

to be a model for America and eventually the world, a model for leadership, for community-based solutions, and for intervention. We got to work right away, working with many of my colleagues, Congressman WAXMAN in the lead on our Banking Committee; Congressmen McDERMOTT, SCHUMER and FRANK working on our Housing Opportunities With People With Aids; Congresswoman, now Senator, BOXER, again, working with Congressman WAXMAN creating the Ryan White CARE Act to provide health care and support services for people with HIV and AIDS.

Just as this was all going on, at the very beginning of my tenure in Congress, I measure things that way, a gentleman named Cleve Jones from San Francisco came to me and said we want to have a press conference at your home to announce something called the Names Project. What that would be is that people would make a patch for a giant quilt in honor of a friend, a family member, a loved one who had died of AIDS.

I, being the mother of five and taught to sew in my Catholic school upbringing, said, Sew? Nobody's going to sew. Nobody sews anymore. I have four daughters and one son. I don't sew and I know how to sew. But I was wrong and he was right. And what started that day as us taking a few stitches with then-mayor of San Francisco Art Agnos and Cleve Jones turned into this giant Names Project that has been displayed on the Mall here in Washington. It is indeed a wonder of the world.

Sadly, though, as the quilt grew, so did the recognition of the many lives that were taken or lost from HIV and AIDS.

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Next in San Francisco, we created the AIDS Memorial Grove and then designated a national memorial to the thousands of Americans who have died of AIDS. It was really a remarkable thing in our city of San Francisco. Although the numbers were staggering, every diagnosis was an individual one and a personal one, and we had to measure the success of what we were doing as to what it meant to the lives of each person infected with HIV or to the next stage of AIDS.

We recognized that if we were going to have an appropriate response to AIDS, that it had to be international, and thus was started by Paul Boneberg, a person in San Francisco, The International Mobilization Against AIDS. This was many years ago.

Fast forward to now. This year, we have an essential responsibility to continue these efforts by reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act and then supporting what works by making serious investments in it.

Twenty-five years ago when we heard about the symptoms that would become known as AIDS, and 19 years ago when I first came to Congress, I never thought that we would be standing

here today without a cure. Five years from now, on the 30th anniversary, I pray that we can say that AIDS is a terrible, terrible memory; that we have prevented deaths, ended the epidemic, and found a cure. This is especially true not only in our country but throughout the world where many children are affected by the deaths of their parents, being orphaned, and by their own infections as well.

With a group of my colleagues, I visited South Africa and other countries in Africa, but particularly in South Africa we visited the AIDS clinic and saw the important work that was being done there on that continent. It is taking a terrible toll in terms of lives and hopes and dreams and aspirations. I hope that we will soon be able to say that AIDS taught us how to love each other more but that we will never see it again.

Again, I call to the attention of my colleagues the 25th anniversary of the first diagnosis of AIDS, and hope that a cure will be right around the corner.

#### TAX CUTS PROVIDE BOOST TO ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we address our agenda as Republicans, and what we have done as a majority in this House. We have controlled both the House, the Senate, and the White House.

Mr. Speaker, the American people and my constituents, in particular, have been asking, what have you done? What have you achieved for us? And I want to tell you tonight the center of what we have achieved as Republicans, Mr. Speaker, is an economic growth that has been unrivaled in our Nation's history, and at the center of that economic growth are tax cuts. Those tax cuts have fueled our economic recovery over the last 6 years.

Mr. Speaker, Republican tax cuts have made an enormous difference. And let us talk about this. One hundred eleven million American taxpayers have seen their taxes decline by an average of \$1,877, and for the average family that is real money. Here in Washington, D.C. they spend that in a minute, but at home in my district, in Cherryville, North Carolina, that is real money. That is real money for an American family, a family in Cherryville or in Hickory or in Morrisville, to spend on textbooks, clothes, maybe even a vacation, Mr. Speaker. That has fueled our economic recovery, the fact that the American people have more in their own pocket now than they did 6 years ago.

I will also say that a family of four earning \$40,000 received a tax relief because of President Bush's tax cuts and Republican leadership in the House, they have received a tax cut of \$2,010

per year, Mr. Speaker. That is for a family of four making \$40,000 a year. That is a wonderful, wonderful thing that we have allowed the American people to keep more of what they earned.

Well, what we are trying to do now, what this Republican Congress is trying to do with the help of our President is not only extend the tax cuts, which I am very proud that we were able to enact just a few weeks ago; we extended the President's tax cuts for 2 more years, but to make it permanent. And what would making those tax cuts permanent do for the American people? Well, in my State of North Carolina, between now and 2014 we would produce 22,000 new jobs because of extending and making permanent the President's tax cuts.

Our annual GDP would grow by over \$111 billion higher, after inflation, if we make the President's tax cuts permanent. Personal savings will grow by \$163 billion per year on average over the next decade if we make the President's tax cuts permanent. And personal income will grow in the State of North Carolina on average by \$4,000 a year. Disposable income, that is, Mr. Speaker. And beyond that, we are going to see the economy continue to grow if we are able to extend these tax cuts, and a strong economy will spread prosperity more evenly throughout our economy, and that is very important. The American people having more money in their pocket is a very vital thing. That is a very vital thing.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been four square against this. Why? They think of government solutions as the only alternative, Mr. Speaker. And I would say that it is important that we come together as a body and say that reducing the size and scope of government is a good thing. Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have stood in the way of progress in terms of tax cuts. Most of them, a majority, have opposed tax cuts here on this House floor, not just for the last 5 or 6 years during the President's term, but over the course of the Republican majority for the last 12 years. Why Mr. Speaker? Because they want more revenue for government. They want government to expand.

Beyond that, Republicans have worked very hard at growing this economy in other ways. Not only have we cut taxes which has led to greater economic growth, but we are trying to increase the supply of oil, gasoline, and natural gas for all Americans, and look at alternative energies. And the Democrats have stood in our way in terms of energy policies as well. And I would encourage them to join with the Republican majority and do what is right, expand our energy supply and continue to cut taxes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.