

gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CHARGING WOUNDED VETERANS FOR TREATMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, can you believe that President Obama wants to start charging wounded veterans for their treatment?

Our first Commander-in-Chief, George Washington, once said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

Taking care of those who have sacrificed for our Nation is, I believe, our sacred duty. It is a national promise that goes back to Presidents Washington and Lincoln. President Obama actually acknowledged this during his campaign when, on the floor of the Senate on April 10, 2007, he said these are soldiers who fought in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq. They made a commitment to their country when they chose to serve, and we must now keep our commitment to them.

I could not agree more with those words. But in the meantime, as we all know, he was elected. Yesterday, we learned that President Obama plans to move ahead, despite what he said on the floor of the Senate, and start to charge veterans private insurance for the treatment of combat-related injuries.

Let no one be mistaken that the President's plan breaches the moral responsibility the Commander-in-Chief owes to veterans wounded on the field of battle. It is a breach of our national promise, and we should not let this stand. The proposal is outrageous and beyond belief. The men and women he proposes to charge are those injured on the field of combat. These are people who sacrifice not only their sweat and tears, but their flesh and blood so the American dream can be protected.

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Mr. Speaker, what must the average American think? Just recently, the criminals at AIG received hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses paid by the taxpayers. Is the President now seriously considering balancing a \$1.7 trillion deficit on the backs of veterans? To do so would be a great insult to anyone who ever wore the uniform of this great country.

LEADING THIS COUNTRY OUT OF THE ABYSS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to read that President Bush made his first address since he left the Office of President yesterday in Canada. President Bush said that he loved his country more than he loved his party, and he wished President Obama success. I thought that was really telling. President Bush, while I differed with him on many policies and many of his initiatives, I always felt he was a good and decent person. And I think what he said showed that in many ways he is.

I wish that the people on the other side of the aisle, rather than coming here and constantly bringing up false information about our current President, wishing him ill will—which of course Rush Limbaugh has done, the leader of the other side, and others, like former Vice President Cheney, who came out for television on Saturday and had some statements that were very inappropriate for a former Vice President to make this quickly after he has left office. There is a certain time when Presidents and Vice Presidents should go back to their private lives, maybe practice shooting, and learning how to shoot in a proper direction and not jeopardize their friends, and do other things, but not necessarily take shots at the new President of the United States and not claim that the American public is less safe, which is not in any way true. As my colleague here from Kentucky has well spoke in a 5 minute recently, the other side of the story and the full side of the story showed history that we are safer.

But the bottom line is, President Bush said he wished our country well, his country came before party. And it gets tiring to be here and hear the other side take shots and shots and shots and hoping they can win in 2012 and take back this House in 2010 rather than working for the American public and the American government.

We are at a very critical time, caused by years of lack of regulation and deficit spending, wars that we didn't need to be into, loss of life and monies, and lack of regulation that Mr. Paulson was responsible for in giving AIG this money, and in many other ways, without regulations and restrictions on benefits. And President Obama has had to deal with that.

I support our President. And I am proud to be a Member of this Congress trying to lead this country out of the abyss of which it seemed to be heading at the end of this last term.

I am also proud to join in a few minutes with my fellow sophomore Majority Makers, Mr. KLEIN of Florida and Mr. YARMUTH of Kentucky. We're called the Majority Makers because we did take this Congress in 2006 back, but

it was after 12 years of Republican control in the House and Senate, 1994 to 2006, and a Republican administration that caused the deficit problems, caused the budget problems, caused the economic crisis. We plan to bring it out.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. TAYLOR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. ROONEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)