United States of America

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# Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at 11 a.m.

# House of Representatives

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

## DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
*October 25, 2011.*

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

## AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank President Obama for bringing all of our troops home from Iraq by the end of this year. This was an unnecessary war that cost over $850 billion, in which over 4,400 Americans were killed and over 33,000 wounded. It is my hope that future Congresses will not accept misinformation from an administration as justification for sending our troops overseas to engage in combat.

I am reminded of a quote from Rudyard Kipling's ''Epitaphs of War'': ''If they ask you why we died, tell them it is because our fathers lied.'' I hope this lesson stays with the future leaders of this country and they do everything they can to keep our young men and women from going to war unless it is absolutely justified.

Before the district work period, I went to the new Walter Reed facility in Bethesda. I saw five marines, four of whom had lost both legs. A young lance corporal looked at me and asked, ''Why are we still in Afghanistan?'' I had to stand there, with his mother in the hospital room, and say, ''I don't know.''

My hope now is that this administration will bring our troops home before 2015. That is the timetable that Mr. Obama has agreed to. Just this weekend, President Karzai said, ''If fighting starts between Pakistan and the United States, we are beside Pakistan. If Pakistan is attacked and the people of Pakistan need Afghanistan's help, Afghanistan will be there with our friends in Pakistan.''

I don't know how much more America has to take from a corrupt leader like Karzai. Bin Laden is dead. That was the whole purpose in going to Afghanistan. Al Qaeda has dispersed all around the world, and we are spending $10 billion a month in Afghanistan to prop up a corrupt leader, $10 billion that we could be spending here in America to help our children and our senior citizens. I hope that this Congress will come together and join those of us in both parties who say that victory should be declared because bin Laden is dead.

Mr. Speaker, I bring with me to the floor a picture of a triple amputee, a young soldier and his lovely wife looking at an apartment and thinking as to how they're going to adjust their life. Both legs were amputated and his arm was amputated.

It is time for the American people to speak out to Congress and say, ''Bring our troops home'' because they have done everything that they could do and they've done it so very well.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people here in America, and I will ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people here in America. And I will close three times by saying, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.



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## TUNISIA, LIBYA, SYRIA, AND YEMEN

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, the changes in the Arabic-speaking countries over the last year have been astonishing. This region, which is home to over 300 million people, has been making unmistakable drives toward democracy, but those drives have not always been linear and smooth. There have been setbacks in advances. But as this region changes, the United States must also adjust to those changes as well.

First, I want to congratulate the people of Tunisia on their historic election on Sunday. It was Tunisia's first free and fair election since gaining independence in 1956. Tunisians created a new paradigm for governance in the Middle East, and I hope this is replicated throughout the region. Tunisia, by the way, was the first country to begin its dramatic social change against a historic dictator.

Last December, Tunisians said, ''Enough.'' They took to the streets to demand their rights, and they ousted a dictator and went to the polls just a few days ago to elect new leaders. More than 90 percent of registered voters turned out to vote—that's 90 percent. Long lines snaked down sidewalks and around street corners. People waited for hours to exercise their right to vote that had been denied to them for more than 50 years.

It was also a well-deserved victory for a country that gave birth to the Arab Spring. Tunisians started a democratic movement that is slowly transforming dictatorships into democracies. The changes that are taking place in Libya are also irreversible. I don't celebrate the death of anyone, even a person as bad as Qadhafi, but Libya is certainly better off without Muammar Qadhafi. I am glad that the Transitional National Council will investigate the circumstances of his death, but the fact that he is off the scene gives Libya a new chance and a new lease on life.

For 42 years, Qadhafi ruled Libya with brutal force and criminal neglect. The country cannot afford more conflict. It should embark on a national reconciliation process similar to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in post-apartheid South Africa.

That's not easy for a country that has endured so much bloodshed. But Libyans now have the opportunity to lay down arms and come together. Libyans will decide for themselves what kind of country they want to build. The Libyan people must decide what kind of example they will set for other countries in the region.

I'd also like to turn attention to Iraq. I offer my congratulations to President Obama for keeping his promise to exit Iraq. No yellowcake uranium, no link between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda, and no weapons of mass destruction, and yet literally thousands of Americans' lives were lost, thousands of Iraqis' lives were lost, and perhaps $1 trillion was lost. It's time to go. I congratulate President Obama in his decision to leave.

Syria's path toward change is also irreversible, but the outcomes are less certain. Bashar al-Assad's government has now killed over 3,000 people. Countless others have been raped and tortured. This is not the model that will characterize the region's future.

People like Tawakel Karman of Yemen are setting a new standard. Referred to as the ''Mother of the Revolution'' in Yemen, she recently won the Nobel Prize for her nonviolent activism, and I congratulate her.

As people across the Middle East and North Africa struggle for democracy, the United States should do all that it can to help them reach that democratic condition that we take for granted. As Americans, we will remember our own long struggle for freedom and should be at the waiting to help others secure their democratic future.

## JOBS

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague that spoke previously. America needs to be a voice for freedom in the world. America is a great nation.

I find it interesting that we talk about the need to be engaged, with which I agree, but then we talk about the need to leave Iraq before we can know for a fact that we are leaving a very stable country.

□ 1010

I find it interesting people are rushing to the exits in Afghanistan, and I understand that's a tough and difficult war. But in the process, we have brought millions of people freedom; we've brought to women the ability to go to school; we've brought to people the ability to live their lives in freedom and not under an oppressed regime.

America is a great country. We are an amazing country that is a force for freedom in this world, and it's a country I am very proud of. Having served in the military and continuing to serve as a pilot in the Air National Guard, I understand that the people I serve with are part of that great country.

Right now one of the concerns in our country, though, is that, in order to back up and to support a great military and to support a great force for freedom, you have to have a great economy. What bothers me is that in 2009 in this Chamber a stimulus was passed which cost in just a few minutes of debate as much as the war in Iraq has cost in 8 years. In just a few minutes, we were promised that unemployment would not go above 8 percent, and, in fact, unemployment has never gone below 8 percent since the passage of the stimulus.

But do you know what has gone up? Not employment. Debt and deficits, more and more of a burden that we're piling on our children.

Now the President is coming out with a plan that says we can't wait, that we can't wait to pass stimulus version 2. Really, if you look at the depths of what the jobs plan is, it's stimulus 2. It's, in essence, a carbon copy of stimulus 1 but a little bit smaller. I've heard people in this Chamber argue, actually, that the problem with the first stimulus is it wasn't large enough. Now, I disagree. I think that's the wrong answer, but let's say for a moment that that's right. Let's say the problem is it wasn't large enough. Why would you introduce a second stimulus that's even smaller and say, This is the miracle bullet right here, this is how we're going to pull ourselves out?

I don't know how many times we have to do the same thing over and over and over again until we realize it doesn't work. The American people are hurting. The definition of insanity, by the way, is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators. We've had a plan for America and America's job creators and our economy for many, many months. Despite that people can get on television and say Republicans have no plan doesn't make it true. You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own set of facts.

The fact is, at jobs.gop.gov, we have a plan. That plan includes empowering small business and reducing regulation on job creators but not to a dangerous level, as some on the other side of the aisle will have you believe that we want to take away all regulation. We don't. What we want to do is find that balance between allowing the free market to breathe and allowing people to come in and say, I want to hire people; I want to create more jobs; I don't need the heavy hand of government to come in and give me the permission to do what I'm doing.

We do have to fix the Tax Code. I think both sides of the aisle agree that there have to be Tax Code reparations go on to make it better and easier to do business. We have to boost competitiveness for American manufacturers. Look, American manufacturers aren't leaving because it's nicer in China and the weather is better. They're leaving because they simply can't afford to access the 95 percent of consumers who live outside of our country and do it competitively.

But with all these things, and, again, with the Republican plan for America's job creators, I think we have to acknowledge areas where we have found success and bipartisanship. One of those happened just a week ago when we passed the three trade agreements

with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. We've shown that this Chamber has the ability to work together.

So, yes, we can't wait. We can't wait until the end of the election for the President to come up with a real plan and to work with Republicans. We want to stand together. I get it. An election is coming up next November. We all understand that. You're going to hear about it on television. But let's not miss the next 14 months. Let's not miss this opportunity to really stand up and govern and get the American people back to work.

## RETAINING AND STRENGTHENING THE TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Today's Washington Post has an interesting article about the possibility that Congress will jettison the Transportation Enhancement funding. Best known for providing resources for bike and pedestrian activities, it also opens the door to a wide range of important benefits. Sadly, the language in the article betrays a lack of understanding on the part of those who would eliminate these important programs.

For instance, they single out somehow that this was forcing the creation of wildlife corridors—turtle tunnels, passages that don't just comply with our environmental responsibilities. These aren't something to trivialize. More Americans die in collisions with moose, with deer—or, for that matter, from swerving to avoid a turtle in the roadway—than die on our airplanes and buses in a given year. These are not trivial issues. These are areas that give choices to be able to deal with meaningful transportation problems.

Right now, as I speak, there are millions of Americans stuck in traffic—burning fuel, wasting time, raising their blood pressure. The investment in complete transportation systems, which includes bike and pedestrian activities, means that there are hundreds of thousands of cars that aren't in front of these people in the roadway because they're able to walk or bike to work, and they're not fighting these commuters for a parking space.

These programs are about safety. In the communities that enhance bike and pedestrian activity, everyone is safer. Look at the numbers in New York City or in my hometown of Portland, Oregon. It isn't just the pedestrian and the cyclist who are safer, but it's also the individual motorist. Traffic accident rates for everybody have declined.

It gives people transportation choices. More people can let their children walk or bike to school safely on their own because of the Safe Routes to School program rather than producing another bulge in the early morning commute. Choice also means healthier communities and the people who live in them. It's easier to get gentle exercise, cleaner air, less energy wasted.

The costs associated with pollution and obesity are astronomical. This gives values to families. Communities that have balanced transportation programs actually spend less on transportation. The figures for my hometown of Portland, Oregon, show that the average family saves $2,500 a year not being stuck in traffic, in a commuting mess—money that they can spend on health care or books, restaurants or housing.

It's not just pedestrians and cyclists who would be shortchanged if we jettison these programs. The same adjustments that make it safer to walk or bike also have a profound impact on people who rely on walkers, baby strollers, motorized scooters. These enhancements have enhanced the community for the elderly, the disabled, and the young.

We also, frankly, have a current debate that shows exactly why we need a national policy. It's easy for people to get confused or misled. Nobody is forced to build a specific project. It forces State transportation officials to work harder and think differently, but it gives people more choices, more value, better health, stronger communities. It means that all our communities are more livable and that our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

The 20-year legacy of the Transportation Enhancement program is strong. That's why they are the most requested transportation projects that Congress has entertained for the last 20 years. I do hope that we debate it fully and fairly. In the end, if we do, I am confident we will retain these important programs, and if anything, we will strengthen them.

□ 1020

## HONORING SPRINGFIELD LITERACY CENTER

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Springfield Literacy Center, which is an innovative district-wide initiative in Springfield Township, Delaware County School System in the Seventh District of Pennsylvania, which I have the privilege to represent.

Like so many of my colleagues, when we have our district work week, it gives us the chance to go back and really spend some quality time engaging with a number of the groups. While the principal focus of my work weeks is to go back and work on the issue of jobs and the creation of opportunities, particularly with small businesses, one of the issues that many of them will talk to me about is the unpreparedness of many of our graduates to be able to take on the jobs, particularly the jobs in the expanding global economy which we face.

One of the issues is the ability to do fundamental things. I visited this literacy center last week because it's setting the standard for educational excellence in the 21st century. It's a community-wide focus on the issue of the fundamental of reading, and it started with the superintendent on down and every teacher in the school district focused on having the ability for every child being able to read.

This particular literacy center brings their entire second grade class from the full district together to learn. While it's an architecturally impressive area which supports the learning concept, it's really the individualized attention that's given to each and every student, identifying where they are in the process and, if necessary, going down and even to an individual basis to help them stay current with their class.

The literacy center is the foundation of Springfield Township's literacy first initiative, which aims to ensure that every child leaves elementary school reading at grade level. Let me repeat that: every child leaves elementary school reading at grade level. The center's teachers accomplish this by designing an individual literacy curriculum designed for each student. Lessons often use creative techniques, and the settings are tailored to individual students' learning styles. The key thing here is that students do not fall behind and they are prepared as they move into later education to stay with the rest of their class.

With these innovative techniques and through the hard work of the literacy center's teachers, students and families after only 5 years of operation, 99 percent of its students were reading at grade level. Let me repeat that again: 99 percent of its students were reading at grade level.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Springfield Literacy Center and its staff for all that they do in making a difference in the lives of their students and their communities. But I suggest to you that this is the kind of model that we should be replicating so that all American students will be prepared to have the fundamental of reading be a central part of their ability to be prepared to compete in the global economy.

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

For nearly 30 years, the month of October has brought a sea of pink ribbons to our shopping centers, sports games and lapels as we commemorate National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Each ribbon symbolizes our Nation's renewed commitment to fighting this deadly disease, from promoting breast cancer awareness, sharing information about breast health, providing greater access to screening services, and ultimately finding a cure.

Our mothers, sisters, daughters, spouses, family and friends dress in pink to demonstrate support for women through awareness, education, and empowerment. And though we love the color, we know that October is about so much more than walkathons and accessories.

I'm one of 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in this country. Just weeks after a clean mammogram myself and my 41st birthday, I felt a lump in my breast. As a young and otherwise healthy mother of three, I heard the words that all women hope they never hear: you have breast cancer.

Getting that news felt like an anvil crashing down on me.

With an early diagnosis and confirmation of a hereditary form of the disease, I underwent seven major surgeries, but not radiation or chemotherapy, to ensure that my cancer would not return. But that fear is never truly abated. Once you have had cancer, you always know it could come back.

As a breast cancer survivor, I understand intimately how important it is that women have every possible cancer-fighting tool at their disposal. Our Nation has been a leader in discovering innovative methods of detection and treatment. A cancer diagnosis is no longer the death sentence it once was, and the statistics are only getting better.

But our health care system is still rife with disparities, particularly when it comes to information and access that prevent these advances from reaching everyone. Here in the United States, more than 200,000 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone.

Around the world, that number skyrockets to an unbelievable 1.6 million new breast cancer cases annually. Tragically, almost half a million of these breast cancer patients will die.

That means every 74 seconds a woman somewhere in the world dies of breast cancer. These are our mothers, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and friends, women we all have known, loved, and lost.

Mortality from breast cancer has been steadily decreasing over the last 25 years in North America and throughout Europe. Much of this progress is attributed to the widespread use of mammography and other early detection techniques and improvements in treatments.

We know that leaps in research and treatment have led to increased survival and that early detection has the power to save lives. But we must make sure that that is the norm in communities all over the world and not only the privilege of the fortunate few.

Cost and geography should never place a limit on your ability to get screened, and knowledge should never be a health disparity. For all the progress that we've made over the last 25 years, we must work together to ensure that we beat this disease for good over the next 25 years.

Looking to the future, I'm committed to finding those areas of breast cancer treatment and breast health awareness that still have a long way to go and working on legislative solutions to fill those voids. Women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s have a completely different experience when it comes to breast cancer than women in their 50s, 60s, and 70s; and it is vital that we recognize and honor those differences.

For young women, we in Congress must work to help preserve fertility that often suffers as a result of cancer treatment. It's difficult enough to be told that you have cancer at a young age, but there's no reason that treating the disease should prevent young women from having children down the road. For older women, we should be working to ensure coverage for prophylactic surgery or appropriate treatment options.

Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover many of these services, leaving older women with difficult choices in their treatment options. We've made progress, but there is certainly a long way to go; and I look forward to making that progress together.

We know that early detection improves your chance for diagnosis, treatment, and survival. Yet there are so many women who still face barriers to treatment and access to care.

The biggest tragedy is that so many millions of women around the world will still lose their battle to breast cancer. We cannot forget their struggles, and we must continue our mission in honor of their memory. Working together, we must keep up our dedication and vigilance to help women know their risks, discover cancer early, access the best treatment possible, and work toward eliminating this disease.

This October, there is more hope for survival as we increase access to early detection and affordable quality care. Let us commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a renewed dedication to support our mothers, sisters, our daughters and sister friends and eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

## PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I have read President Obama's American Jobs Act. It is 155 pages and single spaced. I encourage the American people to read it too.

Unfortunately, President Obama's American Jobs Act does not address the underlying structural issues with the American economy. In fact, in my judgment, it destroys more long-term jobs than it claims to create.

Some history is in order. In November 2006, America's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. That's right, 4.5 percent—less than half today's rate.

In November 2006, Democrats captured Congress and gave us House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID.

In November 2008, President Obama was elected. For 2 years, Democrats completely controlled America's economic policy. The result: Between November 2006 and November 2010, 7 million American jobs were lost. America's excellent November 2006 4.5 percent unemployment rate deteriorated to 6.8 percent by November of 2008 and degenerated further to 9.8 percent by November 2010.

□ 1030

For almost 5 years, America's job creators have been hammered by job-killing policies. America's job creators are reeling from ObamaCare costs. America's job creators are shell-shocked by a job-killing National Labor Relations Board that sues to kill South Carolina jobs because South Carolina dares to be a right-to-work State in which workers cannot be forced to join a union.

Obama's job-killing 10 percent tax increase awaits job creators in 2013.

Obama's EPA repeatedly imposes new, costly environmental regulations that risk plant closings and kill jobs.

Obama's three consecutive trillion-dollar deficits threaten America with insolvency and bankruptcy and frighten job creators into inaction. In 5 short years, President Obama and his congressional allies have replaced a pro-free enterprise, job-friendly environment that created 6 million jobs between 2003 and 2006 with class warfare, demonization of job creators, socialist feel-good policies that don't work, and 7 million lost jobs between 2006 and 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Obama's so-called jobs bill creates ''one and done'' short-term jobs that will evaporate the moment Obama has blown through another $450 billion in borrowed money. In exchange for ''one and done'' jobs, Obama kills real jobs.

First, Obama raises taxes on America's domestic oil industry, which increases production costs, drives up domestic oil prices, reduces demand for domestically produced oil, thereby destroying domestic oil industry jobs.

Obama's higher oil taxes force price increases for gasoline, heating oil, and plastics. These higher prices in turn drive up manufacturing costs in America, make America less competitive, and kill jobs across our entire economy.

Second, and incredibly, Obama gives civil rights status to unemployed people, empowering them to file costly EEOC complaints and Federal lawsuits against employers for discrimination

any time an employer does not hire an unemployed person. Millions of frivolous EEOC complaints and lawsuits will drive up the cost of doing business in America which, in turn, kills business and destroys American jobs.

Third, Obama raises taxes on charitable contributions to churches, synagogues, mosques, the Red Cross, United Way, and other charitable institutions. Higher taxes mean fewer charitable contributions, which kills religious and charitable institution jobs. Obama does not have a jobs bill; Obama has a kill-jobs bill that encourages jobs to relocate overseas.

Mr. Speaker, America's economy has serious structural issues that Presidential Band-Aids and makeup won't fix and can't hide. President Obama's kill-jobs bill must be defeated because it is poorly thought out, bad economic policy, and costs American jobs. President Obama's kill-jobs bill is a political document, not an economic document. It gets an ''A'' for class warfare politics and an ''F'' for job creation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge defeat of President Obama's kill-jobs bill. It must be killed before even more damage is done to America's economy.

## IT'S ABOUT TIME: A WELCOME BUT OVERDUE MILITARY REDEPLOYMENT OUT OF IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 8½ years ago, without provocation or just cause, and based on distortions and deceptions, our country launched a bloody and immoral war in Iraq—almost 9 years, a long time for a war whose mission was pronounced accomplished by then-President Bush in May of 2003.

