

in its current divided condition Congress cannot do so alone. Ultimately, it will require the active assistance of the rightful owners of the Constitution, the American people.

How ironic it would be if the liberties of this Nation, heroically defended by the sacrifices of nine generations of Americans on far-off battlefields, might someday be carelessly thrown away here at home.

Let that not be said of our generation. Let it be said instead that just when our Constitution seemed most in peril, this generation rose up, insisted on absolute fidelity to the Constitution by those it elected, and then went on to revive, restore, and preserve that Constitution for the many generations of Americans who followed.

#### 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 8 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: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

Give them the generosity of heart and the courage of true leadership to work toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

As true statesmen and -women, may they find the fortitude to make judgments to benefit all Americans in their time of need.

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 gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS 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.

#### MARY COTHRAN: AN ADVOCATE

(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, the President has broken multiple promises to the American people. Constituents living in South Carolina's Second Congressional District have lost their coverage and access to doctors because of the President's health care takeover, which destroys jobs. And now citizens are seeing massive premium increases.

James from Lexington says:

My son got a letter from his employer informing him that his health insurance would increase \$179 per month, 52 percent more than he is presently paying. He is a plumber and his wife works as a home health aide. Now their dream of home ownership is highly unlikely.

Mary Cothran of Williston was tireless promoting limited government and advocating alternatives to ObamaCare. Congress should work together to replace it with reforms such as those introduced by Congressman Dr. TOM PRICE which have been ignored by the media, which is failing to fulfill its First Amendment opportunities.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### WE NEED A PRO-BUSINESS POLICY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last month the President and CEO of FedEx Freight spoke at a conference for the National Industrial Transportation League. He warned that our Nation's roads, highways, and bridges weren't equipped to handle current or future needs.

The American Society of Civil Engineers reports that there are 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in this country—meaning that every second of every day, seven cars are driving over a bridge that is structurally deficient—and that \$3.6 trillion will be needed by 2020 to address our aging infrastructure. Despite this, the most recent transportation bill passed by Congress spends a pathetically weak \$52 billion a year on infrastructure.

Companies like FedEx understand the long-term benefits of efficient transportation of people and goods. The United States Chamber of Commerce estimates that we will experi-

ence \$336 billion in lost growth over the next 5 years due to inadequate infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to understand that a robust infrastructure investment not only creates jobs but promotes pro-business policies that sustain and produce economic growth.

#### WHEN WILL THE DEMOCRATS START LISTENING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the American people work hard, and they have got a right to expect their elected Representatives to do the same. House Republicans are listening. To date, the House has passed nearly 150 bills this Congress that the United States Senate has failed to act on. Many of them would help our economy and boost job creation.

Nearly 150 bills passed by this House have yet to be acted on by the Senate. These bills would do things like increase the supply of American energy and build the Keystone pipeline, roll back red tape and unnecessary regulations, provide for flexibility to working families, reform and improve job training programs, protect Americans from cyberattacks, help schools to recruit and keep the best teachers, delay the individual mandate and allow the American people to keep the health care plans that they would like, or to scrap the health care law that is wreaking havoc on our economy. Every single one of these bills has been blocked by Washington Democrats. The Senate and the President continue to stand in the way of the people's priorities.

Now we are trying to come to an agreement on the budget and on the farm bill, amongst other issues that are in conference. Chairman RYAN and Chairman LUCAS have made serious good faith efforts to Senate Democrats. When will they learn to say "yes" to common ground? When will they start listening to the American people?

#### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOURO SYNAGOGUE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, the oldest synagogue in America. Dedicated in 1763, the Touro Synagogue has been a monument to the history of religious tolerance in Rhode Island and the legacy of religious freedom in America.

Before construction even began, the design of the building was conceived as a balance between European architecture and traditional Jewish worship. This synagogue became a symbol of the freedom to worship in peace widely

promoted across our new Nation in the 17th century and championed by Roger Williams.

In 1790, in a letter reassuring the members of the Hebrew congregation of their right to the free exercise of religion, George Washington famously declared the values of our Nation at its start, pledging that the United States would give “to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.”

This weekend, it was my honor to attend the rededication of the Touro Synagogue, which remains a testament to the enduring freedoms of our Nation and the tradition of religious freedom that began in my home State and that is now deeply embedded in the American experience.

#### IRAN

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, during critical negotiations in Geneva about Tehran’s nuclear program, Iran’s supreme leader tweeted this disturbing statement: “Israel is the sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.” That same day, he added, The United States and Israel are a “threat to the world” and “enemies” that “should be resisted.”

