

In this remote area many times cell phones do not work. So, today I am filing legislation that is the idea of Ms. GIFFORDS. This bill is in memory of Robert Krentz, the Arizona rancher who was murdered by an illegal on his own property one year ago. Mr. Krentz is a former rancher whose family still lives in Arizona. News reports indicate Mr. Krentz was in a cell phone "dead zone" when he was murdered, and this bill will provide people in remote areas on the dangerous border area with cell phone service to call for help.

If the Federal Government is going to refuse to protect its citizens, the least it can do is allow the people the resources to protect themselves.

And that's just the way it is.

THE OBAMA ENERGY PLAN

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, President Obama yesterday outlined four areas to curb foreign oil dependence: domestic production, natural gas vehicles, car fuel efficiency, and better use of biofuels. He could have added a fifth element, his administration's own Sustainable Communities Partnership between EPA, the Department of Transportation and HUD that has helped communities large and small provide families transportation and housing choices which conserve oil without sacrificing economic growth. This combination of smart transportation alternatives, land use and design keeps communities resilient and reduces the impact of high gas prices.

With only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, America will never drill its way to energy independence as long as we continue to consume more than 20 percent of the world's oil. The only real way to gain independence from oil price shocks is to give families independence from oil.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER S. MEIS, USMC

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes from Colorado who have fought and continue to fight the global war on terror. Today, I pay tribute to one hero in particular, Marine Lance Corporal Christopher Steele Meis.

Lance Corporal Meis of Bennett, Colorado, enlisted in the Marine Corps following his graduation from Bennett High School. He was deployed in January 2011 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and served with his brothers of Second Battalion, Eighth Marines, at the tip of the spear in Helmand province. On March 17, his unit came under fire and he gave his life fighting the Taliban.

Steele comes from a family with a long tradition of military service to

our Nation. He was proud to be an American and from an early age he wanted to serve his country as a Marine. He chose to become a Marine because, in his words, "they are the best." He had the reputation of a stand-up guy who loved his family and his country. Like a good Marine, he was also known to be the man up front, the man leading the way.

Lance Corporal Christopher Steele Meis is a shining example of the United States Marine Corps' service and sacrifice. As a Marine Corps combat veteran, my deepest sympathies go out to his family, his fellow Marines, and to all who knew him.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, article I, section 7.2 of the Constitution says that both Houses, this House and the Senate, must pass a bill identical and the President must sign it before it becomes a law.

Now, wait. The Republicans have a bill, we are going to take it up tomorrow, H.R. 1255, that deems that a bill that only has passed the House of Representatives, H.R. 1, has become law. Now, what happened to the fact that we were going to have to prove the constitutionality of every bill that came before the House? This blatantly violates the Constitution.

I was totally outraged, outraged, when I saw this. But then I realized, guess what? What is tomorrow? April Fool's Day. Hey, guys, you got me. Congratulations. Happy April Fool's Day. What are we really going to be doing tomorrow?

CONGRATULATING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON PATRIOTS

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the George Washington Patriots for winning the West Virginia Class AAA boys basketball championship. The third-seeded Patriots defeated top-seeded Wheeling Park 55-54 to take home the State title. This was a special win for Coach Rick Greene, as he was part of the team that gave the school its first basketball championship 40 years ago.

In a close, intense game, the two teams battled to the end. In the final seconds, George Washington was leading 55-52 when Wheeling Park hit what looked to be a three-pointer. However, a review of the shot showed that it was only a two-pointer and George Washington won. Quite a finish.

Having two boys who grew up playing basketball in West Virginia for Coach Greene, I have seen both the faces of elation and anguish. A game as competitive and well-fought as this shows

the heart and dedication these young men and their coaches put in all season to get to this game. I want to congratulate both teams for tremendous seasons and for giving us such a memorable game.

Congrats to Gee-Dub.

CONGRATULATING COACH BOB HURLEY, JR.

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Bob Hurley of Jersey City, New Jersey. Some may know Coach Hurley as the third high school career basketball coach to be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Some may know that despite limited resources and no gym facility at St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, New Jersey, he recently led St. Anthony High School's basketball team to their 24th State championship and fourth national title, and has led the team to over 1,000 wins.

However, the more important numbers are those that show the impact he has had on his players. In his nearly 40-year career, only two of his players have not attended college, and of those graduates, over 200 young men have continued to play basketball and 150 have received college scholarships.

Coach Hurley sees the potential in his players, even when they don't see it themselves. He is an inspiration to young men, a true role model, and a father figure to many.

I congratulate Coach Hurley, his players, and St. Anthony High School on their recent national title and wish them well and much success in the future.

□ 1220

ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE FUNDING

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will consider the fate of crucial funding for commercial flights to and from airports in Morgantown, Clarksburg, and Parkersburg in my home State of West Virginia. West Virginia is a rural State without major population centers, and its employers need and deserve an adequate transportation infrastructure. Access to air transportation is essential to achieving economic growth. The I-79 corridor, for instance, has a large presence of Federal, defense, and high-tech workers, in part because of daily flights to and from Washington, D.C. North Central West Virginia Airport in Bridgeport accounted for 2,372 jobs and \$395 million in economic impact in 2008.

Cutting spending is necessary to bring down the deficit and create certainty for job creators. But our local airports are part of what provides certainty for area businesses. Let's make

this airport funding program more efficient by throwing out what is wasteful but keeping what works.