But now the Iraq war, which has cost our Nation so very much in blood and treasure, in moral authority and global credibility, is finally ending. Thank you, President Obama.

When I heard the President's announcement that our troops would be home from Iraq by the end of the year, I had one thought: it's about damn time. And my second thought was: oh, well, we have to stay vigilant, especially with negotiations still to come about the possibility of military trainers or advisers remaining in Iraq. As we move forward with a constructive bilateral partnership, let's make sure we don't backslide into a renewed military occupation under a different cloak.

To me, however, Friday's news was greeted not so much with celebration but with relief and also with reflection about the senseless sacrifice endured by so very many people. Nearly 4,500 courageous American servicemembers gave their lives for this war. More than 30,000 have returned home with searing wounds to their bodies and their minds, if not missing limbs, then too often post-traumatic stress that can make every day a living nightmare.

And let's not overlook the 100,000-plus innocent Iraqi civilians, many of them children, who were killed because the United States of America chose to ''liberate'' them. When I think about the humanitarian atrocities of this war, it is most often the faces of those children that I see.

Then there's the fiscal carnage. The $800 billion appropriated to prosecute the war doesn't even scratch the surface of the total cost. There is the rise in oil price, the interest on the debt we've accumulated, and of course the veterans health obligations, a promise we must and will keep, a promise that will still be with us at least 50 years from now.

President Obama's announcement is welcome, but long overdue. I've been an outspoken opponent of the war since before it started, and I introduced the first legislation to bring our troops home in 2005. More than 400 times I've stood in this very place in this Chamber to call for an end to the Iraq and Afghanistan military entanglements and the beginning of a SMART Security approach that emphasizes humanitarian and peaceful conflict resolution in place of military might.

I was proud to work with my good friends Congresswomen WATERS and LEE to establish the Out of Iraq Caucus. Their leadership, their support, plus our many other colleagues on both sides of the aisle who lent their voices to the cause made the difference because back in 2004 and 2005, ours was not the majority position. Because we broke the silence, because we acted on principle and refused to stand down, the American people came around to the out-of-Iraq perspective. Because we stood on the right side of history, we found ourselves with the majority of Americans on the right side of public opinion wanting—no, demanding—an end to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Our work isn't done, of course. The war in Afghanistan rages on. It's destructive, it's foolish and about 100,000 troops are still in harm's way there on a futile and expensive mission that is not making us safe, but is actually undermining our national security.

Mr. Speaker, again I give President Obama credit for his decision to bring our troops home from Iraq by the end of the year; and at the same time, I will continue to speak out until Americans get the peace that they want and deserve and all of our troops are home from Afghanistan as well.

## DEPORT FOREIGN CRIMINALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of talk about immigration, border security and all of the problems in between. But let's talk about one part of the immigration issue that has maybe slipped through the cracks and we don't hear much about it. There are some illegals in the United States that are just criminals. They have been convicted of crimes from everything from stealing to killing, including rape, robbery and murder.

The Bureau of Prisons says that 27 percent of all the prisoners in Federal prisons are foreign nationals that are illegally in the United States. That's astonishing, that over 25 percent of our Federal prisons house illegals, all at the expense of Americans. These criminals serve their sentence in one of our State or Federal prisons. Then after they serve that sentence and they are ordered deported, here's what happens: many of their native countries refuse to take back their deported criminals.

□ 1040

Why would they take them back? They've got enough criminals of their own.

Since they won't take back all of their own citizens that are convicted criminals after they serve their sentence, that nation tries to pawn off the remainder on the United States. These thugs get a get-out-of-jail-free card in the United States because we do not permanently detain them in jail after they have been ordered deported and their country of origin refuses to take them. That means that they are released on the American streets. They are criminals without a country.

So how many people are we talking about? Well, according to an ICE report earlier this year, we're talking about 138,000 illegal aliens who are pending deportation—either in jail or out on the streets. Some of these are never taken back to their home countries.

Now, who are these offending nations? Well, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan, and, yes, China. Our good buddies the Chinese are the second worst offenders, with 35,000 convicted criminals pending deportation. Imagine that—Chinese criminals in the United States. Who would have thought?

Well, we already have a law on the books that says that the Department of Homeland Security is supposed to report to the Secretary of State any countries that do not accept or unreasonably delay taking their citizens back. Then the Secretary of State is supposed to discontinue granting visas to citizens of that country. That sounds good, but the problem is Homeland Security doesn't always enforce the rule of law. Homeland Security has the obligation to follow the law and ship these criminals back to where they belong. It's simple: If you come to the United States illegally and commit a felony, you go home after you are lawfully deported.

It's time we offer a proper incentive for these uncooperative nations—like China—who freely take money from us—like our debt—and turn around and disrespect our laws. There needs to be a punishment for any nation that refuses to take back lawfully deported

criminal aliens. We should not be issuing visas to diplomats of other nations that refuse to cooperate with our government. There should be consequences for countries whose citizens illegally enter the United States, harm our citizens, go to prison, and the host country disrespects the law of the United States and doesn't take back their malcontent citizens.

So how do we make sure that these disrespectful foreign governments take back their citizens? Today, I introduced the Deport Convicted Foreign Criminals Act. This bill is simple. First, if a country does not take back their criminal aliens after 90 days of being given proper legal notice, diplomatic visas will be withheld. Then, if the country still refuses to take back their criminals, these sanctions will be expanded to include other types of visas.

Our government needs to be more concerned about the rule of law, the security of our Nation, and the cost to the American taxpayer than it is about hurting the feelings of some foreign country. Immigration is a complicated issue. But this part is simple. Foreign convicted criminals need to go back home. Their homeland should take them whether they want them or not. The United States cannot be a halfway house for foreign criminals.

And that's just the way it is.

## RAPE IN THE MILITARY

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have risen nine times before, to speak about the unspeakable—rape in the military. Nineteen thousand soldiers each year, women and men, are raped in the military. And what is Congress doing about it? What is the Department of Defense doing about it? Not much.

This is the 10th time I'm standing on this floor to share a story of a victim. Each of these soldiers proudly served their country, each was raped, and each was subjected to a system of justice that protects the perpetrator, not the victim. This is a problem we can fix; we just have to want to.

I will continue to share these stories until something changes. Survivors can email me at stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov if they would like to speak up.

Today, I want to share the story of Sergeant Myla Haider. Sergeant Haider served in the Army from 1994 to 1999, and again from November 2000 to October 2005. When Sergeant Haider entered the Army, she planned on being a career servicemember; but in 2002, Sergeant Haider was raped while she was working with the CID, the Criminal Investigative Division. Ironically, it is the CID that is charged with investigating crimes, including rape and sexual assault, in the military.

On this occasion, after socializing with a group of CID colleagues, the rapist, a senior agent in CID, isolated Sergeant Haider from the group and raped her. Sergeant Haider, like the overwhelming majority of servicemembers raped in the military, did not report the crime. She didn't report the rape because she had witnessed firsthand the negative attitude that the CID had towards rape victims and didn't believe she would be able to obtain justice if she had reported being raped.

She did, however, confide in two friends, both other division agents at CID. They both promised her that they would not report the rape because they agreed with her assessment that reporting the rape would not lead to justice.

Two years later, in November 2004, Sergeant Haider was contacted by a CID agent who had learned from one of Sergeant Haider's friends that she had been raped 2 years earlier by a senior CID agent. The CID agent informed her that the assailant was being investigated for raping several other women and indecently assaulting others. A serial rapist in the military.

In 2005, Sergeant Haider testified at her rapist's court-martial. However, the agents that Sergeant Haider had confided in testified for the rapist. Sergeant Haider later learned from the agents that they had been threatened by command if they didn't testify on behalf of the accused. So, in order to preserve their careers at CID, they followed orders.

In describing her decision to speak out, she said this: I knew my career was over because our soldiers cannot report a rape in the military and expect to have a successful military career.

You see, only 13 percent of those that are raped in the military actually report it. And of those 13 percent, 90 percent of them are involuntarily honorably discharged from the military. So I have become painfully aware that at the rate the Department of Defense is working to address this issue, the epidemic of military sexual assault will never end.

It is long past time for Congress to act. The real question is: When will we start protecting those that defend us?

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. MOORE. I'm here today to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

I wear my purple ribbon because I'm incredibly supportive of the goals of this commemorative month and yet painfully aware that domestic violence does not confine itself to one singular month. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage all of us to keep our focus on this pernicious issue year round.

It's not an exaggeration to say that domestic violence is an epidemic in this country. It affects nearly one in four women. This violence has far-reaching effects, not just for women and sometimes men who experience it, but for their families, including their children, as well as their employers and their communities, for generation after generation.

The statistics and stories from my home State of Wisconsin provide a small snapshot of the impact of this violence. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families reports that between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2010, nearly 41,000 women, children, and men received services from domestic violence victim service providers in Wisconsin. And over 6,600 people sought refuge in a domestic violence shelter.

□ 1050

The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence publishes an annual homicide report detailing domestic violence-related homicides. They've done this since 2000. And in this time span, at least 532 people have lost their lives in incidents related to domestic violence.

Last year, in 2010, there were 39 domestic violence homicide incidents resulting in 58 deaths, 51 homicides and seven perpetrator suicides. These deaths represent nearly one-third of all homicides in 2010 in Wisconsin. Victims in these incidents came from 17 counties across the State and included both the young and the old—the youngest was less than 1 year old and the oldest was 87 years old. And as a result of these homicides, at least 12 children were left orphaned or without a mother.

In Milwaukee County, where the Fourth Congressional District is located, there were 21 domestic violence-related homicides last year. And they include Mae Helm, 58, brutally stabbed by her boyfriend in her own apartment; Shannon Dorsey, 44, strangled with a belt by her boyfriend, age 46; and Sabrina Junior, 43 years old, who was stabbed to death by her partner while the couple's 11-year-old daughter cowered in a closet with her two younger sisters. Children are too often left with neither parents nor appropriate treatment for the collateral damage of domestic violence.

As cochair of the Congressional Caucus of Women's Issues and a longtime supporter of domestic violence-related legislation—and as a survivor of domestic violence—I want to take this opportunity to reiterate my pledge to work towards greater, stronger, and more public policy initiatives to meet the overwhelming need that remains for victim services and a range of domestic violence programs. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

We simply cannot continue to stand by and tolerate the ongoing funding gap for victim services while lives are at risk. Three women a day die as a result of domestic violence. We must

continue to maximize our opportunities for intervening in ways that fit individual victims' needs. We need culturally competent services. We need services for children. And we must make the most of every opportunity for education and advocacy and prevention services. I sure hope my colleagues will join me this month and every month in the fight to support victims of domestic violence through funding more programming.

## THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the millions of Americans who woke up this morning facing a separate and unequal America, a separate and unequal America marked not by the American Dream and limitless opportunities, but an America of the unemployed and poverty stricken, an America marked by struggle and fear of the future—the struggle just to find a job, the struggle to keep their home, the struggle to put enough food on the table.

Americans all across the country are struggling and believe that their government is not looking out for their best interests and instead is working just for rich bankers and massive corporations. People across the Nation are losing faith in our democratic processes and, thank goodness, are taking to the streets to tell their friends, neighbors, and their government that much more must be done for the American people and not just for the super rich. They are saying very loudly that the obstacles to achieving the American Dream must be removed. Too many families across our great Nation are wondering for the first time if our children's generation will be left worse off than the generation before it.

I urge the Republican leadership of the House to quickly pass the President's American Jobs Act to restore the American economy and bring some relief to the millions of Americans who are struggling every day just to get by.

Mr. Speaker, more than 46 million Americans will apply for food stamps this month. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, previously known to many as food stamps, provides the average person a benefit of about $133 a month—that's $4.50 a day, $1.50 a meal. There is a Member of the Senate, however, who seems to believe that there might be millions of Americans who are getting rich by applying for food stamps. Let me assure the good Senator from Alabama that it is not fraud that is causing the rising demand for nutrition assistance in America, but the years of failed economic policies that have lined the pockets of corporate billionaires and left average Americans behind. A program with one of the lowest fraud rates of any program in our entire government is not out of control. But let me state as clearly as I can, having to apply for food stamps to put enough food on the table to keep your children from going hungry is not like winning the lottery. One in seven Americans do receive food stamps, but millions more are eligible but don't apply. And I'm certain that each and every family would be willing to trade in their book of food stamps for a decent job with livable wages and benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I'm taking part in the Fourth Annual Food Stamp Challenge, along with several other Members on this side of the aisle—Congressman TIM RYAN of Ohio, Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin. And I invite every Member of Congress to join us in living for a few days or a week on what a family on food stamps will face every day of the year. I hope that the challenge will open our eyes to the challenges and the struggles of the millions of Americans who face hunger each and every day. Living in poverty and facing food insecurity means missed meals, poor health, and lost productivity.

Even if you choose not to join the Food Stamp Challenge, I encourage you all to stop and consider what it means to have $31.50 to spend on food for the entire week. Stop for a moment and consider that there are over 46 million Americans who have to swallow their pride and ask for help just to put food on the table. As a former recipient of food stamps myself as a single young mom, I know how difficult this is. I did it because I had to do it just to get over some very difficult times. Forty-six million Americans who reached out to their fellow Americans during their time of need—and I thank the American people during my time of need—they were glad to be there to lend a helping hand. We cannot make cuts to SNAP or Medicaid or Social Security right when children and senior citizens need them the most. So I hope that my colleagues take up the Food Stamp Challenge.

I also encourage each Member to join me and the 43 other Members of the Congressional Out-of-Poverty Caucus in ending poverty in America to ensure that no family in our country needs to ever face hunger again. The Out-of-Poverty Caucus is working to reignite the American Dream so that every man, woman, and child is provided the opportunities to achieve the American Dream. But right now, these 47 million people living in poverty and on food stamps need us to protect the safety net.

And for those individuals and persons of faith, we have to remember that this is a moral issue also. I want to remind you of the Scripture, ''To whom much is given, much is expected.'' It's also an economic issue though; for every $1 spent on food stamps, $1.79 is placed into the economy.

## THE FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. On Thursday, I will join my colleague Representative BARBARA LEE, Catholic Charities USA, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the National Council of Churches, and several other Congress Members that my colleague mentioned to participate in the Food Stamp Challenge, an effort to draw attention to the crisis of hunger in America.

□ 1100

As part of the challenge, participants will eat on the average SNAP allotment. That's what we call it now. There's no more food stamps. Now people get a card that they can actually use to charge the food. But we'll eat on the average SNAP allotment of $1.50 per meal for a week.

Having participated in this event in the past, I know it is extremely difficult to eat a healthy diet under such strict budgetary guidelines. Nevertheless, SNAP is the difference between chronic hunger and a basic meal for 45 million Americans.

Now, obviously, that means I'm going to give up any Starbucks coffee. But even the $1 coffee that I was able to buy in the cloakroom just before I came out here is something that will be just too precious to spend. That's almost a whole meal's worth just to buy that cup of coffee.

In 2010, 14.5 percent of American households were food insecure, meaning they lacked the capacity to put enough food on their tables. They relied on nutrition programs like SNAP to make ends meet.

In this, the wealthiest country in the world, one out of four American children is now food insecure, meaning there are nights that they go to sleep hungry. It really is a moral issue, as my colleague pointed out.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—that's SNAP—provides an essential safety net for American families. More than half of SNAP recipients are children.

The Republican budget passed in the House—with no Democratic support, I might add—would cut $127 billion from SNAP over the next decade, a 20 percent cut. The House Agriculture appropriations bill—passed, again, with no Democratic support—would also cut the SNAP program.

You know, these may be just numbers, $127 billion here and several billion dollars there, but their effects are very real for people across the country. I recently received dozens of messages on paper plates from EZRA Multi-Service Center in Chicago. They rely on SNAP to make ends meet, and they

fear the repercussions of further cuts. The plates answer the question: What would happen to you if SNAP benefits are cut?

Heather C. in Chicago said that it's already hard enough to feed her children as it is, and cutting SNAP would mean her kids would suffer. She says, ''My food stamps stretch out for about 2 weeks out of the month, so if I didn't have them, then it would cost me an extra $250 a month to feed my children. Food these days is so expensive, and the more help we can get to feed our kids the better.''

And, by the way, most of the people on the SNAP program are on just for a temporary amount of time, just like the Congresswoman said, to bridge a gap when they're really in need.

Jack K. worked for decades as a taxicab driver but retired with very little wealth. He says now, ''I now live in subsidized housing and depend upon soup kitchens and food pantries for food.''

An anonymous client from Chicago writes that if SNAP benefits are cut, ''it would be impossible for me to feed my four children every day. It's bad enough that because of this recession there's a lack of jobs. That alone makes it difficult to provide for them. These programs give people the temporary help they need to be okay until a job is obtained. Please take into consideration the children who depend on their parents for survival.''

One commenter said she needs the program because she lost her life savings to cover medical costs which continue to this day. ''Instead of being middle class, I am now living below the poverty level,'' she says. ''Without assistance, I would be back in a homeless shelter. As it is now, I am unable to afford utilities, between my rent and medical expenses.''

And Robert B. in Chicago said the bad economy has left him in long-term unemployment. ''I lost everything. If my benefits were cut, I wouldn't eat for awhile.''

We have options in this wealthiest country in the world. For example, I've introduced H.R. 1124, the Fairness in Taxation Act, which would raise revenues by increasing tax rates on the 1 percent richest Americans. Income over $1 million a year would be taxed at 45 percent, moving up to 49 percent for income over $1 billion. And, by the way, that's lower than during the Reagan years.

So I invite my colleagues to join me in the Food Stamp Challenge and learn, just even for a week, what it's like to live on $1.50 a meal.

## IT'S TIME TO THANK OUR WARRIORS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It's really a pleasure to have the opportunity to speak this morning and to congratulate President Obama for keeping his promise and keeping his promise to the American people.

I've had the privilege of traveling to Iraq on many occasions, the privilege of greeting our soldiers coming from Texas, Houston, and all over America. I've had the sadness of attending the memorials and funeral services of fallen soldiers, the sadness of talking to parents and relatives asking the question: ''Why?'' I've even gone and mourned with mothers around the issue of convincing Presidents, in this instance, President Bush, to end the war.

I've been amidst tiny white crosses that have symbolized the numbers of those who died in Iraq; and in my office, for a period of time, we accounted for the numbers of individuals who died in Iraq, in particular, from the State of Texas.

I cochair the Afghan Caucus. In times that I have gone to Iraq in the Green Zone that is familiar to many, I've even taken enemy fire; and that is, of course, enemy fire attempting to hit those in the Green Zone, nothing in comparison to our soldiers and certainly never experienced the heinous act of an IED.

It is time to bring those warriors home and to say thank you, spending almost $900 billion, close to $1 trillion. And I'd like to see the amendment that I passed in the Defense authorization bill utilized. It was a national proclamation, a day to welcome home all of our combat veterans. It would include those who have fought wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other wars in times past and other incidents around the world.

It's time to have a celebration and a response to our soldiers like we've never had before. It's time to place ribbons; it's time to stand in streets; it's time to celebrate through parades. And I would commend those who have served and continue to serve and our veterans. It seems that that is the appropriate response.

And how silly it seems that in the State of Texas we have to be fighting the potential implementation of a Confederate flag. We had a press conference in my district with persons from around the State and around the county standing up against the State-issued Confederate flag. In fact, we announced for the State of Texas: Why couldn't we put the American flag on our plates, our license plates, to symbolize our commitment to our soldiers and our respect for the unity of this Nation?

