

we've got a long way to go, Mr. Speaker. We need to reduce the stigma, accept it as the illness that it is, and expand mental health services.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the military members and their families during May, Mental Health Month.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES P. WEST ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have the great pleasure today of recognizing a very special Delawarean who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Charles P. West is one of a kind who served our State and Nation with distinction as a soldier, legislator, businessman, and advocate for the values that are important to his community of Gumboro. Charlie was first elected to the Delaware House of Representatives in 1956, serving one 2-year term. He returned to the statehouse in 1978 and served for 24 years before retiring in 2002.

Charlie took great pride in helping his constituents. As he used to tell me all the time, he fought for the little guy. He was a fierce advocate for those who were the backbone of his district: chicken and grain farmers, small business owners, and sportsmen.

Charlie and his wife of 63 years, Eleanor Lee, are good friends of mine, and they have helped me better understand what is important to our State. It is my pleasure today to wish Charles P. West a happy 90th birthday and wish him and his family many more years together.

GIVING MORE ACCESS TO AMERICAN OIL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the pain at the pump is real. In this, the most difficult economy in the last 25 years, my constituents have gas prices on their mind, and with due cause: \$4.18 a gallon average back in the Hoosier State, higher than the national average, gas prices have climbed more than \$1 over the last year. And, frankly, with the summer travel season upon us and with the rising treacherous waters in the Mississippi threatening our refinery capability, we could see \$5 a gallon gasoline in the near future.

It is time to give the American people more access to American oil. Starting last week and this week, this majority in Congress will continue to move legislation that opens up our own domestic energy reserves in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore to the American people. The answer to the pain at the pump is energy independence. Part of that answer is by giving the American people more access to our own domestic reserves.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting measures on the floor this week and last week and lead us toward that lodestar of energy independence and relieve the pain at the pump once and for all.

SUPPORT THE MAKE IT IN AMERICA AGENDA

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, families and small businesses have been hurting for too long. While the world is changing, Washington has made things worse by ignoring American manufacturing and stifling American ingenuity. But here is what hasn't changed. Americans are still the most creative and most productive people in the world. We're still great at making things. And that's why I support the Make It In America agenda, because American manufacturing can and should be the central driver of our economy.

The St. Louis region I represent has a strong base in manufacturing, and now we need to tap into that strength to bring high-quality, high-paying jobs back home. That's why my office is helping St. Louis-based heating and air conditioning manufacturer Unico after being unfairly targeted by regulators. With a level playing field, companies like Unico can compete anywhere in the world, and if we invest in education, innovation, infrastructure, and manufacturing, we can restore making things to a central place in our economy.

I ask my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to stand with me to make these job-creating investments so we can Make It In America again.

START GOVERNING AND STOP CAMPAIGNING

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I came down here to do a public service announcement. On behalf of all Americans, I want the Republican majority to know that the elections are over. You've won the majority for now, so now start governing and stop campaigning. If you can't handle the responsibility of governing, get out of the way and let's move towards progress.

This week we're considering two bills that Republicans claim would bring down the price of gas immediately. Let's just pretend that is a fact, that that is true, although we know it is not.

If it's true, then why would you bring a bill to the floor that expedites drilling permits, which I could agree with, but you add in a provision to strip the American people's right to challenge drilling permits that are not environmentally sound?

Let's look at the next bill, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act. That isn't the name of a bill. That's the name of a campaign speech. That's the name of political rhetoric.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that it is now time to have the responsibility of governing and take it seriously so that the American people are not paying \$5 a gallon for gas.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that you remind the Republicans that the campaign is over and it is time to govern.

This public service announcement is brought to you by Americans For a Functional Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE TEXAS A&M WOMEN'S EQUESTRIAN TEAM'S WESTERN SQUAD ON WINNING THEIR THIRD STRAIGHT NATIONAL TITLE

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the second athletics team from Texas A&M University to win a national championship in the past month. The Texas A&M Women's Equestrian Western Squad recently took home their third straight national title with a 5-3 victory over Kansas State in the finals of the Varsity Equestrian National Championship in Waco, Texas. Including the overall national title in 2002, the A&M Equestrian Team has won nine national championships since it was formed in 1999.

These lady Aggies, who hail from various parts of Texas and numerous States around the country, glided through a near perfect season and had their eyes set on another national trophy to add to an already filled trophy case. This team is a shining example of how hard work and perseverance pays off.