This is the Iranian regime we are dealing with. They have ignored diplomatic efforts for years, and they cannot be trusted. An interim deal might seem like good news, but it does not make our Nation or our allies in the Middle East safer, especially when Iran claims the agreement is a victory over the great aggressor—the West.

This rhetoric leaves me skeptical that any progress has been made, and I encourage our leaders and international partners to take the necessary measures to halt Iran’s nuclear program, not only for our own security, but that of our allies and democracies around the world.

#### EQUALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a historic week. On Sunday, we celebrated Rosa Parks Day; Thursday, we observed the start of the Montgomery bus boycott; and Friday, we commemorate the 148th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery.

As we reflect on these historic events, we see how far our Nation has come in advancing equality for all Americans. However, recent actions like the Supreme Court’s decision to gut the Voting Rights Act remind us that we have much more work ahead.

Although I dream of a day that the Voting Rights Act is unnecessary, the truth is that voter discrimination and suppression live on today as ugly leg-

acies of our past. In the past few years, many States have introduced legislation that would restrict access to a voting booth. These discriminatory actions prove that the protections in the Voting Rights Act are still necessities in our world today.

So this week, as we remember the struggles and sacrifices made to ensure basic rights for all Americans, I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to ensure that no American is denied their right to vote.

#### SAGE GROUSE

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, the proposed Endangered Species Act for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and the Greater Sage-Grouse will impact millions of acres in Colorado and hinder existing conservation efforts. It will put private lands off-limits to most use and development, including agricultural production, without providing any compensation. It will kill jobs, devastate communities, and disrupt effective species preservation efforts currently under way. It won’t, however, more effectively preserve the grass.

In my district, plans at the local level are under way to effectively preserve the species. Because they take into account the unique geography and environment of the region, these efforts are seeing success.

Interior Department bureaucrats have yet to provide measurable species preservation goals so that State and local officials can meet them. Local conservation efforts are all too often disrupted by Federal attempts to implement blanket plans. One-size-fits-all plans create endless litigation that ties up resources that could be used for preservation.

If the true goal is species preservation, then I hope Secretary Jewell will come to Colorado and see firsthand the effective work being done to preserve the sage grouse and provide measurable species preservation laws.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEE SIMEL, M.D.

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding doctor, loving father, and exceptional North Carolinian, Dr. David Lee Simel of Durham.

Dr. Simel was raised in Greensboro before attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation, he completed medical school and an internal medicine residency at Duke University. He is now a professor of medicine and vice chair for veterans affairs at Duke. And he has dedicated himself wholly to our vet-

erans, serving them across our great State of North Carolina.

The influential book of which he was coauthor, “The Rational Clinical Exam,” is a comprehensive guide for patient exams and has become a powerful reference tool for those in the field of medicine.

Dr. Simel’s enduring commitment to his family, his students, his patients, and to our veterans make him an exemplary citizen. His passion for medicine and improving the health of others will continue to benefit our veterans and North Carolinians for years to come.

Indeed, we should honor those who serve our veterans and set an example, like Dr. Simel has done. And we also honor him for his intelligence, compassion, and selfless dedication. We pray that he and his family will receive God’s richest blessings, and we are thankful for role models like Dr. Simel, who serves those who served our country.

#### FARMINGTON: MINNESOTA’S FIRST YELLOW RIBBON CITY

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farmington’s commitment to our veterans and the community’s 5-year anniversary of being named Minnesota’s first Yellow Ribbon City.

When I first championed legislation to make the Minnesota National Guard’s invaluable Yellow Ribbon reintegration program available nationwide, one of the pillars of this initiative was to increase awareness among communities and local organizations to improve relationships between veterans and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Farmington understand the important role a community plays in the successful reintegration of our troops returning home. Farmington built a model Yellow Ribbon organization centered around relationships with neighbors, veterans organizations, and local, State, and Federal leaders. Farmington rallied around the needs of area veterans and their families by hosting monthly dinners for veterans and holiday cookie walks. You can’t beat that.

As their Yellow Ribbon organization grew and their efforts expanded, they recognized success and shared those best practices with other inspired communities, leaving their Yellow Ribbon fingerprint across the great State of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today not simply to recognize Farmington on this 5-year anniversary, but to thank the entire community for being a Yellow Ribbon trailblazer and for demonstrating their continued commitment to our servicemembers, veterans, and their families. As the Farmington Yellow Ribbon honors our sons and daughters in uniform,