But yet, under Governor Perry, we are fooling around with the idea, with his appointees, of a Confederate flag license plate, one that does not honor the Confederate soldier. For those who wish to honor them, there are places and museums in your home. But to put on the State license plate a flag that symbolized fear, intimidation, oppressive actions, brutality, slavery, and the death of slaves, some 20 million that came over, many that were thrown overboard, and the brutality of Jim Crowism is an outrage and will not be tolerated.

While there is continued growth of millions of millionaires and the average salary in the United States is $26,000, it seems that we should stay focused on job creation and not be distracted in a State as large as Texas, with the largest majority minority community of Latinos and African Americans and the largest number of uninsured, that the government of the State of Texas would take time to fool around with a Confederate flag, a hostile symbol that is so egregious to many in this country.

□ 1110

And so, Mr. Speaker, I hope that Congress will focus on passing the jobs bill, recognizing the need of the American people. I hope my colleagues will look toward States that would create a hostile atmosphere such as a Confederate license plate in a way that would show that many times they're not worthy of receiving Federal funds if they want to spend their time spending money on something as dastardly as that—and I come from the State—because there are so many needs, such as was mentioned earlier by my colleagues, in the limitations in the SNAP and food stamps where children are starving.

Why don't we focus on the goodness of bringing us together such as my earlier comment of welcoming home our troops with a national proclamation pursuant to the amendment that I passed on this floor of the House 419–0? Why don't we get rid of things like Confederate flag symbols that represent oppression? And why don't we come together in this Congress to pass the President's American Jobs Act so salaries are not going down? And why don't we hold States accountable when they get Federal dollars that if they don't hire small businesses and those who are unemployed, Mr. Speaker, that we cut their Federal funds? And I truly mean that.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence. Again, let's get rid of the bad things in the United States, such as symbols of Confederate flags insulting much of the American people, let's support SNAP, let's support people going to work, and let's make sure that there are people earning more than $26,000 by getting them back to work.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Morris Matthis, Christ United Methodist Church, Sugar Land, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift and who has blessed us with this good land and fashioned us into one united people, grant wisdom to those whom in Your name we entrust the authority of government.

Guide them, O God, in their deliberations and in their decisionmaking. Grant them the grace to see themselves as leaders who stand in the shadow of history. Bless them with the humility and insight of Abraham Lincoln, who said: ''I have been driven many times to my knees with the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.''

Give them the assurance that when the hour is desperate and the way unclear, there is one to whom they can go, and then, O God, in Your Mercy, help them to go there.

In the name of the One who is the Hope of the world, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OLSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

WELCOMING REVEREND MORRIS MATTHIS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, one of the privileges we have as Members of Congress is to have the leader of a church back home deliver the opening prayer for the United States House of Representatives. Today, I'm proud to introduce America to my home pastor, Morris Matthis.

Morris has had a tremendous spiritual influence on my family and me. When we moved back to Texas, my wife and I worried about uprooting our two children from the only home they'd ever known. But we shouldn't have worried. We found Morris and the amazing people at Christ United Methodist Church in Sugar Land, Texas. They welcomed us with open arms, and have loved us ever since.

During his tenure at Christ United Methodist Church, Morris and his team—his wife, Jepilyn; his son, Kyle; and his daughter, Amy—have made sure that every single man, woman, and child who has walked through our church's doors has felt the peace, the love, and the faith that embraced my family.

Whatever I do in Congress, however long I'm here, I'll have no fonder memory than my pastor, Morris Matthis, standing before the American people in prayer for our great Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

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

Mr. PENCE. Later today the House will consider H.R. 2447, a bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines, the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps. The United States of America owes these heroes a debt of honor that we will endeavor to pay, in part, today. I rise in strong support of this measure.

It was President Franklin Roosevelt who issued an Executive order in June of 1941 that opened the doors for African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African Americans earned the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. And we'll honor them today.

I especially want to commend the Montford Point Marines Indianapolis chapter's surviving marines. And since there are no ''former marines,'' allow me to commend Marine Averitte Corley, Johnny Washington, and Lancaster Price, along with the late Walter Ezzell and Everette Sweat, who have done yeoman's work in keeping the proud memory of the Montford Point Marines alive in the Hoosier State.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting tribute to the Montford Point Marines. It marks the service and sacrifice of these trailblazing heroes, but it also marks our Nation's mark toward a more perfect union, and I heartily endorse it.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to cuts in the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP as it is known in New York.

With snow in Buffalo forecast this week, it seems unconscionable to slash this essential aid that helps seniors afford their heating bills. However, the House Labor-HHS bill would do just that. It cuts HEAP and changes the formula in a way that penalizes New York and other cold-weather States.

New York's allocation would be cut by $179 million, or 34 percent, from its current levels. As a result, HEAP assistance will be smaller, later, and benefit fewer New Yorkers. At a time when western New York heating prices are expected to increase, these cuts would force seniors and families to choose between heating their homes, putting food on the table, or purchasing prescription drugs.

I urge Congress to reject these cuts which threaten to leave many of the 235,000 HEAP recipients in Erie and Chautauqua counties out in the cold.

THE COST OF SENATE INACTION

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that by the end of this year another ratings agency may downgrade our Nation's sovereign debt. Why? Because they don't believe there's a plan to return our Nation to fiscal health. Well, they're not entirely right. In July, we passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. It was a commonsense solution that would have maintained our Nation's strong credit rating. The bill went to the cul-de-sac called the Senate where, as so many things have, it died. Maybe that's not surprising.

Cut, Cap, and Balance would not only have cut spending, it would have changed the way Washington works. It would have made structural change.

For a do-nothing Senate that has not bothered to pass a budget in over 900 days, the idea of spending cuts and fiscal accountability must be utterly foreign. Once again, we see the high cost of their inaction.

□ 1210

INVESTING IN INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

(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, 54 years ago this month, Sputnik knocked the United States into second place in the space race. America responded with a tremendous investment in the sciences, which produced the Apollo program, the personal computer, the Internet, GPS, and numerous other technologies; but, sadly, that may be ending.

Last December, in an OECD ranking, the United States rated only ''average'' in education. Other nations are outinvesting and outeducating us. And the Republican slash-and-burn agenda is making it worse. America is now losing education jobs every month and disinvesting in R&D and critical infrastructure.

The President laid out a plan to invest in our educators, innovators, and job creators—priorities that used to have bipartisan support. We cannot continue to let American performance slide. We are jeopardizing our future.

Mr. Speaker, last century America fell behind, and the Soviet Sputnik was the result. It took a decade to catch up. How long will we fall behind today before we realize those investments are critical and support the President's job program?

## HOUSE REPUBLICAN JOBS PLAN

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President to get a grip on reality. He obviously doesn't understand the unemployment crisis that's crippling America.

The President says that he hasn't seen the House Republican jobs plan. Well, here it is. It's been out since May, and it's available at jobs.gop.gov. Now, maybe the White House is having an Internet problem.

I'm proud to join Natural Resources Committee Chairman DOC HASTINGS in recommending plans to the supercommittee that create jobs right here in America while at the same time reducing the deficit, ideas like increasing onshore and offshore energy production. Increasing offshore energy production will create over 1 million new jobs alone and would generate billions in new Federal revenue. But President Obama would rather make bad bets on green companies like Solyndra, wasting hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

House Republicans have passed jobs bill after jobs bill—they're stacked up like cordwood on the Senate floor—but Senator REID and President Obama refuse to consider them. The American people deserve better. President Obama's ideologically driven, job-killing policies are hurting America.

## EDUCATION FUNDING

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I'm concerned that education, the most powerful tool we have to build our economy, is being ignored.

Yesterday was my granddaughter Brooklyn's 7th birthday. A few months ago, Brooklyn's parents asked her if she could have her birthday anywhere she wanted to, where would it be. To her parents' surprise, she said she wanted to celebrate right here in the Capitol. So last night, we celebrated Brooklyn's birthday right here in the Capitol Building.

I like to think she chose the Capitol because it represents the opportunity each of us has to make people's lives better. Unfortunately, we are failing to uphold the obligation we have to Brooklyn and millions of American children. Senate Republicans have blocked just a vote on the President's American Jobs Act. It would have provided $60 billion to save the jobs of teachers, put Americans to work rebuilding schools, and helped community colleges.

Nearly 300,000 teachers have already lost their jobs since 2008. Another 280,000 more may be out of the classroom if we don't do something now. Now is not the time to be laying off teachers. It's not the time to surrender the leadership in math and science to foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, Americans can't wait. We should put people to work rebuilding our crumbling schools. We should be working to transform the prestige of teachers in our culture. Teaching requires high skill and should be rewarded with high pay and be the preferred profession of the best and the brightest. Brooklyn deserves it and all American children deserve it.

## JOB CREATION

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, last week, instead of making campaign bus stops and touting more stimulus spending, President Obama may have been better served coming to Rhinelander, Wisconsin, for a conference on jobs in the timber industry.

At the conference, Representatives CRAVAACK, DUFFY, RIBBLE, and myself, along with Chief Tidwell of the U.S. Forest Service, met with loggers, mill operators, and forestry experts. And the consensus was clear: Bureaucratic roadblocks and lack of direction are preventing the responsible harvest of Federal timberlands and killing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about clear-cutting our Nation's forests. Responsible timber harvests make for healthier forests. They also create real jobs and grow the economy. As it stands, timber in the forests of the Great Lakes and across America is literally rotting on the stump and the Federal Government's bureaucratic snares are allowing it to happen. This cannot continue.

It is time President Obama and Congress recognize that the simplest and quickest way to create jobs is to release the handcuffs of overregulation and red tape.

## SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Ms. CHU. Did you know that small businesses create two out of every three new jobs? That's why we need a plan to invest in them and that's why I support the President's American Jobs Act.

It includes tax cuts for every small business. Businesses that hire workers who have been unemployed for 6 months or more get $4,000 off their tax bill; those that invest in machinery or equipment get to write off the whole expense; and the payroll tax cuts will save a small business with 50 workers approximately $50,000 a year, putting money in the bank for every mom-and-pop shop. The American Jobs Act will help small businesses do what they do best: create good jobs, drive innovation, and strengthen the middle class.

For small businesses, the economy, and Americans everywhere, let's pass the American Jobs Act now.

## SOUTH MISSISSIPPI SALUTES THE MILITARY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, tonight, back home in south Mississippi, the Coast Chamber is hosting the 33rd annual Salute to the Military. I deeply regret not being able to attend tonight to recognize our Nation's finest.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, a marine veteran, and the only Member of Congress who still actively serves as a noncommissioned officer in the Mississippi Army National Guard, I know firsthand how vital their work is to our Nation's defense. As I serve, I am always mindful of their service and sacrifice, as well as their families'. Nowhere are so few asked to sacrifice so much for so many. So I ask this Congress and the American people to share in their sacrifice and say ''no'' to any more defense spending cuts.

To date, more than half of the cuts in spending have come from defense. It is morally irresponsible to continue trying to balance the budget on the backs of our men and women in uniform. As a nation, our economic and personal security depends on a strong, capable, well-equipped, and well-trained military.

So I want to salute all those who have served and are currently serving. Thank you for making America safe and exceptional.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a voice to the voiceless victims of domestic violence.

I want to tell the story of one woman from my State of Illinois who endured years of abuse and called our State's Domestic Violence Help Line for help.

In her call, the woman explained that over the years she had suffered black eyes, broken and knocked out teeth, and broken bones. She said she couldn't take it anymore, but she couldn't leave because she feared her abuser would find her and kill her. She was suicidal and said she just needed to end it with the pills she had been collecting. Luckily, this woman reached out for help. 911 was called, and the help line staff stayed on the line with her until the paramedics arrived.

But, sadly, most women never report their abuse. And even for those who do find the strength to report, many are denied services, such as shelter, due to scarce resources. I speak today for those who cannot speak for themselves to say: We can end domestic violence; all we need is the will to do so.

MALE BREAST CANCER

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I want to address an often overlooked but important part of breast cancer awareness.

One percent of all breast cancer patients are men. In 2010, almost 1,970 new male breast cancer cases were reported. Although the current survival rate for women diagnosed with breast cancer is about 87 percent, the rate for men drops to 79 percent. The discrepancy is because many men don't think breast cancer can affect them. As such, they are often diagnosed after the cancer has developed into more advanced stages.

One of my constituents in Florida's Fifth District, Herb Wagner, is a 6-year male breast cancer survivor. After his diagnosis in 2005, Herb and his family founded A Man's Pink. The goal of A Man's Pink is to bring awareness to male breast cancer.

Early detection is crucial in fighting any type of cancer, and men need to be reminded that breast cancer does not just affect women.

For more information on male breast cancer, I encourage folks to learn about A Man's Pink. In the meantime, anybody with concerns should contact their doctor.

□ 1220

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it's been 294 days since the Republicans took control of the House. The party of no still refuses to put forward a clear jobs plan. They have put politics ahead of what is right for the American people.

Unemployment is near 17 percent in my district, one of the highest rates of foreclosure in the country. The American people in my district are hurting, and throughout the country.

Yet, instead of acting on a bold plan to create new jobs, Republicans have decided to protect tax cuts for millionaires and companies that ship jobs overseas. Now the Republicans in the Senate have said ''no'' to the American Jobs Act, even though it includes the same proposals that they have supported in the past.

And the Republican leaders in the Senate just called the proposal to help teachers, firefighters, and police officers stay on the job a ''bailout.'' These public servants educate, and I state, educate our children and keep our streets safe. They deserve our support. They don't deserve more gridlock in Congress.

We can't wait. Let's pass the American Jobs Act now.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN JOBS PLAN

(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, as part of the House Republicans Plan for America's Job Creators, we are working hard every day to fix the Obama economy. Last week the Senate stopped a bipartisan bill to permanently repeal the job-killing 3 percent withholding requirement for Federal payments to government contractors. This week, however, the House plans to eliminate this requirement, representing House Republicans' continuing commitment to remove barriers to job creation and eliminate excessive burdens on small businesses. These Main Street businesses are the backbones of our economy and American job creation.

As a former job creator, I know firsthand about the negative impacts of burdensome taxes and overreaching regulations. Although this withholding requirement is not scheduled to go into effect for another 15 months, it is already causing uncertainty for small businesses' operations and hiring plans.

For these reasons, Congress must act now. Permanently repealing this unreasonable withholding provision is another real world Main Street solution to provide more certainty for small businesses to grow and to create jobs again. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 674.

JOB CREATION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Rhode Island, like the rest of the country, is facing a jobs crisis. The President put forth a comprehensive jobs bill which puts teachers, first responders, and construction workers to work and puts money in the pockets of American workers and employers so businesses will grow and add jobs. It also creates jobs by investing in America's schools.

On a recent visit to the Henry J. Winters Elementary School in Pawtucket, I saw firsthand what this jobs bill could do. I saw a leaking roof, broken windows in kindergarten classrooms, exposed wires. These are the kinds of repairs that we could make if we passed the Fix America's Schools Today Act, which I'm cosponsoring. This Act, like the President's jobs bill, will provide critical funding for vital repairs and renovations to Winters Elementary School and schools all across Rhode Island and our country.

Under the FAST Act, Rhode Island stands to receive more than $98 million to invest in modernizing existing K–12 public school buildings and facilities at community colleges, putting more than 1,000 Rhode Islanders back to work now.

The Jobs Act would create jobs now. It would put money into the pockets of working Americans now. It would give businesses job-creating tax breaks now, and it would provide a boost to the economy now. That's why we need to take action now.

RETIRING CHIEF JOURNAL CLERK PATRICIA MADSON

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to my colleagues on both sides of the talk about the imperative of job creation and economic growth, I'd like to recognize a job well done. Forty-four years, 7 months, and 5 days is a long period of time, but that's the tenure of public service provided by our friend, the now Chief Journal Clerk, Trish Madson. She has worked for the Voice of America, the Departments of Agriculture and Transportation. She worked in the Minority Counsel Office under our former minority leader Bob Michel.

She is someone I got to know because her late mother was one of my constituents.

I would like to ask all of our colleagues to join in giving a round of applause and ovation to Trish Madson, who, after 44 years, 7 months, and 5 days, will be retiring today.

Mr. Speaker, I think we've consumed the entire 1 minute just applauding Trish, as it should be.

JOB CREATION

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

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, America was founded on the principle that everyone should get a shot at the American Dream. But with so much unemployment, so many mortgages underwater, so many people struggling just to get by, it's not surprising that half of all Americans think the American Dream is dead.

This Congress should be making job creation our top priority. But what has the majority in the House done to create jobs? Nothing.

What's even worse, every job proposal that President Obama has sent to this House has been met with a resounding ''no.'' And what's their alternative? To do nothing.

Democrats have been working to pass legislation to grow this economy and create new jobs. After 42 weeks of doing nothing, it's time for the Republican majority to join us in giving the American people the jobs they need and deserve.

## HOUSE REPUBLICAN JOBS PLAN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are welcome to their own opinions but not welcome to create the facts.

When the Democrats took over the Congress 4 years ago, almost 5 years ago now, the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. It went to over 9 percent since they were in control.

The reason the President's so-called jobs bill has not been passed in this House is because the Democrats did not support it. It was introduced by request.

What Republicans have done, though, is focus on the task of creating jobs since day one of this session. And I'm glad that President Obama's talking about it too. We will work with the President when he comes up with ideas that work. But so far his proposals have not worked. Notice the stimulus bill that he asked us to pass that would not raise unemployment above 8 percent.

He wants to raise taxes on job creators, and all it will do is destroy private sector jobs.

## A SIMPLE JOBS PLAN

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose a plan that is as simple as one, two, three.

Number one is getting back to basics and helping to create badly needed jobs. This economy will not grow unless we stimulate private sector job growth. It's time to drop the partisan bickering and focus on creating jobs and creating them now. Pass the President's jobs bill.

Number two is building up our infrastructure. Work on our roads and trains is desperately needed to help America compete, and this badly needed repair work creates jobs that cannot be outsourced. We need to pass the transportation bill now.

Number three is embracing a bold and balanced vision and crafting a true bipartisan agreement in the super committee, one that cuts our deficits by trillions, invests and raises revenues, and creates jobs. No one is pretending it will be easy, but if we get back to basics it could be as easy as one, two, three.

## MAIN STREET BANK CLOSES THREE BRANCHES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with over a dozen community bankers in my congressional district. They are concerned for ''the tsunami of regulations'' coming out of Washington, D.C.

Now, these are not Wall Street bankers, these are small town bankers. They told me, ''Washington regulators have their feet on the throats of small community banks who did not cause this economic downturn.''

The real life consequences of Dodd-Frank on our community banks impact our local small businesses, our communities' job creators. The reason is simple: Paying more money to comply with complicated, costly, meaningless regulations means fewer loans out the door for small businesses.

Higher costs for compliance is why Main Street Bank in Kingwood, Texas will close three branches this week. It simply costs too much money to stay in the community banking business these days.

When community banks close there are fewer opportunities for small business owners to access capital. I often hear small business owners say they can't get loans. This is why. These are the real consequences of burdensome, costly, ineffective Federal regulations.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1230

## REPUBLICANS' REFUSAL TO ACT ON AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it has been nearly 11 months that this Republican-led House of Representatives has pursued a no-jobs agenda and simply complains about the protections that the American citizens receive.

The American Jobs Act will put teachers, firefighters, police officers, and construction workers back on the job; it will create job opportunities for returning American veterans; it will cut taxes and create financial growth incentives for American businesses as well as provide much-needed job training and hiring programs for Americans that are currently looking for work.

