

think about home. You think about mom and dad, your parents, your family. You think about goodness.

But then aside from that emotion, you think idealistically, like your brother. You think about the sacrifices. You think about the bravery and the freedom that men and women, generation after generation, have put forth to defend this great land of ours, and it is proper the U.S. Congress would take a moment today and say the Pledge of Allegiance one more time towards the end of the afternoon just so we can reaffirm that, and it is also proper that we recognize Flag Day on a bipartisan basis, because every now then and then we do get out of focus. We do start pounding one body or one party or one philosophy. We should always come back to that flag. That symbol of freedom is why we are here.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I think your point is so important and so good.

We do have the greatest Nation on Earth, and we get in our little squabbles, and we look for ways to try to improve it. Both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, feel very strongly that they want to make the best future possible for the kids. Sometimes we have a difference in philosophy on how to get there, but we have a great country, and the flag of the United States of America is something we all feel very closely to.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I thank you so very much for the entire to make this bipartisan salute, and because it is Flag Day, I think it is more than appropriate to simply say how special it is, as many of our young children begin kindergarten, sometimes earlier, they learn for the first time, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America," and how special it is for them to come and share with their family members that they know the words.

So it is appropriate that we make this a bipartisan salute.

I thank the gentleman for raising it. I think it is most appropriate that we do so in the U.S. Congress because the American people look to us to lead and to emphasize the high ground. So I congratulate you, but, more importantly, I congratulate the American people and salute the flag of United States of America.

Mr. KINGSTON. It is fitting we do that. I am a native of Texas, and as you know, Texas has a very rich history in that Texas was one of the States that was actually a country at one time, and one of the great chapters of Texas history was the Battle of the Alamo and the great cry for the men who were being surrounded by Santa Ana's troops at the Alamo was for Americans to come rescue them, which, when Sam Houston's folks did come, many, many American soldiers had volunteered for

that cause of Texas freedom and sovereignty.

There, again, the good old American flag pulls through.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, it always has represented the hope, the glory, the promise and the freedom.

#### HOW AMERICA WILL WIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania.] Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to share in the salute to our flag, and my remarks now, I think, are really in line with what America is all about.

I looked at a startling figure this afternoon, and that was to determine that more than 14 million families in America make less than \$10,000.

Many of us, of course, have risen to speak on behalf of business development and enhanced opportunities for our corporations so that jobs can be created, but simply think about someone who is making only \$10,000, a hard-working family, some of whom have children and trying to survive in this country.

I would ask the question to my Republican colleagues, "Why are we here?" We certainly have not come here to be whiners and to complain about who has the better offering when it comes to budget and deficit reduction. I think the president of the United States did what was his responsibility. I reviewed the budgets that were on the table, including his previous submitted budget. He recognized there were 14 million citizens who were making under \$10,000 and were suffering in this economy, and he began to draft a budget that responds to the bipartisan approach that is needed.

First of all, I think it should be noted that the deficit has gone down in the last year and 2 years. Second, I think it is well to recognize that the budget that was passed by this House, and I disagree with, was a very hard budget. It was a budget that was extreme, and the President now offers us an opportunity for reasoned and bipartisan debate, one we focus on education. It gives people the opportunity in the 21st century.

Second, I think it gives us a longer period of time to in a rational way stem the tide of a possible recession, to extend budget deficit reduction and a balanced budget to a 10-year mark. It preserves certain funding for certain programs that create jobs, and likewise it does not give a tax cut to unwilling Americans, meaning those who have said "I don't need a tax cut; I'm making over \$200,000 a year," but it does recognize the need to respond to working men and women and provide them with a tax break.

It is important, now that we have several budgets on the table, that we

be concerned about Medicare and we do not make the deep and dividing cuts that would damage some of the needs of seniors who have to make determinations to either buy prescription drugs or to eat. The President looks at this in a manner that is focused, is not mean spirited and answers the needs of all Americans.

I hope some day we will face a country that has all of our American citizens working at their fullest extent, that sees our 14 million citizens, families that are making under \$10,000 make some than that, that they are able to enjoy life, vacation, have a home, send their children to college. But we will not get to that point unless we recognize that a budget must respond to the needs of all of us.

Education is the key. It breaks us out of the shackles of our under-opportunity to more opportunity.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important not to be whiners. I think it is important to come and do the job that we have been asked to do, review the President's budget, review the budget that was passed out of the House, the Senate budget, avoid a crisis in October so that this Government is not shut down, begin to respond to the needs of those who asked us to open the doors of educational opportunity in elementary, secondary and higher education, not focus on the privileged few with major tax breaks and tax cuts, but focus on deficit reduction in a reasoned manner, and do not disrespect all of the good work that our seniors have done by making them make the choices between prescription drugs and simply eating, and do a reasoned reform of health care so that our seniors can be protected with a reasoned Medicare program, and those who are indigent, with a reasoned Medicaid program, and begin this debate not from a point of who gets the political brownie points, but in fact how will America win.

I think America wins when we sit down and discuss a budget that is fair and even-handed. I think the President has offered us an opportunity for that reasoned debate, and, Mr. Speaker, I would hope, as many of my colleagues, Republicans, have noted, and many Democrats have noted, that we will take the opportunity and the challenge and will work on behalf of the American people.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FIELDS of Texas (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mrs. MYRICK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today until 3:15 p.m., on account of family illness.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of illness.