

I also welcome the gentleman's rejection of the philosophy of "my way or the highway." We welcome that recognition, that, in fact, we have to reach compromise if we're going to move this country forward.

If I might in closing, let me, perhaps, ask you about the schedule longer term than next week.

□ 1350

Obviously, we have a special committee. I think the gentleman and I are both committed to—I know I am committed to—the success of that committee. I think it is absolutely critical to give our business community confidence, to give our people confidence, and to give the international community confidence that this government can, in fact, work and can address very serious problems—in this case, the debt and deficit—but also confront the problem of growing our economy. As both the Bowles-Simpson Commission and the Rivlin-Domenici Commission said, we ought to address both. That's what the jobs bill is about, and that's what the special committee is about.

Does the gentleman have any thoughts in terms of the probability of the schedule that you have issued that indicates that we'll get out on December 8? As we know, the committee has to be voted on by December 23. That doesn't mean we have to wait until the 23rd, assuming the committee comes out with a positive report.

Could you elaborate somewhat on what you see the schedule to be and the certainty with which Members can plan based upon the schedule that has been issued given what faces us?

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. I think, as the gentleman knows, we've been really trying to stick to the schedule and to afford Members some certainty so that they can schedule their business and their time with their constituents in their districts. The hope is at this point for us to absolutely stick to the schedule. We, at this point, have no changes in the recess times.

As for whether we are going to go longer than December 8, obviously the work of the joint select committee bears greatly on that. As the Speaker and as the gentleman knows, the joint select committee is expected to report by November 23. If all goes well, we should be able to live up to the schedule as printed. Again, it all depends on the work of the joint select committee.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I thank him for his time today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1380.

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

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LANDAU EUGENE MURPHY, JR.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, America has voted. The Nation voted for a winning combination of humility, hard work, a lifelong dream, and finely tuned talent. Today, I join with my friends and colleagues from Logan County, West Virginia, in congratulating Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr., this year's winner of NBC Television's "America's Got Talent."

Landau's journey is a true American success story. Coming from humble beginnings, he worked hard, never lost faith in his Lord, and always remained determined to pursue his dream.

I believe what Landau accomplished last night should stand as an example to every young person throughout this great Nation. He has shown them that they should always set their goals high and work until they get there; and indeed, if you should take some blows, just let the record show you did it your way.

I send my very best to Landau, his lovely wife, Jennifer, and their family as they begin this new and exciting journey in their lives. I know that Landau remains as humble today as he was when he first took the stage at the Logan County Arts and Crafts Fair's annual talent show some years ago.

I commend the Logan County Chamber of Commerce, the Hatfield-McCoy Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Diana Barnette, and all the fine folks at Fountain Place Cinema 8 in Logan, West Virginia, for their support of their hometown hero. As we have always done in West Virginia, we stand behind and support our own, and the work these organizations and individuals have done is phenomenal. Undoubtedly, their efforts were instrumental in Landau's victory.

Mr. Murphy accepted his victory with the high fives of his competition—the hallmark of good sportsmanship. Throughout the weeks of competition, he often spoke of his respect, compassion, and friendship with his opponents—a timely lesson for us all.

I hope my colleagues will congratulate all those whose talent carried them to the final weeks of a long competition. I thank America for recognizing a true talent in this fine son of West Virginia. Thankfully, we will be

hearing a lot from him in the many years to come.

HONORING CORPORAL DAKOTA MEYER

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my fellow marines and a truly brave and heroic American, Corporal Dakota Meyer. This week, Corporal Meyer is receiving the highest military honor our Nation has to offer, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As a scout sniper with the Third Battalion, Third Marines, Corporal Meyer ran through enemy fire multiple times in an attempt to save fellow U.S. servicemembers in Kunar province, Afghanistan. Facing enemy fire, Corporal Meyer killed at least eight bad guys, personally evacuated 12 friendlies, and provided cover for another 24 of his fellow marines and soldiers during the 6-hour battle.

Corporal Meyer had, no doubt, distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty, and truly is an American hero. He knowingly risked his own life to save the lives of others. I congratulate him on this honor.

Semper Fi, Corporal Meyer.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

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

Mr. COHEN. On the 17th of September in 1787, the United States Constitution was ratified. Senator Byrd in the year 2005 introduced the House-passed Constitution Day. So, this weekend, we'll be celebrating Constitution Day.

When I think of the Constitution, I think of Dr. Martin Luther King and the right to peacefully assemble, which is enshrined in the First Amendment. That meant he could go to Selma, that he could come to Washington and fight for civil rights and secure those rights for the people of this Nation.

I also think of women's rights embodied in the 19th Amendment. Women were given the right to vote—Tennessee being the perfect 36th State to give women that right to vote.

I think of a woman's right to choose, which is given through the Constitution and the Bill of Rights—in the Ninth Amendment, the Fourth and through the First and Third as well.

But that is just the tip of the iceberg. The Constitution embodies the fundamental values of this Nation: freedom, fairness, justice, and equality. We haven't always lived up to the Constitution's ideals; but with the rights it guarantees and the freedoms it protects, we can continue to move forward and be the more perfect Union that it promises.