Many provisions of the American Jobs Act have been strongly supported by Republicans in the past, but now, suddenly, they are against these ideas because they are being proposed by a Democratic President. This is the opposite of negotiation and compromise, and the American people do not have the patience for these antics instead of action.

I urge both parties of this House to work together and pass the American Jobs Act for the American people.

## GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR WITHHOLDING REPEAL ACT

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again in support of small business owners and builders all across the United States who will be harmed by a new tax withholding requirement by the Federal Government.

With unemployment at 9.1 percent and holding, we desperately need to come together to do all that we can to get our economy growing. But our economic recovery will not come from government growth. It will come from entrepreneurs, innovators, and small business owners who take risk, expand, hire new workers and create economic growth the old-fashioned way—in the private sector through hard work and free enterprise.

The imposition of a 3 percent withholding tax increase is the cost of doing business for our small business owners and therefore hurts job growth and the economic recovery. We cannot create jobs while punishing job creators. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 674, legislation that will remove this burdensome new tax requirement on our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we must come together as a Congress and do all that we can to promote legislation like this that will remove barriers to economic growth and get America back to work again.

## FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, just this past week, the country of Turkey, an ally of ours, experienced a devastating earthquake. Nearly 400 people, they believe, have died, and there's been great damage to the countryside. We've seen these disasters now in Japan and South America and other places. We've seen them in our country, too. We had problems last year.

Who comes to the aid of the people in Turkey whom we look out for as well and are concerned about? First responders, policemen, and firepeople.

My city of Memphis, Tennessee, lies on the New Madrid fault, the most likely place in our country to have a major earthquake. When that event occurs, I want to have adequate policemen and firemen there to help our citizens. We can have them with the Jobs Act, have them this year when we don't know whether it will occur or not.

First responders are so important to the future of America, and passing the Jobs Act will guarantee that we will have security when a natural disaster occurs. We need to keep policemen and firemen employed.

## DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. There are over 400,000 Americans who are living with an extra 21st chromosome, and my life has been blessed by one of them—our son, Cole.

As cochair of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, every day is a chance to raise awareness about this condition—advocating for Cole and those other 400,000 Americans helping them to live the American Dream.

Today the bipartisan Down Syndrome Caucus is hosting a special briefing on Capitol Hill. We're bringing in over half a dozen experts on how we can work together to improve medical research, break down barriers and expand opportunities for those who have Down syndrome and many others who could be positively impacted.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the countless individuals in the disabilities community who have reached out to me and my family. I'm forever grateful for your work to make America a better place for my family and all Americans.

## JOBS LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago a railroad bridge over the Norwalk River in my district seized, causing delay and economic damage along the New York-Boston corridor, an artery for jobs, for economic prosperity, and for growth. It turns out that this is true around the country.

The American Society of Engineers grades our infrastructure a D. Make no mistake. We are going to fix this because the American people are not going to tolerate bridges that fall down and roads that crumble.

Meanwhile, thousands of engineers, electricians, and carpenters are out of work. Do you see the connection between out-of-work construction people and a desperate need to rebuild our infrastructure? All that is missing is for the Republican majority to pass a jobs bill which funds the investment in our infrastructure that will lead to economic prosperity and to jobs now.

Every day that goes by in this Chamber without an infrastructure bill is a vote against safety and against jobs for people who desperately need them.

## FILIPINO HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, Mabuhay.

We take time this month to recognize the contributions of Filipino Americans to the growth of our Nation. The first wave of migrants came from the Philippines to Hawaii when we were still a territory. Today, they number the largest ethnic group in the State, and they total almost 1.5 million in the State of California.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have not kept our promises to the Filipino Americans. In World War II, we drafted about 200,000 of them with the promise—the promise—that they will have citizenship and benefits. And in 1946, the Congress rescinded that promise.

Today, with the stimulus package in 2009, we finally authorized the payment of some of the benefits to 30,000 who are remaining—30,000—but we have still failed to do what they wanted the most, which is the reunification of their families. Their stories and others' we will hear through this month.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saying to them, ''Salamat po,'' thank you for what you have done for this Nation.

## JOB CREATION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, our national unemployment rate is 9.1 percent. Yet for 42 weeks, the Republican leadership has ignored the need for a strong jobs agenda and has instead pushed an agenda to reduce workplace protections, and they have gone to weaken our economy. Unfortunately, the only jobs that will result from the Republican agenda are those vacated by victims of workplace injuries and possible deaths due to watered-down regulations. This is not responsible and only hampers our economic growth.

Democrats acknowledge that small businesses are responsible for nearly 70 percent of job creation. As a result, we have proposed the American Jobs Act and the Make it in America Act to support small businesses, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

The American Jobs Act proposal would create nearly 300,000 education jobs, keep thousands of police and firemen on the job, cut the payroll tax in half, and put more money in the pockets of Americans immediately without adding a dime to the deficit.

The Make It In America proposal would close tax loopholes that encourage outsourcing of U.S. jobs overseas and establish incentives for creating American clean energy jobs.

I ask my colleagues to abandon their misguided agenda and support those measures that will strengthen our country for all.

## CURRENCY MANIPULATION

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year we passed a bill in this House with 350 votes—99 Republicans—to address the issue of currency manipulation around the world, primarily China. Unfair trade practices in China have cost America 2.8 million jobs in the last 10 years—1.9 million of those, manufacturing.

If we have the strength in this body, in the House of Representatives, to take on the Chinese, we can have a major jobs package right here in the United States and put small and medium-sized manufacturers on a level playing field, put average workers back to work and reclaim the mantle of manufacturing in the United States. But this House has denied us the opportunity to take on the Chinese. The Senate passed it with over 60 votes just a week or 2 ago. Last year, we passed it in this House, 350 votes—99 Republicans.

We cannot be appeasers to the Chinese. We need to take them on, drive that investment back into the United States, and reclaim the mantle of manufacturing around the world.

□ 1240

## RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, October 4, 2011.*

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I hereby resign my position with the House Committee on Natural Resources.

It has been an honor to serve as a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and I have been proud to work with my colleagues to find solutions to our nation's energy crisis. I look forward to continuing to represent the people of the 3d Congressional District of Tennessee.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served on the House Committee on Natural Resources, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Sincerely,

CHUCK FLEISCHMANN,
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

## CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–67)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country are to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2011.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency to deal with that threat and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 25, 2011.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

## CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2447) to grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2447

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission and opening the doors for the very first African-Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

(2) The first Black Marine recruits were trained at Camp Montford Point, near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

(3) On August 26, 1942, Howard P. Perry of Charlotte, North Carolina, was the first Black private to set foot on Montford Point.

(4) During April 1943 the first African-American Marine Drill Instructors took over as the senior Drill Instructors of the eight platoons then in training; the 16th Platoon (Edgar R. Huff), 17th (Thomas Brokaw), 18th (Charles E. Allen), 19th (Gilbert H. Johnson), 20th (Arnold R. Bostic), 21st (Mortimer A. Cox), 22nd (Edgar R. Davis, Jr.), and 23rd (George A. Jackson).

(5) Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Company and the 36th Depot Company landed on the island of Iwo Jima on D–Day, February 19, 1945.

(6) The largest number of Black Marines to serve in combat during World War II took part in the seizure of Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands with some 2,000 Black Marines seeing action during the campaign.

(7) On November 10, 1945, the first African-American Marine, Frederick C. Branch, was commissioned as a second lieutenant at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia.

(8) Overall 19,168 Blacks served in the Marine Corps in World War II.

(9) An enterprising group of men, including original Montford Pointer Master Sergeant Brooks E. Gray, planned a reunion of the Men of Montford Point, and on September 15, 1965, approximately 400 Montford Point Marines gathered at the Adelphi Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to lay the foundation for the Montford Point Marine Association Inc., 16 years after the closure of Montford Point as a training facility for Black recruits.

(10) Organized as a non-military, nonprofit entity, the Montford Point Marine Association's main mission is to preserve the legacy of the first Black Marines.

(11) Today the Montford Point Marine Association has 36 chapters throughout the United States.

(12) Many of these first Black Marines stayed in the Marine Corps like Sergeant Major Edgar R. Huff.

(13) Sergeant Major Huff was one of the very first recruits aboard Montford Point.

(14) Sergeant Major Huff was also the first African-American Sergeant Major and the first African-American Marine to retire with 30 years of service which included combat in three major wars, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

(15) During the Tet Offensive, Sergeant Major Huff was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with combat ''V'' for valor for saving the life of his radio operator.

(16) Another original Montford Pointer who saw extensive combat action in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War was Sergeant Major Louis Roundtree.

(17) Sergeant Major Roundtree was awarded the Silver Star Medal, four Bronze Star Medals, three Purple Hearts, and numerous other personal and unit awards for his service during these conflicts.

(18) On April 19, 1974, Montford Point was renamed Camp Johnson after legendary Montford Pointer Sergeant Major Gilbert ''Hashmark'' Johnson.

(19) The Montford Point Marine Association has several memorials in place to perpetuate the memory of the first African-American Marines and their accomplishments, including—

(A) the Montford Point Marine Association Edgar R. Huff Memorial Scholarship which is offered annually through the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation;

(B) the Montford Point Museum located aboard Camp Johnson (Montford Point) in Jacksonville, North Carolina;

(C) the Brooks Elbert Gray, Jr. Consolidated Academic Instruction Facility named in honor of original Montford Pointer and the Montford Point Marine Corps Association founder Master Gunnery Sergeant Gray. This facility was dedicated on 15 April 2005 aboard Camp Johnson, North Carolina; and

(D) during July of 1997 Branch Hall, a building within the Officers Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, was named in honor of Captain Frederick Branch.

**SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the Montford Point Marines, collectively, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

**SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

**SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are National medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed $30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under section 2.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is very important legislation. I want to thank the gentlelady from Florida, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, for bringing this forward.

I want to say that the chairman of the Financial Services Committee and the ranking member, Mr. FRANK, saw the importance of this legislation and wanted to bring it to the floor as quickly as possible. Mr. BACHUS, who is chairman of the committee, has a son, Warren, who is now in the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to serve the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, which is in the Third District of North Carolina. In 1994, as a candidate for this office, I heard about the very special marines who trained at Montford Point, which is on the base at Camp Lejeune. I did not know the history at that time, but as we all know, during that period of time, we had segregation in this country, which was wrong. President Franklin Roosevelt made a decision and issued a directive that the Marine Corps would accept these fine Americans who wanted to be marines, so therefore they were segregated, but they were marines who gave their very best for our country.

OCTOBER 24, 2011.

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,

*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BACHUS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2447, to grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines, which is scheduled for Floor action on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2447 contains a provision that provides for the sale of duplicate medals, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin and medal bills and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2447, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman.*

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OCTOBER 24, 2011.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,

*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, United States House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 2447, a bill to grant the Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines, which is scheduled for Floor consideration under suspension of the rules on October 25, 2011.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, the bill contains provisions governing the proceeds of the sale of the bronze medals, which concern raising revenue and accordingly fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. Further, I appreciate your willingness to forego action by the Committee on Ways and Means on H.R. 2447 in order to allow the bill to come to the Floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. Therefore, I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance and if you should need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie McGarry of my staff at 202–225–7502.

Sincerely,

SPENCER BACHUS,
*Chairman.*

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass this bill honoring the first black marines. I am a proud cosponsor, along with 305 of my colleagues, of H.R. 2447, ''to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines.''

In 1941, President Roosevelt issued a Presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to serve in the Marine Corps. These recruits, from all States, were not sent to Parris Island or San Diego. Instead, African American marines were segregated. They received recruit training at Montford Point, a facility on board Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Approximately 20,000 African American marines received basic training at Montford Point during World War II, and 75 percent served overseas. The initial intent of the Corps was to discharge these marines after the war and return them to civilian life. This would have left the Corps an all-white service. As World War II progressed, attitudes changed and reality took hold. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny that these marines were just as capable as any other marine regardless of race, color, creed or national origin.

According to General James F. Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps:

''Montford Point Marines served with distinction in three of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific—Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. The Montford Point Marines fought with such tenacity, valor and distinction that the commandant at the time was moved to declare, 'The Negro marines are no longer on trial. They are marines—period.' Their actions reflected the finest attributes of the 'leatherneck' fighting spirit and blazed the trail for generations of African Americans in the Marine Corps.''

The special recognition that Congress has already afforded the first African American servicemen of the Navy, Army and Air Force is long overdue the Montford Point Marines. The distinguished record of these African Americans advanced the cause of civil rights and contributed to President Truman's decision to order the desegregation of the Armed Forces in 1948.

Mr. Speaker, the Montford Point Marines' service and sacrifice reflect great credit upon themselves and uphold the highest traditions of the Marine Corps, so I urge all of my colleagues to honor the Montford Point Marines by voting for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to what Mr. CLAY was saying, I want the House to know that the Montford Point Marines are revered by the citizens of Jacksonville and Camp Lejeune. Their history speaks for itself. They gave their blood and their lives in the South Pacific with their fellow marines as they fought for this country during World War II.

Again, I think that Congresswoman BROWN deserves so much credit in bringing this forward, as does the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt for seeing the value of creating this opportunity for Americans.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1250

Mr. CLAY. I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida and the original sponsor of this legislation, Ms. BROWN.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I begin my remarks, I would like to acknowledge that many of the Montford Point Marines are here visiting us today in the Capitol. This is a picture of the Montford Point Marines.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this great day for the Montford Point Marines. Today the House of Representatives will pass a resolution giving these marines their long-overdue recognition. I am pleased to join with so many of my colleagues, now 308, to support a resolution to grant the Montford Point Marines a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed for an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States.

Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has served our country in peace and war. Today the Marine Corps still serves the Nation as a force in readiness, prepared to serve whenever the Nation calls. It is befitting that as we celebrate on November 10 the 236th birthday of the Marine Corps, that we highlight and honor the Montford Point Marines.

On June 25, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued executive order 8802, opening the doors for the very first African Americans to enlist

in the United States Marines. From 1942 to 1949, 20,000 African Americans enlisted in the Marine Corps in a time of war when the military services were resistant to integration.

These African Americans, from all States, were not sent to the traditional boot camps in Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African American Marines were segregated, experiencing basic training at Camp Montford Point near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Years before Jackie Robinson and decades before Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., these heroes joined the Marines to defend their country and do their job.

One specific marine is worth singling out. Gilbert ''Hashmark'' Johnson was one of the first African American marine drill instructors at Montford Point in 1943. He exemplified the work ethic and toughness that it took to be a Montford Point Marine.

Born in rural Alabama, Johnson attended Stillman College in 1922, but enlisted in the Army after 1 year at school. After 6 years in the Army, he tried civilian life for 4 years but enlisted in the Navy in 1933. When he heard about executive order 8802, he immediately requested transfer from the Navy to the Marines.

When this occurred, his nickname of Hashmark was secured, having more service stripes than rank stripes. After service as sergeant major at Montford Point, Hashmark went on to serve as sergeant major of the 52nd Defense Battalion in Guam. While serving in Guam with the battalion during World War II, he found black marines were being assigned to labor details rather than combat patrols, from which they were currently exempt. Once he got the commanding officer to reverse this decision, he personally led 25 separate excursions into the jungle.

Hashmark went on to serve in Korea and eventually retired in 1959 with 32 years of service, 17 with the Marines. After his death in 1972, the Marine Corps paid tribute to this great warrior and leader by naming the camp in his honor, Camp Gilbert H. Johnson. In July of 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued executive order 9981 ending segregation in the military; and in September of 1949, Montford Point Marine Camp was deactivated, ending 7 years of segregation.

General James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, has stated it is the responsibility of the Marine Corps and this Congress to honor these men who suffered through racism and segregation here in this country. I am honored to offer this resolution to recognize their service and sacrifice and acknowledge today the United States Marine Corps is an excellent opportunity for advancement for all races due to the service and example of these original Montford Point Marines.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CLAY. I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I want to thank the many Members who helped to bring this resolution to the floor. Financial Services Chairman SPENCER BACHUS, whose son serves in the Marines, was especially helpful, and SANFORD BISHOP, ANDER CRENSHAW and ALLEN WEST, so many Members, over 308 sponsors and the leadership of both parties. This is an example of what we can do when we work together. I am just very excited about what we are doing here today.

I want to end by saying—and I'm not very good at this—oohrah, honoring these men of Montford Point.

This is, like I said, a great day and a wonderful bipartisan example of what we can do when we work together.

APRIL 5, 2011.

Hon. CORRINE BROWN,
*House of Representatives,*
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN: On behalf of the Marine Corps, I respectfully request your support of legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines for their service during World War II.

At a time when the Services were resistant to integration, approximately 20,000 African-Americans enlisted in the Marine Corps, choosing to put their lives on the line in order to be accepted and recognized as fully fledged citizens by this great Nation. Subsequent to undergoing segregated basic training at Montford Point Camp, North Carolina, many of these Marines fought and died for their Country in the Pacific during World War II. Montford Point Marines served with distinction in three of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific—Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. The Montford Point Marines fought with such tenacity, valor, and distinction that the Commandant at the time was moved to declare, ''The Negro Marines are no longer on trial. They are Marines, period'' Their actions reflected the finest attributes of the ''leatherneck'' fighting spirit and blazed the trail for generations of African-Americans in the Marine Corps.

We believe the service, sacrifice and patriotism of the Montford Point Marines is due the same special recognition that Congress has already afforded the first African-American servicemen of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Like them, the Montford Point Marines enlisted in the military and defended a society that enjoyed freedoms they did not share. The combat service of these Americans advanced the cause of civil rights and contributed, in large measure, to President Truman's decision to order the desegregation of the Armed Forces in 1948.

Given their meritorious service and patriotism in a society that was slow to accept their value, the time is now to award the Congressional Gold Medal.

Very Respectfully,

JAMES F. AMOS,
*General, U.S. Marine Corps,*
*Commandant of the Marine Corps.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2447, introduced by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), which would right a wrong of the segregation era by awarding Congressional Gold Medals collectively to the so-called Montford Point Marines, our country's first black marine unit.

Earlier this month, the country honored the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his leadership in the civil rights movement.

In their own way, these African American men, 20,000 of whom trained in a segregated boot camp in North Carolina, fought for civil rights and equality even as they fought for peace and freedom in World War II. It was unfair for them to have to wage the first battle while waging the second to defend us all.

While it is interesting that these brave men were not even the first African American marines, at least a dozen served with honor, fighting alongside white marines during the Revolutionary War.

One, John Martin, a slave, was reportedly recruited without the knowledge or permission of his slave owner. But after the war ended, both the Marines and the Navy were disbanded. And when the Marines were reformed in 1798, the right to fight for their country in the Marines was taken from black Americans. Service by blacks was barred, supposedly based on British naval tradition.

Nearly 200,000 black Americans fought in the Union Army in the Civil War, and black soldiers served in the Army during the Spanish-American War and World War I, but the Navy at the time had a policy of not using blacks in combat roles, although plenty served in support roles.

In recognition of the heroism of the men who took their boot camp at Montford Point, we should immediately pass this legislation. Marine Commandant General James F. Amos has worked tirelessly urging Congress to recognize the Montford Point Marines with a Congressional Gold Medal, as it did a half decade ago in recognizing similar trail-blazing World War II military service by the Tuskegee Airmen and the Nisei soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has more than 300 cosponsors, of which I am one. The staggering number represents a fitting recognition of the bill's importance, and I urge its passage.

□ 1300

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank my friend from New Mexico for his comments on the historic service of African Americans throughout our history.

At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we have honored the Army's Buffalo Soldiers and the Army's Tuskegee Airmen. It's time to give the Montford Point Marines the honor that is their due.

