

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Holy and compassionate God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As they return from their constituent visits, bless the Members of the people's House. Amid so many political pushes and pulls, give them perseverance and wisdom to address those most pressing needs for the benefit of our Nation.

In the aftermath of severe storms, bless those recovering from floods and storms this past week, and bless those emergency workers who have placed themselves in danger's path in service to their brothers and sisters in need.

May we all be inspired by their heroic example and moved to step forward in those times when we might be called upon as well.

May all that is done today 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 Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ADMINISTRATION'S ROLE IN
RUSSIAN RISE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today, I note with great concern the divisive involvement of Russian forces in Syria. Due to the failure of this administration to articulate a strategy, Russia has now stepped in to conduct its own strategy, including airstrikes.

United States adversaries have picked up on the administration's lack of a well-articulated strategy in Syria. Sources say that Russian forces are launching deliberate airstrikes on Syrian groups backed by the CIA. While conducting these contentious attacks, Russia has violated Turkish airspace.

NATO has warned President Putin to halt the airstrikes, but where is President Obama with his warnings? If sources are accurate, the administration has abandoned CIA-backed fighters. President Obama is fearful of taking the necessary steps. But given his failings in the region, is anyone surprised by Russia's actions?

This unrest contributes to the growing refugee crisis, putting a strain on our own country and others to manage the influx of refugees fleeing the turmoil that this administration has helped to create.

As warned in Proverbs 28:19, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

REPUBLICANS' CALENDAR OF
CHAOS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, last week 151 Republicans, a majority of the Republicans in Congress, voted to shut down the Federal Government. This week, another entry into this calendar of chaos and dysfunction. We are coming up on several crucial deadlines, and so far the Republican leadership in Congress has presented no clear plan, no path forward.

As we approach another debt limit, there are questions as to whether the United States Government will default on its obligations. There is another highway funding expiration, another government funding deadline of December 11, and lack of the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which is costing the United States jobs—thousands of jobs.

The American people are frustrated, and rightfully so.

We may not agree on this floor, we may not agree with the majority, but there is no excuse for not getting your job done. That is what I hear from the people back home, from the American people, a simple question: Why can't Congress just do its work, just do its job?

We stand ready to work with Republicans. We need a willing partner. There is a lot of work to do for the American people. Let's get down to business.

SYRIAN REFUGEES AND THE OF-
FICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLE-
MENT

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, recently Secretary Kerry pledged that the United States would accept 185,000 refugees from the war-torn Syrian area. This would be over 2 years.

America has been a generous, welcoming country; but I have to tell you, while we have compassion for these refugees, Secretary Kerry's pledge leaves us with some grave concerns.

The first is security. How can we verify these refugees do not present a threat to our national security? Syria has proven to be a fertile recruiting ground for Islamic extremists and terrorists.

Second, the Office of Refugee Resettlement has not been transparent and accountable enough to handle the transfers. Over the past year, I have been investigating ORR and found that they have not been filing annual reports on their activities as required by law. In addition, there is evidence of widespread abuse of refugees, including children, who are improperly handled by the ORR. In many instances, a failure to refer the abuse to the FBI has allowed child abusers to walk free.

The curtain must be pulled back completely on the ORR's operations before we can trust it with a responsibility as serious as settling Syrian refugees in the U.S. We must find the delicate balance and protect our safety and security.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT
AMENDING THE AGREEMENT ON
SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC—
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 114-64)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Supplementary Agreement Amending the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic (the "Supplementary Agreement"). The Supplementary Agreement, signed at Prague on September 23, 2013, is intended to modify a certain provision of the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Czech Republic, with Administrative Arrangement, signed at Prague on September 7, 2007, and entered into force January 1, 2009 (the "U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement").

The U.S.-Czech Social Security Agreement as amended by the Supplementary Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, and the Republic of Korea. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit