in Washington, D.C., to support the thousands of people en route to this town right now and to urge this Congress to keep environmental issues among our top priorities.

As President Obama stressed in his State of the Union address earlier this week, there is an undeniable trend of warmer climates and a rise in the frequency of natural disasters which cause devastation across this Nation.

We are headed in the wrong direction, and we need serious action to protect our planet. We can fight global warming while still growing our economy. We can do it by investing in clean, renewable resources like wind and solar with equipment produced right here in the United States of America.

By dealing seriously with environmental issues, we can boost our economy, decrease our reliance on foreign oil, and leave a better world for our children. These should be our top priorities as Members of Congress, as citizens, and as parents, and it is time these issues receive the attention that they deserve.

□ 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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