The Montford Point Marines fought an enemy abroad and injustice at home. They served with great valor and distinction and loved their country more than their country loved them at the time. President Roosevelt ordered in 1941 that the Marine Corps be opened to African Americans, but the Marines considered themselves the most elite branch of our military and the most traditional, and many resented Roosevelt's order that African Americans be accepted.

The first African American marines were hardly welcomed with open arms. Their segregated unit was stationed at Montford Point, North Carolina. They were near Camp Lejeune, but the Montford Point Marines could not enter Camp Lejeune except in the company of a white officer. They were passed over for years for promotions that white marines achieved in weeks. When they trained with white marines, which was rare, they waited until white marines had eaten before they went through the chow lines.

The Montford Point Marines were sent to the Pacific theater to serve behind the lines, not in combat for which they were presumed to be unsuited. No one told the Japanese. The Montford Point Marines served in Saipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, three of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. They came under intense fire and showed great courage, winning the praise of skeptical white officers.

President Truman fully integrated the Armed Forces in 1948, and African American marines served side by side with white marines in Korea and in every conflict since then. The distinguished service of the Montford Point Marines largely made that possible.

General Amos, the commandant of the Marines, said he wants every marine, from private to general, to know the history of the marines who fought an enemy overseas, and racism and segregation in their own country.

I want every marine and every American to know that history. Semper Fi.

Mr. JONES. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman, and I'd like to thank the gentlelady from Florida for making this recognition and the gentleman from North Carolina for all of his leadership in the House on this issue and a variety of others; and I just rise here to say that I want to be in support of not only this resolution but the eventual awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines.

I think this is a great example of how we in America, sometimes it takes us too long, but we try to rectify these problems. I hope that this is an opportunity for us to recognize discrimination when it's happening anywhere else in the military or across our country, that we shouldn't have to wait to honor these marines 70 years later because of their commitment that they made. They were dedicated to this country. They fought racism. They fought segregation. They fought humiliation, all to try to serve this great country. I think they really embody what the Marines stand for, the honor, the courage, and the commitment that is exactly what it takes to be a marine. So let us learn this lesson and also honor these gentlemen here today.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. At this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my colleague and very good friend, CORRINE BROWN, for her leadership on this, and also Chairman WALTER JONES and Ranking Member CLAY. I am a proud cosponsor, and I rise in strong support of this bill, and I am thrilled that the Montford Point Marines are with us in the gallery.

In 1941, President Roosevelt issued an executive order which opened the door for the first African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. Totaling approximately 20,000, these brave men faced segregated training at Montford Point, North Carolina, while white recruits were trained at Parris Island in South Carolina.

Among these distinguished marines was someone who later in life would become an outstanding mayor of the city of New York, my friend and now constituent, David Dinkins. David Dinkins, Mayor Dinkins, enlisted in the Marines in 1945 immediately after graduating from high school and served until the end of the war. He told me this story today about how thrilled he was about this gold medal. He said one day he went out and the drill sergeant announced: Everybody, get on your knees. Thank the Lord, the war is over. Now get up, nothing has changed.

Mayor Dinkins and the rest of the men in the Montford Point Marines served with distinction, regardless of the prejudice and segregation they faced, fighting in the Pacific arena during the Second World War in three of the bloodiest battles—Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. They fought with bravery and valor, overcoming the resistance to integration within the services at that time and eventually earned high praise from the Marine Corps commandant.

The legacy of their service has endured beyond the battlefields of the Second World War, as they opened the door for generations of African Americans in the Marine Corps. These brave men advanced the cause of civil rights while simultaneously protecting the freedoms of our country. And for that we owe them a heartfelt deep thanks.

Congress has already recognized the first African American servicemembers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; and this bill to award the same honor to the Montford Point Marines is well deserved, and I am so proud to be a cosponsor and to be supporting it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that the rules of the House prohibit the introduction of occupants of the gallery.

Mr. JONES. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me this time.

I also want to commend and congratulate Representative CORRINE BROWN for her introduction of this legislation and for the tremendous work that she did to get it to the floor this soon today, and I commend you for that.

I have an uncle who was at Okinawa, and of course he talked a great deal about his experiences. But I also remember being a young boy during Korea, and two or three of our older guys went and joined the Marines, and how proud they were to come home wearing their dress uniforms. All of the younger people were running kind of behind them, looking at them when they would come to church or dress up. I have a large Montford Point Marine Association in my congressional district that I visit quite frequently, especially Veterans Day and other times such as Memorial Day when we pay tribute to veterans.

So I simply come to say thanks to all of them who have helped to make America what it is and have helped to keep our country strong. I urge passage.

Mr. JONES. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to first thank my good friend from North Carolina, Mr. JONES, for his leadership on this issue. I know that he represents Camp Lejeune, and he has certainly been a friend to the Marine Corps; and we are all indebted to him for that.

Mr. Speaker, the bill calls for the Treasury Secretary to strike a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the Montford Point Marines collectively in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

The bill authorizes the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make arrangements for the award of the medal on behalf of the Congress and authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and sell duplicates in bronze at a price sufficient to cover overhead expenses. To me, this is the least we can do for a group of men who served a grateful Nation so well.

□ 1310

During April of 1943, the first African American Marine drill instructors took over as the senior drill instructors of

the eight platoons then in training. The 16th Platoon was headed by Edgar R. Huff; the 17th Platoon was headed by Thomas Brokaw; the 18th Platoon was headed by Charles E. Allen; and the 19th Platoon was headed by Gilbert H. Johnson, who was mentioned earlier.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 1 minute remaining, and the gentleman from North Carolina has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. JONES. I would advise my colleague that I have no further requests for time and will close on our side.

Mr. CLAY. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am pleased to join my colleague, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, who's been relentless in calling for this day. And to our colleague from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), thank you for your leadership on all of this as well; and to our colleagues on the other side, the ranking member on the Banking Committee, and Mr. PEARCE as well, who spoke about this.

We have come together in a bipartisan way for a very patriotic occasion for our country. What a thrill it will be when we can tell our constituents we were there to vote for this important resolution which will, as we all know, call for directing the Treasury Secretary to strike a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the Montford Point Marines. How exciting.

I know that many of those marines or their families are here on Capitol Hill today. We look forward to welcoming them to a ceremony where these medals will be bestowed. I only wish that all of the marines who served and were willing to sacrifice their lives for our country could be here—all of them the subject of the respect and honor that we pay. This is just another example of some of the inequality that existed in our country earlier on, and it's long overdue for us to redress some of that.

We've had occasion in the rotunda over the last few years to recognize the work of President Truman when he called for the desegregation of the military. Colin Powell—General, Secretary, National Security Adviser; he has many titles—was here with us that day. We've had occasion to honor our Tuskegee Airmen on another occasion. So it is long overdue to, again, take this step to recognize the important work that all Americans played in their most important responsibility—to protect and defend.

I will say this to all of the marines who approached me about this legislation outside the Congress. Every time they did, I said that CORRINE BROWN and LACY CLAY have already gotten to us. CORRINE was absolutely relentless on this, and we're all here because of her leadership and the work of the members of our Congressional Black Caucus and the bipartisan support that we have. Of course, we wouldn't be on the floor without the leadership of our Speaker, who enabled this bill to come to the floor.

It's a proud day for the Congress. We look forward to an even prouder day when these medals will be bestowed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Missouri has expired.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina and the gentleman from Missouri for their courtesies.

This is an emotional time for all of us. As we pay tribute to the Montford Point Marines, we must pay tribute to Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN. We thank you, first of all, for restoring our faith in this country and showing us that we can work together as Members of Congress.

To be able to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal on the Montford Point Marines is something that we would want to be the first legislation of this week. It awards the gold medal to the first African American marines at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Then, of course, it acknowledges their personal sacrifice and their service to the country.

My father-in-law was a Tuskegee Airman. It took so long to be able to honor them. And as we begin to build this country on a more solid ground, it is important to acknowledge the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, Sergeant William Harvey Carney. He received it during the Civil War. Then, of course, at its inception, the Marine Corps refused to recruit African Americans from 1775 until 1942. But immediately after the racial restrictions were lifted, nearly 20,000 African Americans signed up to become marines and began their basic training at the segregated Camp Montford Point during World War II until 1949. Yet they were still faced with segregation and racism.

We all know that the Marines are the first in; and as the Marines are the first in, then others follow. They're well known for taking the bullet first, in many instances, as they work with other members of the United States military.

So today it is more than appropriate, Mr. Speaker, to be able to honor these fine heroic individuals. I salute them. I thank God that we have the opportunity to honor them at this time. It is great that America can unite together and go forward under a unity of understanding the dignity of all people.

Thank you, Montford Point Marines. It is an honor to support the Congressional Gold Medal being awarded to them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2447, "To Grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines," which awards the Congressional Gold Medal to the first African American Marines at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

African Americans have a long and proud history of serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Since the founding of our fine nation, African Americans have fought to protect our nation. The first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor was Sergeant William Harvey Carney. He achieved this honor for his heroism during the Civil War. Although Sergeant Carney received our nation's highest military honor he would not have been allowed to join the Marines. The measure before us today honors the African American tradition of service and recognizes how far we have come as a society.

From its inception in 1775 until 1942, the Marine Corps refused to recruit African Americans. On June 25, 1941, against heated objections from the Marine Corps leadership, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 to establish fair employment practices which ended racial discrimination in the military. President Roosevelt recognized the need for social change in the armed services. African Americans, who were long denied access to the Marines, now had the opportunity to become Marines.

Immediately after the racial restrictions were lifted, nearly 20,000 African Americans signed up to become Marines and began their basic training at the segregated Camp Montford Point during World War II until 1949. Yet, African American Marines still faced the challenges of segregation and racism.

Railroad tracks divided White Marines at Camp Lejeune from Camp Montford Point. African American Marines could only enter Camp Lejeune if accompanied by a White Marine. Even under these conditions African Americans persevered, completed training and fought to protect our country.

By 1945 all drill instructors and officers at Montford Point were African Americans. In the same year, Frederick Branch became the first African American Marine to be commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Marines from Montford Point landed at Iwo Jima on D-Day, and engaged in combat in Okinawa. The largest number of African-American Marines to serve in combat during World War II took part in the seizure of Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands with some 2,000 African-American Marines seeing action during the campaign. Overall, 19,168 African-Americans served in the Marine Corps in World War II.

In 1949 Camp Montford Point was deactivated and new African American recruits were sent to Paris Island in South Carolina and Camp Pendleton in California. In less than five years, the African American men who served at Camp Montford Point forever changed U.S. history.

We should all celebrate the legacy these heroes have given us. We celebrate this legacy with pride and are optimistic that our children and their grandchildren will forever remember those who have made this country

what it is today. The combat services of the Montford Point Marines certainly advanced the cause of civil rights. These African American men fought fiercely and with honor. Their actions in combat had a strong impact on President Truman's decision to order the desegregation of the Armed Forces in 1948.

We have a duty to recognize Americans who have endured tremendous odds. Let these Marines remind us of a yesterday of segregation and inequality.

Also, let them remind us that, as Americans, we are one in service and patriotism to our great nation. I stand with my colleagues in support of this recognition of the history of such a prestigious group of men—the first African American Marines of Montford Point.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to pay tribute to a remarkable group of African American trailblazers and patriotic servicemen, the Montford Point Marines.

These distinguished veterans did not just defend our Nation in a time of war; but through their courageous acts, they helped to spearhead a movement where the goals of achieving equal opportunity and respect for universal human rights are now more intricately woven into our society.

In 1942 President Roosevelt established a Presidential directive allowing African Americans to be recruited into the United States Marine Corps. These African American recruits were trained at a segregated compound known as Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Over 20,000 African Americans bravely served in the Marine Corps during World War II. They selflessly and voluntarily put themselves in harm's way to defend our homeland and to safeguard these freedoms.

This past summer, Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of attending the reburial ceremony of Montford Point Marine Private James Benjamin. Private Benjamin's remains and surviving family members were escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from the West Mortuary in Montezuma, Georgia; and he was laid to rest with full military honors at the Andersonville National Cemetery this past Memorial Day weekend.

□ 1320

He was disinterred from a segregated cemetery because at the time of his service he could not be buried where white servicemen were buried.

When it comes to recounting our Nation's history and looking back at the trials and tribulations that were endured by the Montford Point Marines, I doubt there is a generation or group of World War II veterans who had it tougher than they did. People sometimes forget that they were fighting two wars, both foreign and domestic.

But I would like to commend the spirit of these brave men because they guide me in my duties to maintain our government's commitment to our fighting troops and for helping the troops who protect our freedoms at this time. Not only does that mean that we have to, today, maintain adequate salary and benefit levels for the military, but we've got to keep our promise to our veterans, our armed services retirees, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague, CORRINE BROWN, who has championed this issue and brought the story of the Montford Point Marines to the attention of our entire Nation. I commend the Commandant and Marine Corps for their efforts in making sure that our Nation doesn't forget.

I urge my colleagues, therefore, to support H.R. 2447 and to honor the first black Marines with the recognition that they deserve and that they have patiently been waiting for.

Mr. Speaker, following is my statement in its entirety:

Mr. Speaker, I come to the House Floor today to pay tribute to a remarkable group of African-American trailblazers and patriotic servicemen—the Montford Point Marines. These distinguished veterans did not just defend our nation in a time of war; through their courageous acts they helped to spearhead a movement where the goals of achieving equal opportunity and respect for universal human rights are now more intricately woven into our society.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt established a presidential directive allowing African-Americans to be recruited in the United States Marine Corps. These African-American recruits were trained at a segregated compound known as Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Approximately 20,000 African-Americans bravely served in the Marines Corps during World War II. These men selflessly and voluntarily put themselves in harm's way to defend our homeland and safeguard our freedoms.

This past summer, I had the honor of attending the reburial ceremony of Montford Point Marine PVT James Benjamin. PVT Benjamin's remains and surviving family members were escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from the West Mortuary in Montezuma, Georgia, and he was laid to rest with full military honors at the Andersonville National Cemetery this past Memorial Day Weekend.

When it comes to recounting our nation's history and looking back at the trial and tribulations that were endured by the Montford Point Marines, I doubt there is a generation or group of World War II veterans who had it tougher than them. People sometimes forget that these Marines were fighting two wars, one foreign and one domestic. Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese Empire were not the only foes that the Montford Point Marines had to encounter. Every day they went into battle against Jim Crow, bigotry and racism here at home.

During World War II, there were some German and Italian prisoners of war that were treated better than the black soldiers serving in our Armed Services. Some American establishments that refused to serve blacks serving in the military would allow imprisoned German and Italian soldiers to patronize their facilities.

Not many people would have had the will to overcome such disparate treatment. But instead of harboring bitterness or vengeance, this group stood tall and remained above the fray.

The Montford Point Marines have demonstrated that patriotic service means more than just saying you love this country and the promise it offers. Their resilience and resolve show that true patriots are those individuals who prioritize the needs of their country ahead of their own, even if they do so at their own peril.

These Marines gave our nation a gift that extends beyond their heroic war service. In being the best of the very best, both on and off the battlefield, they helped to change perspectives and broaden peoples' horizons. They showed the entire world that when given an opportunity, people can meet any challenge and achieve any goal.

As a Member of Congress, I rely on the spirit of these brave men to guide me in my duties to maintain our Federal Government's commitment to our fighting troops and those who preceded them. That means not only maintaining adequate salary and benefit levels for our nation's military, but keeping our promise to our veterans, Armed Services retirees and military families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague, CORRINE BROWN, who has championed this issue and brought the story of the Montford Point Marines to the attention of the entire nation.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2447 and to honor the first black Marines with the recognition they deserve and have patiently been waiting for.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I think this has been a great debate. I want to thank Congresswoman BROWN for bringing H.R. 2447 to the floor. I think, any time, that the House of Representatives can debate and soothe the pains of yesterday with the glory of today by honoring these Marines who served at Montford Point.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is long overdue that we honor these Marines for their courageous service to our country. These men are a very important part of our country's history, and I hope that each and every one of our colleagues in the House today will join Ms. BROWN in saluting these great marines.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 2447. Nearly 70 years after the Marine Corps became the last military branch to accept blacks under orders from President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941, Congress will vote today on whether to grant the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor. I would like to commend my colleague, Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, for her leadership in sponsoring this important and historical legislation and shepherding the bill to the House floor.

''Loyalty and Service'' to our nation despite prejudice and discrimination is one of the mantras used to describe the first African-Americans to serve in the United States Marines. These black marines were segregated during their basic training at Montford Point Camp between 1942–1949.

Overall, 19,168 African-Americans served in the Marine Corps in World War II and helped pave the way for the future of African-Americans in the Marine Corps. Although we have come a long way, we cannot be satisfied and neither is the Marine Commandant. Today, of the 22,155 African American who currently serve in the Marine Corps, there are only about 1,326 officers. The Marine Corps has 88 generals today, but only six are black.

I applaud the efforts of advocates who have committed to increasing the number of African-American officers in the Marine Corps and am a staunch supporter of this legislation. African-Americans continue a legacy of service in the Marine Corps and increasing the number of black officers is long overdue.

But today, we honor those African-Americans who were the first to serve and all who have served and are currently serving. Most of the 19,000 Montford Point Marines have died, but today we join the movement to honor their legacy by bestowing them with the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. government. This is long overdue and I urge passage of this historical legislation.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 2447, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines.

I want to thank my colleague from Florida, Ms. BROWN, for sponsoring this bill and recognizing the efforts of true heroes who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt established a presidential directive allowing African Americans to be recruited by the Marine Corps.

These men were not trained at Parris Island or San Diego, but instead were segregated to Montford Point, near Camp Lejeune, NC.

Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 men received their basic training at Montford Point.

The original intent of the directive was to discharge all of these men after the conclusion of World War II. But after being able to display their commitment and courage, it became obvious that these African American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, and creed.

And to this day, hundreds of thousands of minorities make these same commitment and sacrifices for our country in our military's efforts across the world.

At a time when African Americans suffered countless instances of prejudice and injustice—not only by their peers, but by the laws they abided by—these men were willing to put their commitment to country above all else and become trailblazers for all those who followed their lead.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2447 which will award the Congressional Gold Medal in appreciation for these Marines' sacrifice and dedication to our country.

It will, moreover, reassert the fundamental principle that our country was founded on—that all men are created equal.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to honor the sacrifice and patriotism of the Montford Point Marines with Congress's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Montford Point Marines were this Nation's first class of African-American Marine recruits. As was often the case during the Jim Crow Era, being the first African-Americans to break the color barriers resulted in a whole new set of hardships. Montford Point Marines suffered from the start. Not only were they not allowed to train at Camp Lejeune with their white colleagues, the Commandant, the Marine's highest ranking officer said publicly that if he had to choose between 250,000 African-American Marines and 5,000 whites, he would rather have the whites.

Training along the North Carolina coast, they endured inferior conditions and trained with inferior equipment dodging snakes and malaria-infected mosquitoes in summer and risking exposure from the bitter cold in winter as they passed the nights in huts made of cardboard.

Fueled by a fierce determination to answer the call to arms in their Nation's hour of need, the Montford Point Marines endured these hardships and joined the fight in Okinawa, where their courage and bravery were celebrated. When the war ended, they returned home to silence, abuse and indifference and were soon forgotten. That is, until today.

As a cosponsor of this bill, I am proud to stand with my colleagues to recognize the Montford Point Marines for their courage and sacrifice with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 2447, introduced by the gentle lady form Florida, CORRINE BROWN, to award a collective Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines for their patriotic service during World War II and their important role in promoting the cause of equal rights in our country.