RECOGNIZING MARIA T. SOLIS-MARTINEZ

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to recognize an amazing woman, a woman from the city of Anaheim in my district, Mrs. Maria T. Solis-Martinez, in honor of Women's History Month. Mrs. Solis-Martinez is a retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant who served during the Vietnam era from 1960 to 1967. In 1974, she joined the California Air National Guard and continued her commitment to serving our country in the 261st and the 222nd Combat Communications Squadrons.

I'm truly proud to have such an extraordinary woman in my hometown. She is a mentor and a friend, and she's always working for the community. For over 10 years, she has been an active member sponsor of the Latino Advocates for Education, Inc., an organization that brings awareness and recognition to the contributions of Latino military veterans in all the wars fought by the United States. She continues to devote endless hours volunteering with the Girl Scouts Council of Orange County, North Orange County YWCA Youth Employment Service, and so many other organizations, mentoring young girls to become talented, distinguished women.

As we honor Women's History Month and Women in the Military History Week, I proudly recognize Mrs. Maria Solis-Martinez for her incredible leadership and for being such a great role model.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to object once again to the majority's misplaced priorities during these difficult times for American families. As a result of the financial crisis in 2008, more than 7 million Americans lost their jobs, and more than 9 million Americans have faced foreclosure. In my small State of Delaware, 6,000 people filed for foreclosure last year, which is three times the norm. As Lieutenant Governor, I chaired a foreclosure prevention task force in Delaware. We learned that the best way to help homeowners was through a combination of private and public sector efforts.

It's just unbelievable to me that this House voted to end foreclosure prevention programs which for thousands of families are the last chance to keep their homes. Let's remember that we are still recovering from the worst fi-

ancial crisis since the Great Depression, and the housing market is still floundering. Allowing more families to lose their homes just makes things worse. So this debate is not just about helping individual families, as important as that is. It's also about strengthening the economic recovery now underway.

RECKLESS SPENDING PROPOSALS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to continue to focus on creating jobs and the economic recovery. I am very concerned with the reckless GOP spending proposal that will slash jobs all across the United States of America, and I want to give two examples that were highlighted by my local Urban League that visited Washington yesterday from Pinellas County, or St. Petersburg, Florida.

They said the Republican spending proposal will actually cut 9,100 teachers, teachers' aides, and education jobs if it goes into effect. I think that's wrong. We shouldn't be slashing jobs. We should be fighting to create jobs. They also highlighted the fact that H.R. 1 will slash the Pell Grant for 9.4 million college students all across America. Their proposed cut is \$845 per student. That is wrong.

We must remain invested in education, our teachers, our students. We've got to fight for each and every job in the face of the GOP reckless spending proposal and misguided priorities.

HONORING ELIZABETH KEARNEY

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I rise today to honor a remarkable woman. This weekend, those who love and admire Elizabeth Kearney will gather in Mankato, Minnesota, to celebrate her life. She passed away last Saturday at a very vibrant 96. She was a trailblazer in countless ways. She graduated with a degree in medical technology from the University of Minnesota in 1936. After her husband, Wynn, completed his residency in Rochester, Minnesota, they moved to Mankato, where they raised five children and became pillars of our community.

The Mankato Free Press reported that she was a devoted mother who cherished family above all else and was so active in the community. She was a friend, a mentor, and a role model. Her daughter Ann and her sons Wynn and Mike and their wives, Ginette and Jane, are still an important force in our community. She founded the Women's Leadership Development Program at the YWCA, served on the Mankato Rehabilitation Center board, started

the cultural exchange program at the University of Minnesota, Mankato, and served on so many countless organizations.

The Free Press summed it up: "Elizabeth was the personification of grace, humility, kindness, and generosity, and a day didn't pass without her touching someone's life in her special way." Elizabeth will be deeply missed not only by her family but by so many of us in the community who admired her commitment to causes greater than herself.

JOB-KILLING SPENDING PLAN

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, private sector employment went up by 200,000 people this month. But unemployment remains stubbornly high. A principle reason for this is the job cuts in the public sector. This past month, public sector jobs were lost at an annual rate of a quarter million people. These people also have mortgages to pay, college kids to educate, car payments to make, and the like. They matter to our economy.

Over the last 2 years, more than 200,000 teachers have been laid off, while student enrollment has increased by 750,000. We're told that H.R. 1 would eliminate another 9,000 teacher jobs. In Detroit, classroom size has gone up to 60 students per classroom in middle school, the toughest years to maintain discipline and enhanced knowledge. Now we're told we may have a compromise on H.R. 1 that will cut only 300,000—not 700,000—public sector jobs.

It's inconsistent at best, hypocritical at worst, for the Republican majority in this House to suggest they care about jobs while at the same time they're eliminating hundreds of thousands of them.

□ 1230

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY'S RECKLESS SPENDING PLAN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the cloud hanging over this Chamber is the threat of a government shutdown. We are engaged in what is literally a life-or-death debate about our priorities as a country, and the Republican majority's reckless spending plan doesn't just betray our national values, it highlights their values.

They are demanding cuts to financial aid for students and assistance to homeless veterans or they'll shut the government down. They want to slash heating assistance for low-income seniors or they'll shut the government down. They're even demanding we sacrifice the needs of police officers, firefighters, nurses, seniors, and even pregnant women. And on top of all that,