I would also like to applaud Coach Tana McKay and her staff for an outstanding job in guiding the Aggie Women's Equestrian Team throughout their success. Congratulations, Aggies, on a job well done, and gig' em.

□ 1220

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we've been waiting for 17 weeks for the Republican majority to bring to the floor a jobs bill. I voted against the recess 2 weeks ago because I believe we ought to stay here until we get our job done, which is to create jobs for the American people. What's the majority doing? Last week, they tried restricting a woman's right to choose. Then they attacked health insurance protections. This week, they're

trying to repeal commonsense protections that prevent oil spills. Jobs? Nowhere to be found.

Last week, Democratic Whip STENY HOYER unveiled Make it in America. My Build America Bonds legislation is part of that agenda. In the last 2 years, every dollar invested in Build America Bonds leveraged \$41 in private sector funds, or \$181 billion to construct and repair schools and build bridges and roads in every State in America. These infrastructure improvements created hundreds of thousands of jobs. That's what we need to focus on—not an ideological agenda.

PERMISSION TO FILE REPORT ON
H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services may have until 5 p.m. on Tuesday to file its report to accompany H.R. 1540.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1231, REVERSING PRESI-
DENT OBAMA'S OFFSHORE MOR-
ATORIUM ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 257 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 257

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1231) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that each 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing program offer leasing in the areas with the most prospective oil and gas resources, to establish a domestic oil and natural gas production goal, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report

equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. REED. House Resolution 257 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 1231. The rule makes in order eight amendments, all of which comply with the rules of the House. Of the eight, seven are Democratic amendments.

Mr. Speaker, today we are debating H.R. 1231, the Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act. This legislation, which will have profound impacts on our domestic energy supply, our national security, and our economy, is ripe for consideration by this body. It is no secret that Americans are feeling the pain at the pump. In my congressional district in western New York, my constituents, my family, my wife and I are routinely forced to pay in excess of \$4 per gallon for gasoline for automobiles. We need to develop policies that will lessen our dependence on foreign fossil fuels, create stability in the financial markets, and provide relief to our constituents. In addition, this piece of legislation will create American jobs.

We must get our financial and energy priorities in order. We can no longer be held victim to instability in the Middle East and across the world. The United States must develop our own energy solutions which will reduce our dependence on foreign fossil fuels.

Most importantly, this will create American jobs. H.R. 1231 is one more example of our conference's commitment to developing domestic natural oil and gas resources. It adopts a philosophy that we need to drill smart, drill where the resources are, and produce our own energy.

Drilling for oil and natural gas can be done safely and responsibly. There

have been millions of wells drilled in the United States. There is a strong record of sound environmental practices. Total petroleum industry spillage has decreased consistently over the last 40 years.

H.R. 1231 does two things. First, the legislation requires that in developing a 5-year offshore leasing plan for drilling the Outer Continental Shelf, that each 5-year plan must include leases for sale in the areas containing the greatest known oil and natural gas reserves. For the 2012-2017 plan being written by the Obama administration, this would mean targeted lease sales only in those areas estimated to contain 2.5 billion barrels of oil or 7.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. At least 50 percent of those areas must be made available for leasing in the 2012-2017 plan.

Second, this legislation requires the implementation of production goals during the 5-year plan being written by the Obama administration. For this period, the goal would be 3 million barrels of oil per day and 10 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from American domestic sources of energy. This increase in oil production equates to a tripling of current American offshore production and will reduce significantly foreign imports by nearly one-third. Most importantly, this will create American jobs and protect our national security interests.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this rule and very strong opposition to the underlying legislation.

Here we go again. Another week. Another day. Another bill that helps record profit-making Big Oil but does absolutely nothing to help American families paying \$4 at the pump for gasoline. Although Republicans continue to frame these efforts as a cure for rising gas prices and a way to decrease our dependence on foreign oil, the truth is that oil prices are set on a world market. It's simply not possible for us to drill our way out of these problems.

Yesterday, in the Rules Committee I offered an amendment as a stand-alone bill, again, that would eliminate subsidies for Big Oil. While I do not agree with H.R. 1231, my amendment would have done nothing to prevent this bill from moving forward. Instead, my amendment would have allowed for a separate bill to come up under this rule that would end subsidies for big oil corporations that are making money hand over fist while gouging Americans at the pump.

Let me remind my Republican colleagues of the facts. Two weeks ago, ExxonMobil announced that in the first 3 months of this year it had made nearly \$10.7 billion in profits. That's \$10.7 billion. Billion with a B. There's nothing wrong with corporations making