Like the Tuskegee Airmen from my native Alabama, the Montford Point Marines fought for the principles of our democracy overseas at a time when prejudice and segregation prevented them from enjoying all of our country's freedoms here at home.

Recently, our nation has paused to remember two giants in the civil rights movement. Here in Washington, the new memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King was dedicated on the National Mall. Over the past few days in Birmingham, thousands of people from all races have united to pay tribute to the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, who passed away on October 5th at the age of 89.

In the face of prejudice, hostility, and physical attack, individuals like Dr. King, Reverend Shuttlesworth, and our own cherished colleague JOHN LEWIS always held to the highest ideals and did not allow the hate they experienced to diminish their love for their country.

Behind the prominent leaders of the civil rights movement, as they themselves would tell you, have been many courageous foot soldiers with the same ideals. The phrase "foot soldiers" is literally true when it comes to the Montford Point Marines.

These men, our first African American Marines, willingly stepped forward during World War II to risk their lives to preserve freedoms that they themselves were being denied. All too often, they encountered vicious racial discrimination that was as painful in its own way as any bulletfire. This could have ripped the morale of our service apart and helped the enemy.

Instead, the soldiers who endured the harsh conditions at Montford Point and racial indignities in the field of battle—more than 20,000 in all from 1942–1949—served with the highest level of honor and loyalty. They fought fiercely in Okinawa and Iwo Jima. They cleaned up ash after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

The Montford Point Marines were never properly recognized for their bravery and heroism—not during the war and certainly not at the end, when they were essentially dismissed and officially all but forgotten.

But their colorblind service raised a profound contradiction: after fighting for freedom abroad, how could any American be denied full rights here at home? We all know the answer, you could not continue to deny those rights.

In the beginning, the Montford Point Marines set out only to serve their country during a time of war. With their valor, they helped to change military history. They wound up changing the social history of America as well.

Today, we are belatedly telling these heroes, "Thank You." Marine Commandant James F. Amos should be commended for his determination to make sure that these veterans are properly remembered not just by the Corps but by a grateful nation as well.

As the proud father of a son who served in the Marines, it is a personal honor for me to be able to speak in support of a Congressional Gold Medal for the Montford Point Marines, and I urge the immediate passage of this long-overdue legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2447.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2527) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2527

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the ''National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act''.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) On June 12, 1939, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opened in Cooperstown, New York. Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, Babe Ruth, and Honus Wagner comprised the inaugural class of inductees. This class set the standard for all future inductees. Since 1939, just one percent of all Major League Baseball players have earned induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

(2) The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is dedicated to preserving history, honoring excellence, and connecting generations through the rich history of our national pastime. Baseball has mirrored our Nation's history since the Civil War, and is now an integral part of our Nation's heritage.

(3) The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum chronicles the history of our national pastime and houses the world's largest collection of baseball artifacts, including more than 38,000 three dimensional artifacts, 3,000,000 documents, 500,000 photographs, and 12,000 hours of recorded media. This collection ensures that baseball history and its unique connection to American history will be preserved and recounted for future generations.

(4) Since its opening in 1939, more than 14,000,000 baseball fans have visited the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to learn about the history of our national pastime and the game's connection to the American experience.

(5) The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is an educational institution, reaching 10,000,000 Americans annually. Utilizing video conference technology, students and teachers participate in interactive lessons led by educators from the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. These award-winning educational programs draw upon the wonders of baseball to reach students in classrooms nationwide. Each educational program uses baseball as a lens for teaching young Americans important lessons on an array of topics, including mathematics, geography, civil rights, women's history, economics, industrial technology, arts, and communication.

**SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) $5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 $5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to the extent possible without significantly adding to the purchase price of the coins, the $1 coins and $5 coins minted under this Act should be produced in a fashion similar to the 2009 International Year of Astronomy coins issued by Monnaie de Paris, the French Mint, so that the reverse of the coin is convex to more closely resemble a baseball and the obverse concave, providing a more dramatic display of the obverse design chosen pursuant to section 4(c).

**SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the game of baseball.

(2) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year ''2015''; and

(C) inscriptions of the words ''Liberty'', ''In God We Trust'', ''United States of America'', and ''E Pluribus Unum''.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the Commission of Fine Arts and in accordance with subparagraph (c); and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

(c) OBVERSE DESIGN COMPETITION.—The Secretary shall hold a competition and provide compensation for its winner to design the common obverse of the coins minted under this Act, with such design being emblematic of the game of baseball. The competition shall be held in the following manner:

(1) The competition shall be judged by an expert jury chaired by the Secretary and consisting of 3 members from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee who shall be elected by such Committee and 3 members from the Commission of Fine Arts who shall be elected by such Commission.

(2) The Secretary shall determine compensation for the winning design, which shall be not less than $5,000.

(3) The Secretary may not accept a design for the competition unless a plaster model accompanies the design.

(d) REVERSE DESIGN.—The design on the common reverse of the coins minted under this Act shall depict a baseball similar to those used by Major League Baseball.

**SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2015.

**SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

**SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

(1) A surcharge of $35 per coin for the $5 coin.

(2) A surcharge of $10 per coin for the $1 coin.

(3) A surcharge of $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Baseball Hall of Fame to help finance its operations.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Baseball Hall of Fame shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

**SEC. 8. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PEARCE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, baseball truly is the American sport. From the earliest age, we begin enrolling our children in pee-wee baseball leagues. We take our children to games where we enjoy a day at the ballpark eating hot dogs and Cracker Jacks. That is because baseball is America's national pastime, and that's why I'm proud to ask for consideration of the bill before us.

H.R. 2527 was introduced in July, on the same day as the 50th Congressional Baseball Game, by Mr. HANNA for himself and 296 others, including myself. This bill was also introduced for Mr. BARTON and Mr. DOYLE, who managed the Republican and Democrat teams in the 50th Congressional Baseball Game.

H.R. 2527 gives special recognition to a place that honors baseball, a game which, since the time of the Civil War, has occupied our leisure hours. The bill calls for the minting and issuing in 2015 of a limited number of gold, silver, and so-called ''clad'' coins commemorating the 75th anniversary of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

The Hall of Fame and Museum opened and admitted the inaugural class of ballplayers in June 1939 as war clouds gathered over the world. In the 72 years since its opening, the Baseball Hall of Fame has served as a home base, detailing the rich history of our national pastime. More than 14 million people have visited the Hall of Fame.

This commemorative coin program, which will be conducted at no cost to the taxpayer, will also operate in accordance with all the statutes covering these types of coin programs at the U.S. Mint. Further, the program has the potential to raise several million dollars to help finance the operation of the Hall of Fame through surcharges on the sales of these coins. Notably, to claim the surcharges, the Hall of Fame must raise matching funds from nongovernment sources.

The bill ensures that all three coins will have common designs. For example, the bill requires that the reverse side—sometimes referred to as the ''back side''—of each coin is to be in the image of a baseball. The bill further requests that the U.S. Mint try to produce the coins in such a way that it makes the reverse side rounded, like a baseball.

The passage of this bill, the commemorative coin bill, is one of those exceptional pieces of legislation that brings the House together in bipartisan fashion. Particularly at this time, a bill that can garner nearly 300 signatures of support from House Members on both sides of the aisle is a good thing.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill, and I urge all the Members to support this coin act today.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
*Washington, DC, October 24, 2011.*

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BACHUS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2527, the ''National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act,'' which is scheduled for Floor action on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2527 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and this falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin bills and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2527, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman.*

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
*Washington, DC, October 24, 2011.*

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 2527, the Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act, which is scheduled under for Floor consideration under suspension of the rules on Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters and appreciate your willingness to forego action by the Committee on Ways & Means on H.R. 2527 in order to allow the bill to come to the Floor expeditiously. Also, I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. Therefore, I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the Congressional Record when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance and if you should need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie McGarray of my staff at 5–7502.

Sincerely,

SPENCER BACHUS,
*Chairman.*

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2527, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation would honor the 75th anniversary of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

H.R. 2527 calls for the Treasury Secretary to issue, in 2015, no more than 50,000 five-dollar gold coins, 400,000 one-dollar silver coins, and 750,000 half-dollar ''clad'' coins in recognition of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The program would be operated at no cost to the taxpayer and would be budget neutral. Currently, H.R. 2527 has 296 cosponsors.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA).

Mr. HANNA. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H.R. 2527, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act.

First, I need to thank several of my colleagues for their help in bringing this bill to the floor: Congressman JOE BARTON and MIKE DOYLE, respectively, the Republican and Democratic managers of the congressional baseball teams and the original cosponsors of this bill; Financial Services Committee Chair SPENCER BACHUS and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK for their support on this bill, and each of the 296 cosponsors who together joined to commemorate our national pastime.

I am privileged to represent Cooperstown, a picturesque village in upstate New York and home of the National Hall of Fame. As a 10-year resident of Cooperstown, sponsoring this bill is especially meaningful to me.

I urge all citizens of the world, baseball fans or not, to visit Cooperstown at least once. Cooperstown is a fine example of the beauty and grace of small town America.

Mr. Speaker, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has spent the last seven decades celebrating and honoring the history of our national pastime. This bill will celebrate and honor the 75th anniversary of the Hall of Fame. The U.S. Treasury will produce an official United States Mint commemorative coin featuring the Baseball Hall of Fame. Importantly, there will be no cost to the American taxpayer associated with this bill.

The coins are legal tender but will be produced in a limited quantity. They will become available in 2015 to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, the story of baseball is the story of America. Baseball is a game of skill, from the most precise pitchers to the heaviest hitters. In the late 1800s, men of all ethnic backgrounds joined together on the diamond to play the game that would become America's sport. Germans, Poles, and Italians, Irishmen, Jews, Native Americans and more formed teams, a hodgepodge of Americans, immigrants, all of whom found acceptance on the field.

This game broke barriers long before the civil rights movement began. While much of America was segregated in the forties, the great Jackie Robinson in 1945 was signed to play Major League Baseball. Integration began on the baseball field.

The examples go on. From the storied tales of Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio to the modern-day legacies of Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera, baseball touches the lives of everyday Americans and fans around the world. I cannot imagine a more timely occasion than now, during the 2011 World Series, to honor baseball and its wonderful Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. I urge all my colleagues to support me in joining this cost-free, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, being from St. Louis, Missouri, and going through this time with the Fall Classic, the St. Louis Cardinals happen to be in the World Series, and hopefully, we can bring home a victory.

Speaking of victories, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my good friend and the manager of the Democratic baseball team, MIKE DOYLE.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of this

bill. I'm happy to support legislation that would designate a commemorative coin for the Baseball Hall of Fame. I want to thank my friend and colleague, RICHARD HANNA, for introducing this legislation and for working to get strong bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. I also want to thank my good friend, JOE BARTON, for his work not only in the congressional baseball game itself but for working with me to help bring legislation to the floor.

The Baseball Hall of Fame is more than just a shrine to the Nation's pastime. The Baseball Hall of Fame is proof of shared American values, that baseball is not merely a part of American history but has tracked the peaks of the American experience. Baseball is a game with roots in both England and the United States, which signifies the dual roots that define the birth of this country.

Major League Baseball players like Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams gave up years in their prime to fight against fascism and for the future of democracy in World War II. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, 7 years before the Supreme Court desegregated schools in Brown v. Board of Education and nearly 20 years before the Civil Rights Act.

And the entire world, even Arizonans, rooted for the Yankees as they played in the World Series just weeks after the country was attacked on September 11.

I'm also a supporter of the bill because baseball is an essential part of the experience of my district, more specifically, the city of Pittsburgh. The Pirates are one of the original Major League Baseball teams founded in 1887 and played in the first ever World Series. As someone who's lived in Pittsburgh my entire life, I have experienced the thrill of victory and more recently the agony of defeat as I've watched my beloved Pirates.

As a young fan, I had the honor of watching my most favorite person ever to wear a baseball uniform, Roberto Clemente, a 12-time All-Star, a 12-time Golden Glove winner, MVP, with an impressive .317 lifetime batting average. He was not only a great baseball player but a great humanitarian. After Roberto singlehandedly helped the Pirates win the World Series in 1971 over the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles, Roberto was tragically killed in a plane crash just a few months later bringing relief supplies to victims of the Nicaraguan earthquake in 1972. He will forever be remembered and beloved, not only by his native homeland of Puerto Rico and his adopted home of Pittsburgh, but by baseball fans across the world.

You know, other sports may have more followers or more revenues or more popularity, but no other sport is so tied to the core of American experience as baseball. And now, because of this bill, Americans, as well as international visitors, can be assured that they can visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

Commemorative coins celebrate and honor American traditions. As well as commemorating important aspects of American history and culture, these coins help raise money for important causes. This coin will raise funds to ensure that Cooperstown will not only be open to the Nation and the world now, but also for generations and generations beyond us, and will cost the government and the American taxpayer absolutely nothing.

This bill couldn't come at a better time. We're at a point in our history when the defining standards of American life can seem lost; the idea that hard work ensures a decent life, that the future is always better than the past, that what unites us is always stronger than what divides us. There was a time when these notions were not just truths, but reliable truths. They were promises.

We are now at a time when people feel a little less secure about the truth of American greatness. Well, I still believe in American greatness, and I think most Americans still believe in American greatness. And I believe that we need to celebrate that greatness wherever possible. This bill does just that.

The Baseball Hall of Fame has personal importance for me because it reminds me of a time when the country's game was defined by great teams and great players, not large bankrolls and corporate-named stadiums. It's a reminder of when the game was ruled by talent and love of the game. That's why we need the Hall of Fame. That's why I'm proud to support this bill, and that's why I ask all my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, after last night's game in the World Series, most Americans understand that ''T'' is for Texas.

I yield 3 minutes to the manager of the Republican team, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I want to thank the most valuable player for the Republican baseball team this year for the time.

I want to commend Mr. DOYLE, the manager of the Democratic congressional team, for his victory, and commend Mr. CLAY, Congressman CLAY, whose St. Louis Cardinals are playing my Texas Rangers in the World Series, who proudly wears the St. Louis Cardinals uniform in the congressional game; that in the next two, Wednesday and Thursday nights, at least one of those games the Rangers win so that they can get their first World Series championship in history. And once that happens, between them, the Rangers and the Cardinals will have 11 World Series championships.

I want to thank Congressman HANNA for his excellent work on this bill. I am a proud cosponsor of it. I have the Cooperstown Hall of Fame baseball cap on my head, which I am violating the rules of the House so I have to take it off immediately.

But it is a great institution. Fourteen million Americans have visited it in person since it was established in 1939. I hope to take my son or sons—I have two sons and two grandsons—to that Hall of Fame in person in the very near future. It truly is a history of America, from Babe Ruth of yesteryear to my childhood heroes, Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, people like that, Nolan Ryan, the current general manager of the Texas Rangers, to last night's heroes, Mike Napoli, who hit the home run in the bottom of the eighth inning, or hit the double, and hit a home run earlier, or Albert Pujols, who had three home runs Saturday night, I think 14 total bases, an amazing player who will certainly be in the Hall of Fame.

This is truly a win-win for everyone. There is no cost to the taxpayer. The coin self-generates its funding. We can all celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame by supporting this legislation. And at the appropriate time I would encourage all the Members of the House of Representatives to do so.

And again, go Rangers. Let's win the first World Series in Texas Rangers history this week.

Mr. CLAY. Let me thank my friend from Texas (Mr. BARTON) for his encouragement for his home team, and we are certain that the better team will prevail in this Fall Classic.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

□ 1340

Mrs. MALONEY. As a representative from the proud city of New York, which is the home of the New York Yankees and the New York Mets, I rise with strong enthusiasm in support of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin, which was introduced by my friend and colleague from New York (Mr. HANNA), Congressman HANNA, and also congratulate MIKE DOYLE not only for his work on this bill but his winning work on the field of baseball here in Congress.

Sales of the coin will go to the Baseball Hall of Fame to finance its operations, with matching funds raised from nongovernment sources. This program will be operated at no cost to the American taxpayer but will help the Baseball Hall of Fame to do its important work not only now but into the generations to come.

Since the Hall of Fame and Museum opened in June of 1939, 14 million people have visited the site, which houses more than 38,000 3–D artifacts, 500,000 photographs, and 12,000 hours of recorded media on our Nation's favorite pastime. Cooperstown also claims to be the home of the original baseball game here in the United States. It truly is an institution in itself and serves as an educational tool in the classroom through videoconference technology and interactive lessons across the Nation.

A coin to commemorate the Hall of Fame will ensure that it can continue to do the good work that it has been doing for over 70 years. I am so proud that it's located in my State, and we have finally found something we can all agree on, our favorite pastime in America—baseball.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CLAY. I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Mrs. MALONEY. I think it's important, given that we just passed the important and historic Gold Medal for the Montford Point Marines and recognized their fight in promoting and protecting human rights and civil rights. Literally, integration began on the baseball field. There on the mound, people come from across the country from all ethnic backgrounds, sometimes from foreign countries, to come together and support and work together in this wonderful sport that is truly an American sport.

And I would say the Nation's Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has spent many decades celebrating and honoring baseball. This bill will be able to continue their good, hard work, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this cost-free bipartisan legislation that hopefully every one of us can agree on.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the competition between the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Missouri notwithstanding, the bipartisan—tentative bipartisan—effort is moving slowly forward.

I would yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to provide a commemorative coin for the National Baseball Hall of Fame sponsored by my friend and colleague from New York (Mr. HANNA).

Tourism is one of the most important drivers of our local economy in upstate New York. Many jobs are tied to it. And the over 350,000 visitors to the museum each year provide a much needed important boost for the economy in the greater Cooperstown area.

Baseball is America's pastime, the sport I played growing up in my hometown of Kinderhook, New York, and one that our son, Connor, plays now. On Columbus Day just past, I visited the Hall of Fame with Connor. It was a very special bonding moment for both of us and one that millions of American families have had the opportunity to do over the last 72 years.

This legislation will help promote the Hall of Fame, will help provide a boost to our local economy through tourism and do so without costing the taxpayers a single penny. It is good legislation and we should all support it. I urge my colleagues to do so.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I certainly think that the National Baseball Hall of Fame is deserving of this recognition. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the original sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA), would like to go into extra innings. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. HANNA. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico.

While every student of baseball knows, including my sister, Robin, who has told me many times that the New York Yankees are the finest team in the history of baseball, I would like to take this opportunity to wish good luck in the World Series to the Texas Rangers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2527.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 2527, the National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act. I want to thank my colleague from New York, Mr. HANNA, for introducing this legislation which I am proud to co-sponsor.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opened its doors on June 12, 1939, in Cooperstown, New York. Since that time, just one percent of all major league players have been enshrined there for their amazing accomplishments on the field.

But more than 14 million baseball fans have visited the Hall of Fame since its opening, to learn about the history of our national pastime and the game's connection to the American experience. As an avid baseball player and lifelong fan, I am in awe of the greats enshrined at Cooperstown like Ruth, Gehrig, Robinson, Clemente, and Koufax.

Baseball is an integral part of the American fabric, and Americans from all walks of life still have much that we can learn from the values and lessons of the game.

I urge all my colleagues to support the establishment of a National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coin, and vote YES on H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2527, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS ACT OF 2011

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2042) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2042

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the ''Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011''.

**SEC. 2. ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 11, 2011, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a program called the ''APEC Business Travel Program'' to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards (ABTC) to eligible United States citizen business leaders and senior United States Government officials actively engaged in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) business.

(b) INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING TRAVEL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall integrate application procedures for and issuance of ABTC with other appropriate international registered traveler programs of the Department of Homeland Security, such as Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI.

