

strict construction of the Constitution, States' rights, reduced taxes, less intrusion into the lives of citizens.

"His administration, historian Joyce Appleby wrote, would speak for 'the rational, self-improving, independent man who could be counted on to take care of himself and his family if only intrusive institutions were removed.'"

Then Mr. Merry goes on and says about Jackson: "Jackson knew that big government could always be manipulated to benefit the few at the top, especially those who worked or formerly worked for the government and big government contractors."

Merry wrote: "Jackson's most penetrating political insight was that concentrated governmental power always leads to corruption and abuse. The way to prevent this, he believed, was to maintain a diffusion of power and keep it as close to the people as possible."

"It wasn't that ordinary folks were less likely to abuse power; human nature applied to all. But if power were spread out through the polity, it couldn't be directed toward special favors and privileges for those who always managed to get their hands on power when it was available in sufficient increments. The playing field would be level."

Of course the thing Jackson is most remembered for as President is his veto of a federally run national bank.

"The President wasted no time in vetoing legislation, daring his political opponents to make the most of it. Few documents in the American political literature capture conservative populism with the verve and power of Jackson's veto message. In it he portrayed the bank as a government-sponsored monopoly that employed the money of taxpayers to enhance the power, the privileges and wealth of a very few Americans and foreigners—'chiefly the richest class'—who owned stock in the bank and worked for it.

"If government is to grant such gratuities, he said, 'Let them not be bestowed on the subjects of a foreign government nor upon a designated and favored class of men in our own country.'

"Rather, he added, such favors should be granted in such way as to 'let each American in turn enjoy the opportunity to profit by our bounty.'"

Finally, Merry applies the Jackson philosophy the Dodd-Frank bill and similar legislation, which, he says, Jackson would have opposed, and says Jackson "would expel Wall Street henchmen from the government, particularly if they came from Goldman Sachs."

He also wrote that "Jackson would be aghast that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac still exist. Kill 'em, he would demand."

"The whole story of these government-sponsored enterprises would scandalize him—government guarantees that amount to government subsidies that are then used to lobby the government for ever more economic leverage."

He has very accurately described the big government, big business duopoly that runs this country today. I urge all of my colleagues and others to read the Robert Merry article about Andrew Jackson in the October issue of the American Spectator Magazine.

CONGRESSIONAL OUT OF POVERTY CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise as the founder and the co-chair of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus to continue to sound the alarm every week that there are millions of Americans in need all across America. They need our help and they need our support.

Imagine for a moment if the entire population of 24 States in America were living in poverty. How would our Nation respond? We would respond as we do in any emergency, mobilizing to provide these people and families with adequate food, clothing and shelter. We would come together as a Nation and work to solve the crisis of poverty.

We know that nearly 47 million people live in poverty in America now, today. That's essentially the entire population of 24 States of this country. The emergency is real, and the crisis is happening each and every day in every city and every town across America.

But we are not mobilizing to solve this crisis of poverty. We are not directing Federal, State and local resources to help these men, women and children.

Mr. Speaker, we are really failing those living in and facing poverty. If you are facing or living in poverty, something as basic as eating is not a guarantee, and millions go to bed hungry every night.

This Sunday, October 16, is recognized as World Food Day. On Sunday, of course, we all should take a moment and be grateful that many are food secure, but we need to think about the nearly 15 percent of households and over 16 million children in America who are food insecure.

In fact, beyond Sunday, I hope that every Member of Congress joins me and other members of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus later this month in the 2011 Food Stamp Challenge. Once again, as several of us did a couple of years ago, I challenge my colleagues to live for a week on what a person on food stamps lives on; that is, \$4.50 a day, and that's \$1.50 a meal. So I hope you join us in that effort, my colleagues.

Experience is often the best teacher, and I bet that even a few days on living on what a person on food stamps survives on day in and day out might just bring us together to work to address the crisis of poverty.

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We know what we need to do, really. The pathway to addressing the crisis of

poverty, to boosting our stagnating economy and reducing long-term deficits is the same one: create stable living-wage jobs.

The most effective antipoverty program is an effective jobs program. When a family in poverty gains a living-wage job with good benefits, the family stops relying on government services, and that family begins to pay into the tax base instead of drawing from it. When jobs are created, it boosts demand, which helps to create even more jobs, which is what tax cuts for the wealthy, quite frankly, have always failed to accomplish. So we must come together and pass the President's American Jobs Act and support those initiatives that create stable living-wage jobs.

But while we work to create new jobs, we cannot forget that there are millions of Americans who are our most vulnerable. There are millions who face hunger, millions who have been looking for a job for more than 99 weeks, and millions of Americans who are losing their homes and struggling to keep their version of the American Dream alive. We must protect the vital safety net programs that support these people in these very hard times from draconian and shortsighted budget cuts by the so-called supercommittee. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable.

Poverty is real. It's rural and it's urban. People of all backgrounds, all ethnic backgrounds, are poor in our country. And so I hope we can finally, at least on this issue, end the extreme partisanship and really stand united in a bipartisan way and as a nation to create jobs and to address the crisis of poverty ravaging our Nation.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST GARRETT FANT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, 40 years from now, a beloved high school history teacher at Tahoe High School named Garrett Fant should be celebrating his retirement surrounded by generations of his students and his children and grandchildren. They would have all told affectionate stories about how Mr. Fant inspired them or helped them and wished him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Unfortunately, history has willed a different story. Army Specialist Garrett Fant instead returned to Lake Tahoe last week as a fallen hero at the age of 21. This young man sacrificed all those years, all those memories, all those pleasures—and all that life—in the service of his country.

He loved the Army, and he had a plan for his life—he'd serve his country as a soldier for 20 years, and then he would come and serve his community as a high school history teacher. From everything I've learned about Garrett