(c) COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall work in conjunction with appropriate private sector entities to ensure that applicants for ABTC satisfy ABTC requirements. The Secretary of Homeland Security may utilize such entities to enroll and issue ABTC to qualified applicants.

(d) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may impose a fee for the issuance of ABTC, and may modify such fee from time to time as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the total amount of any fees imposed under paragraph (1) in any fiscal year does not exceed the costs associated with carrying out this section in such fiscal year.

(3) CREDITING TO APPROPRIATE ACCOUNT.—Fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the appropriate account of the Department of Homeland Security and are authorized to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TURNER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2042, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011.

This measure is needed to grant to the Department of Homeland Security the authority to issue ''APEC'' business cards, ABTC, as part of their overall Trusted Traveler programs operated by Customs and Border Protection for expedited reentry into the United States.

The APEC Business Travel Cards program is an initiative of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and is designed to facilitate commerce by promoting fast and efficient travel of eligible businesspeople and government officials within the Asian-Pacific region.

This legislation will allow eligible U.S. business travelers to apply for Trusted Traveler cards for expedited entry to certain Asian-Pacific nations which are members of the APEC forum.

As a transitional member of APEC, the United States already provides foreign business travelers who have APEC Business Travel Cards with expedited scheduling of visa interviews at U.S. Embassies and consulates and use of dedicated lanes of expedited entry when traveling to the United States.

□ 1350

However, since the United States has not yet issued cards for U.S. citizens who wish to participate in this program, Americans are currently unable to enjoy the same time-saving benefits that some 70,000 foreign holders of APEC Business Travel Cards enjoy when coming to the United States.

During these challenging economic times, we must all do what we can to facilitate business development, which includes encouraging international travel and negotiations. Expanding U.S. participation in the APEC Business Travel Card is a simple way to support these goals and facilitate travel, whether it be through LAX or JFK.

Of note, this legislation would have no detriment on the homeland security of the United States as all foreign visitors who are citizens of an APEC member economy must continue to go through the standard travel procedures of obtaining a visa or filling out the Web-based Electronic System for Travel Authorization for Visa Waiver Program countries. Currently, 18 of the 21 APEC economies are full members of the APEC Business Travel Card program. The United States currently participates as a transitional member, along with Canada and Russia, and enacting this legislation will demonstrate U.S. commitment to economic integration and engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

This measure has strong bipartisan support and enjoys the support of the U.S. business community, including the National Center for APEC, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Travel Association.

I urge Members to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2042. As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and as a Representative from the great State of California, which has very strong economic ties to the Pacific region, I am proud to be a cosponsor of what I believe is one of the most important things that we can do with respect to trade and getting American jobs going.

The primary goal of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation organization is to support sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The United States is among the group's 21-member economies, which account for 55 percent of global GDP. They purchase 58 percent of United States' goods exports and comprise a market of 2.7 billion consumers. Seven of America's top 15 trade partners are in APEC.

This bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue APEC Business Travel Cards to eligible U.S. citizen business leaders and senior United States Government officials who are actively engaged in APEC business. The APEC Business Travel Cards would expedite the individuals' international travel within the 21 APEC-member economies. There are similar cards already available to APEC travelers in the United States. H.R. 2042 would allow U.S. citizens to enjoy similar travel benefits abroad.

It requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to integrate application procedures for and issuance of APEC Business Travel Cards with other appropriate international registered traveler programs of the Department of Homeland Security such as SENTRI, Global Entry and NEXUS, as well as some of the other programs we already have to expedite travel from one country into the other. Finally, the bill permits the Secretary of Homeland Security, of course, to impose a fee that would cover the cost of issuing these cards. H.R. 2042 is also supported by the Obama administration.

Next month, the U.S. is hosting APEC for 2011, which is the first time since 1993. It's going to include meetings in Washington, D.C.; in Big Sky, Montana; and in San Francisco, California, culminating in the APEC Leaders Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, in November. So I think it would be appropriate that the House pass H.R. 2042 in advance of this meeting next month.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I rise in support of H.R. 2042, the APEC Business Travel Card, and I appreciate working with my counterpart, Congressman LARSEN, on this legislation.

This bill provides security-vetted American business and government travelers the same time-saving benefits as their counterparts in other Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation countries. The bill is supported by leaders in both parties, including the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Representative PETER KING. I appreciate his leadership, as this provision was included in the authorizing bill recently reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security.

The card was originally created to increase the economic engagement in a region that continues to grow and grow, and to expedite secure business travel for those who make frequent business trips to these economies. But today, the United States is only one of three economies within APEC that hasn't yet provided these travel cards to their frequent business travelers. This bill would allow Customs and Border Protection to issue the travel card to our citizens after conducting background checks, confirming frequent travel to the APEC region, and collecting fees to cover the full costs.

The two big benefits beyond increased security is the equal treatment for Americans. Our counterparts, frequent business and government travelers, who do business within these countries in the region already enjoy these benefits. This provides it to United States citizens. Basically, it then makes sure we stay competitive in that region, which is a region that is growing economically and represents more than half of the world's economy. They buy almost 58 percent of what America sells, so they are, as Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ says, major new customers for our farmers and ranchers, for our technology companies, for our manufacturing companies, and for our service workers as well.

I fully support this bill. It is important that our business travelers in America get out there to sell American products throughout this important region. It has strong business support, and I urge Member support as well.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2042, the APEC Business Travel Card bill. This bill is bipartisan, and it levels the playing field for U.S. businessmen and -women who export their products into other APEC economies.

Since joining the APEC Business Travel Card program as a transitional member in 2007, the U.S. has been extending the benefits of having an APEC Business Travel Card to foreign businessmen and -women in 18 other economies but not to our own. These benefits include being permitted to use the ''crew'' or designated ''APEC Business Travel Card'' lanes in airports when entering a country as well as having expedited visa processing. As of October

12, 2011, there were over 100,000 foreign ABTC holders—but no Americans.

Today's legislation simply levels the playing field by directing the Department of Homeland Security to establish an APEC Business Travel Card that will allow Americans to use the card to gain expedited entry into participating APEC economies when they go abroad and use Customs and Border Protection's, or CBP's, Global Entry program for expedited reentry back into the United States. This will make travel throughout the Asia-Pacific region easier for American businessmen and -women and will help them to more efficiently sell their products overseas.

I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), for his hard work on this bill as well as fellow APEC Caucus cochairs, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), for their support as well.

The future of the United States is tied to the Asia-Pacific region. With the hosting of the APEC summit by the United States in less than a month, it is important that the APEC Business Travel Card program is established. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

In conclusion, I want to thank the leadership of this House for working with me and the gentleman from Texas to get this bill scheduled for House consideration.

□ 1400

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close once the gentlelady does.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2042 represents a small but important step towards facilitating travel and enhancing business ties with our Asia-Pacific region, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bill is an opportunity to facilitate travel, promote economic growth, and enhance security.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2042 would require the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Department of State, to establish a program to issue APEC Business Travel Cards to eligible United States business leaders and government officials.

Under this program, U.S. citizens actively engaged in APEC business would receive expedited screening in international travel within the 21 APEC member economies.

H.R. 2042 requires DHS to integrate application procedures for and issuance of APEC Business Travel Cards with other appropriate DHS international trusted traveler programs such as Global Entry, NEXUS, and SENTRI.

I strongly support those three DHS trusted traveler programs, which facilitate international travel for pre-approved, low-risk passengers while allowing DHS to focus its resources on higher-risk and unknown passengers.

H.R. 2042 is supported by the Obama Administration, and I also support the bill.

However, I am dismayed that with just 19 days left in the First Session of the 112th Congress, H.R. 2042 is the first Committee on Homeland Security bill to reach the House floor.

I would note that the last time the Committee brought legislation to the House floor was when I was still Chairman—at the end of December 2010.

With respect to H.R. 2042, let the record reflect that the path to the floor involved bypassing Committee consideration. I did not object to this approach, given that the APEC conference is slated to commence in Hawaii next month.

The Democratic Members of the Committee are committed to ensuring that the full breadth and depth of homeland security issues facing our Nation are addressed.

To date, eighty homeland security bills have been introduced and referred to the Committee. The subject matter of these bills range from border security to aviation security to counterterrorism to preparedness and response.

Unfortunately, only a handful of homeland security bills have actually been considered in Committee and only one has been reported to the House. That bill is now pending before another Committee.

The failure of the Committee on Homeland Security to advance meaningful homeland security legislation that speaks to the oversight finding of the Committee in the 112th Congress is inexcusable.

Though I recognize that the hour is late on the congressional calendar, I sincerely hope that consideration of H.R 2042 today signals the commencement of a more active legislative period for the Committee.

Nevertheless, I urge the House to support H.R. 2042 today.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the APEC Business Travel Cards Act because it is another measure that helps create a favorable environment for job creation. As a co-chair of the APEC Caucus, I strongly believe that continued engagement in the Asia-Pacific region is critical to U.S. economic growth. The Asia-Pacific region is the most economically dynamic region in the world, home to two-thirds of the world's population and over half of all global trade. The legislation before us will help American businesses be more competitive in these growing markets. The easier our businesses can access these foreign markets, the more they can sell American goods and services abroad. The United States already recognizes the APEC Business Travel Card held by foreign nationals, giving them expedited travel processing. It is past time that we allow American businesses leaders around the country the same travel benefits that foreign APEC businesses travelers have been enjoying for years. This is a common sense bill that streamlines travel for American businesses that are trying to grow and reach customers in foreign markets. This legislation is long overdue and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2042.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1904, SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 444 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 444

*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. 1904) to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, 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. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such 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 amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. 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 (Mrs. CAPITO). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), 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. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days during which they may revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, this resolution provides for a structured rule of H.R. 1904, the Southeast Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011. It makes in order every amendment that was filed with the Rules Committee.

So this is, like the Texas victory last night, a very fair rule and continues the record of the Rules Committee in this Congress of making as many amendments in order as possible which otherwise conform to the House rules. That's been the goal of Chairman DREIER in his continuing record of fairness and openness in the formulation of this open rule.

Madam Speaker, this Resolution provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 1904, the "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011, and makes in order every amendment that was filed with Rules Committee.

So this is a very fair rule, and continues the record of the Rules Committee in this Congress of making as many amendments in order as possible which otherwise conform to House Rules, which has been the goal of our Chairman, Mr. DREIER, in continuing the record of fairness and openness in the formulation of this rule.

H.R. 1904, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011, introduced by the Gentleman from Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, would authorize a fair value exchange and conveyance of land between the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Arizona Town of "Superior," and the Resolution Copper Mining LLC in Southeast Arizona, for the multiple purposes of protection of sensitive habitat and cultural areas, as well as facilitating the development of the largest undeveloped copper resource in the world right here in the United States.

One of the key pillars of a viable economy, and job creation, is the sound and environmentally responsible development of our own domestic natural resources. This bill does that. Its passage will facilitate responsible copper mining within our own country, putting thousands of Americans to work with good paying jobs, and, over time, bringing billions in return for both the federal government and state and local governments.

In spite of predictable interest group scare tactics against this legislation, H.R. 1904 does not waive any existing environmental rules or regulations regarding mining. The companies involved not only must pay fair market value for the equal value exchange, but must comply with all mining laws and regulations regarding the environment.

Passage of this bill will result in a higher amount of habitat acreage being protected than before, so the environmental community should be on board with this bill.

Copper is one of the key components used in virtually all manufacturing and electronics. For those concerned with so-called "green energy," nearly 5 tons of copper is necessary to manufacture a single 3 megawatt wind turbine. And that is just one example to show how copper is used nearly everywhere. For our country develop our own God-given natural resources not only helps our own economy, creates jobs, but also reduces our dependence on foreign sources and helps with our balance of trade with other nations.

This bill is strongly supported by state and local government officials in Arizona including Governor Jan Brewer, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Mining Association, and the Associated General Contractors of America.

This is a good bill, and a fair Rule. I urge their adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today's bill continues an effort started by the Republican majority earlier this year, an effort to give away valuable American resources to foreign companies. Today the majority is proposing to take sacred land from Native American tribes and give it away to foreign corporations, one of which is partly owned by the Chinese Government. I stand here today in fierce opposition to this attempted fire sale of American resources that is being conducted under the guise of job creation.

Today's bill is not written for the American worker. It was written for foreign mining giants that hope to profit from our generosity. These firms are hoping that this Congress will be charitable enough to give away millions of tons of copper to foreign companies that have no responsibility to create American jobs. Indeed, one of those companies is a leader in robotics and say that they can control a mine from 600 miles away. The likelihood that they plan to create a number of jobs does not hold together.

Copper is one of the most scarce resources on the globe, and yet the majority is proposing to give this asset away. Let me say that again—give this asset away. Under this bill, the United States receives no royalties from these foreign companies for any copper found in our soil.

Furthermore, today's bill is not the solution to our jobs crisis. The proposed legislation gives federally protected land to companies that specialize in replacing miners with robots that do the same job. The majority hopes this will create jobs at some unnamed point in the future. But in addition to this approach being naive, the majority could be doing more to create jobs than simply relying on hope.

The truth is that we could be standing here today actually doing job creation. We could be voting to put money directly into the hands of firefighters, police officers, and teachers. We could be investing in new roads, railroads, and schools and creating thousands of jobs for construction workers across our country.

But once again, the majority seems to believe that their job is to help foreign corporations grow their bottom line. It is not. Giving away our natural resources to foreign companies will do nothing but leave American workers in the dust and we much poorer.

I strongly oppose today's proposed legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule and the underlying legislation. More than ever, we need to take tangible action to create jobs, not sell our national interests to the highest foreign bidder.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am so accustomed to coming here and making repeated assertions regarding my friends on the Republican side. But today, we are really about the business of undertaking added emphasis on regulation and doing nothing about jobs.

Let me refer to an article that occurred in The New York Times on October 4, written by Bruce Bartlett, an editorial opinion. Mr. Bartlett held senior policy roles in the Reagan and the George H.W. Bush administrations and served on the staff of the distinguished former Member of this House of Representatives, the departed Jack Kemp, and on the staff of RON PAUL. He says, "Republicans have a problem. People are increasingly concerned about unemployment, but Republicans have nothing to offer them."

And I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle don't jump up and start about their 15 forgotten bills. They're not only forgotten; they're forgettable. And they're forgettable for the reason that they don't create jobs. But here we are today dealing with three suspensions and one other measure, and we've been out almost as much as we've been in session, and we still aren't addressing the subject of jobs.

Continuing with Mr. Bartlett, he says, "The GOP opposes additional government spending for jobs programs and, in fact, favors big cuts in spending that would be likely to lead to further layoffs at all levels of government."

He goes on, but the specific takeaway that impressed me in his article that I wish to share is, "In my opinion, regulatory uncertainty is a canard invented by Republicans that allows them to use current economic problems to pursue

an agenda supported by the business community year in and year out. In other words, it is a simple case of political opportunism, not a serious effort to deal with high unemployment.''

I want to address the subject of regulation because it seems that I keep hearing this thing that the business community needs certainty. Well, the American people need certainty as well, and certainty about their health and certainty about employment and certainty about housing. And toward that end, I don't just distinguish one little category, it's a hole here in this country. And in the period when we did not have regulation, my recollection of the no-regulation period led us to what we see and have experienced on Wall Street when there is no regulation.

What do we think caused this great downturn in the economy? Was it because students weren't going to school? Was it because people weren't going to work? Was it because we had coal ash gas? Or did it occur because we didn't have regulation that we should have had that would have manifested itself?

□ 1420

Madam Speaker, I believe I may be the only speaker, and toward that end, rather than continue, I will reserve the balance of my time and have my colleague know that I will be prepared to close when he is finished.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the gentleman from Florida knows, I do like baseball this time of year. One of the statistics that I saw the other day is that Pete Rose had 29 of his 4,000-plus hits off of pitchers who would eventually become dentists. It is a true statement. It has almost no impact on anything, but it is a true statement. Some of the rhetoric we've heard so far is true, but has no impact on what we're talking about.

Madam Speaker, 15 different times Republicans have come on the floor of this House and have introduced jobs bills. Those jobs bills are still sitting over in the Senate. Thousands of jobs would be up and available right now if the Senate were actually to move on any of those 15. This is the 16th jobs bill that we have brought to the floor.

One of the issues we have here is there is a need in our lives for copper. The business community needs copper. Individuals need copper. In our personal lives we need copper. If you want to build a three-megawatt turbine for wind generation power, you need five tons of copper to do that. If you want to build a hybrid car or an electric car, you need at least 55 pounds of copper to build the car. The average home has 435 pounds of copper in that home. In fact, the study I looked at said each individual in his lifetime will consume 935 pounds of copper. I'm not quite sure how we do that. I certainly hope the verb ''consume'' was not literal, but more a hypothetical word, because I really have not had much copper on my Cornflakes lately.

But we will consume copper. Whether we produce copper or not, we consume copper. We need copper. The fact of the matter is the United States now imports 30 percent of all the copper. We are relying upon other countries to produce copper.

Why is this a jobs bill? For those people who vote for this bill, we will be establishing the opportunity to develop a mine that could produce a quarter of our needs for copper for the next 40 years. We will move us to self-sufficiency; and, more importantly, we will create jobs with this particular bill. Indirect and direct jobs are 3,700 for this mine; 3,000 jobs for the construction of this facility, 500 who are already in the pre-permitting phase right now. That's what the opportunity is.

If we vote against this bill, we'll still be providing jobs, but jobs overseas for miners in Chile; for the smelting factories in China, where we have to send the stuff because we don't have enough smelters right here to do. We will produce jobs, but we have either the choice of producing jobs in America so that we can create American jobs and have American self-sufficiency, or we can create jobs abroad. It's our choice on this particular bill.

This is a jobs bill. Whether you vote for it or against it, it is still a jobs bill. I just hope we vote for it because I hope our priority is creating American jobs for American need of copper, which there is no way to get around. We have to have this crucial mineral, and this is the place in which to do it.

This particular bill will be a land transfer in which the Federal Government makes out like a bandit in it. The Federal Government will get 5,400 acres of land. The industry gets 2,400 acres to try and get this production going. The city of Superior gets 500 acres, 30 of which go to their cemetery. That's the purpose of this bill.

This bill is viable for our economy, for our job creation, and for natural resources. It does it in a responsible way. And all the scare tactics out there that have been waved about before don't exist. There is not one single, solitary environmental rule that is waived for the creation of this mine. Not one.

Twice this bill has been introduced before this Congress by a Democrat sponsor. It's the same bill, except this one doesn't provide a rock-climbing park for the State of Arizona. Other than that, it's the same bill with the same considerations and the same restrictions and the same guarantees.

Madam Speaker, if the gentleman has another speaker or wishes to take some time, then I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my good friend and colleague for the information.

I would like to ask my friend a question. Is there anything in this measure that requires the copper that you just spoke about—and I don't disagree with many of the facts that you put forward—but is there anything in this bill that requires that copper to remain in the United States of America?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to my friend.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I will be happy to do it. In fact, I want the sponsor to respond specifically to that in just a second.

But the answer is, clearly, we have a desire for copper. We have a demand for copper. The concept of free enterprise and the balance of trade that we need will demand that the majority of that copper be used here. If you want to try to come up with amendments to try and mandate that, there are some potential amendments that will be debated on this floor in this very good, fair structured rule. However, you have to be very careful that sometimes when you try and make these mandates and put them in law, it makes it very difficult to enforce those particular mandates.

And I will tell you that one of the amendments that will be debated here on the floor has wonderful intention but is almost impossible to enforce. So will it happen? Of course, it will happen, because we have that need; we have that desire right now.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I appreciate the answer. I'll take that as a no, that there is nothing in the bill to cause the copper to remain in the United States.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to my friend.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. There is nothing in statute—only in reality—that will force it to be used here.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I understand. But when you step up to the plate, you have to hit the ball. You can't fake like you're hitting the ball.

The gentleman from Utah and I use baseball analogies. I don't know whether he has a dog in this World Series fight or not, but I appreciate he and I going back and forth on that.

I do recognize that you did respond as I thought you would about the America's job creators provision that occurs. I do encourage that people—I normally don't advertise for the other side—but you have jobs.gop.gov. And what it says is: empower small businesses and reduce government barriers to job creation; fix the Tax Code to help job creators; boost the competitiveness for American manufacturers; encourage entrepreneurship and growth; maximize American energy production; and pay down America's unsustainable debt burden and start living within our means.

All of that is practical. All of that seems to make sense. But in the final analysis, it's not putting a teacher, a firefighter, or a police officer to work. And we're talking about right now is when we have this problem. If we don't have this problem by the time we empower small businesses, then let's empower some of them then. Let's do

some things to make sure that some money gets in their hands, rather than dance around this issue.

We need some direct programs from the United States Federal Government to help States, counties, and municipalities in this country, and to help individuals, particularly those that are on the front lines dealing with these particular issues. But you haven't done anything, which is almost laughable, and you put on your Web site that you have 15 ''forgettable'' bills.

I guess what we're trying to do—and it does make a little bit of sense to me—that we should point to the other body and say that we have passed measures here in the House of Representatives that have gone to the other body and not become law. Well, my last recollection is that we passed over 400 measures when we were in the majority and they went over to the U.S. Senate; and here's where the catch is that people don't seem to understand. The arcane rules of the Senate require that they have 60 votes. And the majority does not have 60 votes. In almost every measure that may have helped this country, the Republicans stood in opposition and, quite frankly, obstructed the passage of legislation. I guess now you're joining us in saying that they're doing the same things to you in the House of Representatives.

Well, I accept that if that's your argument. But let's make it very clear that it is in the United States Senate and that here we aren't originating nor are we evidently working with them to address the subject of the need for jobs, housing, and education in this country.

□ 1430

After another week away from Washington, thanks to my Republican friends, we're back here considering this bill on an issue that I think very few of my colleagues, myself included, fully understand.

The Republicans have been in charge for 294 days, and they have not brought one job-creating bill to the floor in that time, not one. I do make an exception that I believe all of us recognize has been in the works through several administrations, and that is the various trade agreements, which in some respects are going to create jobs but in other respects are going to cause the loss of jobs. And I don't think that that equation is full yet; but, yes, that did pass the House of Representatives.

While Americans continue to struggle to find work, this Republican majority has been more interested in going on recess than in passing legislation. The truth is, Madam Speaker, the House has only been in session 109 days, and we're almost in November—109 days. During this limited time, my friends on the other side haven't found time to send a single appropriations bill to the President, not one.

When we are in Washington, look at the bills that my colleagues have debated passionately—defunding Planned Parenthood, defunding the National Public Radio, promoting the use of inefficient light bulbs. Madam Speaker, this would be comical if it weren't so serious.

Let me also remind my colleagues that only a paltry 43 bills have been signed into law this year, less than half the average first-session total for Congresses since 1991, even compared to other years following shifts in control of the House.

I believe that Americans want action to help our economy now. They want us to consider the President's jobs bill now. They want us to quit wasting time on trivial issues that are only meant for 30-second political sound bites. They want us to do our jobs. But these friends on the other side just don't get it.

Four years ago, their Presidential nominee talked about ''country first.'' But in the House of Representatives, time after time after time we see the Republican leadership ignore the needs of out-of-work Americans. And the bill before us today is more of the same, another enormous rip-off for struggling American workers disguised as a jobs bill. In fact, this time it's not even disguised very well.

The underlying bill is a massive land giveaway to foreign companies looking to mine copper on American land. And that's why I put the question to my good friend about whether that copper was going to stay in the United States. Let me repeat that. This bill benefits foreign mining giants, first and foremost, at a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and families right here in this country are struggling to pay their bills.

The two companies that stand to benefit the most from this bill—British-owned Rio Tinto and Australian-owned BHP Billiton—are highly profitable titans in the mining world. As the bill is currently written, American taxpayers will receive no share of the expected billions in profits generated by this mining. All profits will be enjoyed by foreign companies.

And claims that H.R. 1904 will lead to the creation of thousands of good-paying American jobs are dubious at best. Both companies, the two I mentioned, are pioneers in developing automated and remote-control mining technologies. Seriously? We're creating jobs for foreign robots instead of American workers? No offense to R2–D2, but there are American workers who need help. On top of that, any American jobs that may be created will be years in the future. This bill does nothing to create good jobs right now when we need them the most.

My friends in the majority want this process to seem fair. Yes, they made in order all the amendments submitted, but that's not the same as an open rule. Let me be crystal clear: This is not an open rule. Once again, the Rules Committee is breaking the promises of this new majority. Clearly, the Republican leadership is more interested in shutting down debate and fostering a more closed House rather than living up to their campaign promises of a more open House of Representatives.

Despite these broken promises, Madam Speaker, I'm pleased that the Democratic amendments—that my good friend mentioned are made in order—will insert some common sense into H.R. 1904 if they are in fact adopted. And as I heard him say that they ought to be debated and what have you, but they are not real in terms of their mandate.

Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. GARAMENDI have offered an amendment to try to create more than just jobs for robots. Their amendment would require that these foreign companies actively recruit and hire local employees—and I hope everybody votes for that amendment—that all the oil produced, they say, from the mine be processed in the United States, and that all equipment used at the mine will be made in the United States. I hope everybody supports that amendment.

Mr. MARKEY's amendment would require that these foreign companies pay a simple royalty to the United States on all minerals extracted from this site. If mining is done on U.S. land, the American people should be able to share in the profits.

Finally, what is most disturbing about H.R. 1904 is a complete lack of respect for sacred Native American sites that will be swept into mining operations. Native people won't even be able to comment on the land transfer until after it has occurred.

Now, I've seen that often in our area—I represent Native Americans, Seminoles and Miccosukee—and repeatedly where developers have gone forward, not just in mining but the artifacts of our great history in this country, and have caused us to pause. And we should be very careful with this particular measure because we don't want to repeat that that I've seen happen time and again in Florida. That's insulting and completely disrespectful to native traditions and culture.

And my friends on the other side of the aisle should be ashamed by the blatant mistreatment of Native Americans by this bill. Mr. LUJÁN's amendment to exempt all Native American sacred and cultural sites from land conveyance under this bill is not just commendable, it is critically important and deserves the support of every Member in this body.

Madam Speaker, this is not a jobs bill, and there's no effort by this Republican majority to bring up a jobs bill. We shouldn't be wasting our time. We should not be wasting the American people's time with trivial bills that benefit foreign countries while our own citizens struggle to find work.

I urge a ''no'' vote. And on this business of the ''forgettable 15,'' I urge that we do something to create jobs and not just try to give the impression that we are creating jobs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Minnesota Twins pitcher Jim Kaat, who should be

in the Hall of Fame—so for today we'll call it ''Coppers Town'' Hall of Fame—once said to a reporter that he was working on a new pitch. He called it a strike. You've heard a lot of accusations so far about this particular bill, most of which are balls, low, outside and in the dirt.

I now yield 4 minutes to the sponsor of this bill, a Representative from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), to actually pitch some strikes about what this bill actually will do.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman from Utah, and I appreciate the House spending time to consider this important jobs bill legislation this week.

The need for this land exchange legislation and ensuing copper mine was one of the very first initiatives brought to my attention by the people of my district. Those folks are excited about the economic development and sustainable growth that this project will bring.

□ 1440

They are anxious for these high-priority conservation lands to be placed in Federal stewardship. And they are sick of waiting for Congress to act.

H.R. 1904 may be new legislation, but this initiative is not. Over the past 6 years, this land exchange has been subject to intensive review, public consideration, and modification. It has been introduced in four separate Congresses, twice by Democrats, twice by Republicans. This proposal truly has bipartisan support on the ground in our State and across the country. The mayor of the town of Superior, an elected Democrat, testified in support of H.R. 1904. Democrat and Republican county supervisors in each affected economy endorse my bill. The governor supports my bill. This legislation is a win-win.

H.R. 1904 specifically facilitates a land exchange that will bring into Federal stewardship 5,500 acres of high-priority conservation lands in exchange for 2,600 acres of national forest system lands containing the third-largest undeveloped copper resource in the world. It is the richest copper ore body in North America ever discovered.

The United States currently imports over 30 percent of the country's copper demand. This project could produce enough copper to equal 25 percent of our demand, contributing significantly to U.S. energy and mineral independence.

Let me be clear. This is not going to be a new mine. The majority of the infrastructure is already in place. We are simply opening up the resource to the country's vital needs.

Today, more than 500 employees and contractors are at work in Arizona on this project as they prepare for us to take action on this bill. Upon passage, the private company will be able to employ 3,000 workers during the 6-year construction period. And ultimately, the project will support over 3,700 jobs, providing for $220 million in annual wages over the life of the project. These are good-paying jobs.

This is good old Superior right here who needs this. The total economic impact of the project is estimated to be over $61.4 billion, over $1 billion per year, and another $19 billion in Federal, State, county, and local tax revenues. Fourteen billion dollars in Federal tax revenue—in these tough fiscal times, I think we can all agree that the Treasury could use that.

This bill is not only a jobs bill, it's a conservation bill. In exchange for opening up the third-largest undeveloped copper resource in the world, the Federal Government acquires 5,500 acres of high-priority conservation lands containing endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, recreational sites, and historical landmarks. Many of these lands being conveyed are landlocked by Federal lands, and the consolidation of the Federal lands will also contribute to better, more economically efficient Federal land management.

Today, The Arizona Republic, the largest newspaper in the State, issued an editorial in support of H.R. 1904. In that article, the editorial board highlights the big benefits of my legislation: jobs, tax revenue, and conservation. In the article they state, ''The bill, with its combination of benefits, has every reason to get bipartisan support.''

They continue, ''In today's economy, it's hard to imagine that Members of Congress would fail to give this bill a resounding approval in the House.''

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the full editorial for the RECORD.

My legislation strikes the right balance between resource utilization and conservation. We can preserve lands that advance the important public objectives of protecting wildlife habitat, cultural, and historical resources, while enabling an economic development project to go forward that will generate economic and employment opportunities for the State and local residents.

Pass the rule and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1904.

[From the Arizona Republic, Oct. 25, 2011]

A BILL TO LAUNCH 1,000-PLUS JOBS

Congress has a rare opportunity to create jobs, preserve a ribbon of river in the desert, raise tax revenue and boost production of a strategic mineral. Without spending a dime.

All it takes is a ''yes'' vote on a land exchange that would allow the Resolution Copper project to go forward. The proposed mine, near Superior, is at the site of the third largest undeveloped copper resource in the world.

The projected annual production volume is huge: enough to meet more than 25 percent of the current U.S. demand for copper over the next 40 years.

Resolution Copper, jointly owned by Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton, plans to put $6 billion into building and running the mine.

Now that's economic stimulus.

But the project requires swapping private and federal property. A bill to approve it is scheduled to go to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives this week.

The Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011 is sponsored by Rep. Paul Gosar, a Flagstaff Republican. This is the third version of the swap, which was proposed by his predecessors, Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick and Republican Rick Renzi.

The bill, with its combination of benefits, has every reason to get bipartisan support. Democratic Rep. Ed Pastor grew up in a mining town and knows the importance of this industry to rural Arizona.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva has stood in the way of the land exchange over the years. It's time for him to step aside.

The concerns he raised have been answered. The one remaining issue is the opposition of the San Carlos Apaches, and Resolution Copper has committed itself to extensive consultation with tribes.

Here's what a ''yes'' vote brings:

Jobs: 3,000 during construction and 1,400 when the mine is at full production.

Taxes: $19 billion in federal, state and local revenues.

Conservation: Nearly 7 miles of the lower San Pedro River, named one of the ''Last Great Places on Earth'' by the Nature Conservancy, transferred from private into public ownership.

Ripple effect: An additional 2,300 jobs in the Superior area generated by mining needs and worker spending.

In today's economy, it's hard to imagine that members of Congress would fail to give this bill a resounding approval in the House.

With the able help of Arizona Sens. Jon Kyl and John McCain, it should get a ''yes'' in the Senate, as well.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I would ask the gentleman from Arizona to respond.

Rio Tinto, the company from Australia, has a mine that is controlled by people that are 800 miles away from the mine.

Now, I heard you distinctly, and let me make it very clear. I remember this measure being offered by the lady that you won office from previously as well. And I'm one who seriously encourages that we protect our congressional areas.

But when you say it's going to create 3,000 jobs, let me give you a ''for example'' of how the local community does not work, and then ask you to respond. In the Everglades, we, many Members of this Congress, rightly have dealt with trying to preserve this area. So we have, with the Army Corps of Engineers and a variety of other people, a lot of earth moving and a variety of undertakings that are taking place.

In the meantime, one of my cities, Pahokee, has gone almost out of business. They're doing a remarkable job trying to stay afloat, and the area has diminished while all of this work is going on around them.

Now, how are you going to stop Rio Tinto, who can operate mines with robots, how are you going to stop them from bringing their Australian people? How are you going to stop the British from bringing their workers? Because, as in my city and counties that I'm talking about, when these big companies come in to do all of this work, they bring their workers with them, and we don't have the kind of jobs that are needed. And in this instance, you're talking about robots running large measures of it.

So how does that create jobs?

Mr. GOSAR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. You're talking about robots. What I am talking about is trust. Trust is a series of promises kept. And what we see is right here in this picture. We have over 500 jobs that have been established here. We have seen the investment of this company in the local communities helping job creators, as far as truckers, independent construction organizations, trying to stay in business because, as you saw before, this is Superior, Arizona. This is what we've done to Main Street America. You see all the boarded up streets, all the buildings that are here.

What they've done is come in and established trust because what they've done is actually put people back to work. You talk about robots, but what I'm talking about is trust, which is actually what's happening on the ground.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Reclaiming my time, and I will yield to you additionally, I still didn't hear you address how you are going to cause these foreign companies—I'm not talking about that immediate amount of cement, and I'll grant you, 500 workers, but I heard you say 3,000.

I'll also grant you that it's temporary, and I'll make you a bet, and I hope you and I are here that when and if this measure passes and it does all the things that you say it's going to do, I'd like for you to come with me and I'll go with you, you come with me to Pahokee, where we passed all of these things and all of these people came from other areas and they made money, but the people in the area didn't.

Now I understand that you have to have somebody to hammer a nail and to drive a truck to get something put up. But when it's all said and done, your area isn't going to have anything other than robots that are going to be controlling this, with the exception of a handful of people.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GOSAR. That's absurd. I've gone into the mine. I have actually seen the company. I've actually seen the work forces in here. I've actually gone down to the bottom of the mine. I got suited up and have been part of that. That's not appropriate.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. You mean a copper mine or Rio Tinto's mine?

Mr. GOSAR. I have been in this copper mine. I have been in the shaft.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. You mean the one in Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. I have been in the one in Arizona.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I'm not quarreling with that. I'm talking about when Rio Tinto comes and this bill allows them to go forward in a way that allows them to robotize many of the—look, I'm not against technology. But what I'm saying to you is I don't see as how ultimately, that foreign companies are going to cause local communities to have increased employment that's sustainable.

Do you understand what I'm saying?

Mr. GOSAR. But I'm pointing back to the same purpose that I've actually seen trust exhibited here where they've actually hired people. I've seen the native people being hired. I've seen the local people being hired here, and that's a part of trust that we've got to get back to in this country.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. All right. At least we had a fair exchange, and perhaps if we had more time with measures like this we could do similar. But I would hope then my argument about the Native American measures does not fall on deaf ears when you take into consideration the need to preserve our cultural heritage and artifacts that might be swept up in mining.

Mr. GOSAR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman.

□ 1450

Mr. GOSAR. We've spent an exorbitant amount of time trying to discuss this with our Native Americans. We actually have law that we've gone through the area in exchange that shows no actual artifacts at all.

So the thing about it is that we want to make sure that that has occurred. And for the better part, since the 109th Congress, we've actually dialogued with the Native Americans, and what we have seen is an over-and-over exchange. So what has transpired is actually——

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Reclaiming my time just to ask you one more question that requires a ''yes'' or a ''no,'' and that is: You support Mr. LUJÁN's measure then that will make sure that that happens, an amendment that's coming up. Are you going to vote for that?

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. LUJÁN's amendment is immaterial because it's already been done and it's already been held up by the——

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. So you aren't going to vote for it?

Mr. GOSAR. It's already been supported by documentation already presented. It's duplicative.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I get the picture.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I'm just trying to envision in my own mind all those robots that are working in the Rio Tinto mine in my State that have also developed the land plan that have developed those communities there. They really have disguised themselves extremely well.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the chair for bringing this measure to the floor, and to the sponsor, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

This is an extremely important measure for the State of Arizona. I would invite those opposed to this legislation to walk down the streets of Superior or walk down the streets of Globe or Miami, Arizona, and see those empty streets, empty classrooms, and to try to say that these jobs aren't real, that mining jobs are not real; or to meet the hundreds of people, as I have, as well, who have gone to this mine and have toured it, and not one robot did I meet, not one, that I'm aware of. And the notion that a mine is going to be operated by robots owned by some foreign company somewhere rather than local workers who will pay a lot of taxes, who will generate other jobs that are ancillary is just unbelievable.

The notion that a foreign company can't have a significant investment in this country just runs afoul of everything we know about what has gone on for centuries here. The gentleman talks about a foreign company and they would only employ foreign workers. How about BMW in South Carolina, for example? Do they only employ foreign workers? No. Other car companies, other mining companies—part of the reason we have so few U.S. mining companies is because regulations here have driven them out of business. And so we relied on foreign mining companies to come in and actually make the investment to hire American workers. And make no mistake, there will be thousands of American workers hired here.

Walk the streets of Superior right now and meet the hundreds of people already working on this venture and try to convince them that these jobs are not real. I would invite anybody opposing this legislation, just try to do that. Try to tell somebody who finally has a paycheck to take home that that is not a real job or that other jobs that are going to be created here are not real.

It's all fine and dandy for people in Washington to try to tell people in a local community that have seen mining jobs in the past that have gone that when new mining jobs come that those jobs somehow are not real or that because a foreign company happens to have some ownership here that that makes it less of a job for them and that we should be able to tell them, ''I'm sorry, you can't have your job because a foreign corporation has made an investment here.'' How arrogant is that? That's just wrong. We shouldn't have that.

So I applaud the gentleman for bringing this to the floor. This has been a long time in coming. Many of us have worked for years on this to get this land exchange to go. And the gentleman is right. This is a win-win for everyone. It is a win for the Federal Government and others who want to see pristine lands preserved because far more acres are actually preserved here, sensitive, environmentally sensitive acres, than are actually given up to the mine. Most of the mining here will take place between 4,000 and 7,000 feet underground.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman.

This is good for everyone and it means real jobs. The notion that these jobs are not real, that this bill does not create jobs is simply not the case. It doesn't square with the facts.

I urge adoption of this rule so we can debate this bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I continue to reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1904, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. It's one of the 40 bills that we have highlighted in the Western Jobs Caucus Frontier Report. The Jobs Frontier is our report of 40 different bills that will create jobs immediately.

I find the conversation curious. For my good friend from Florida, I wonder, the administration has just approved for the sale of Cirrus Aviation, that will be producing airplanes in this country owned by a foreign country, and so maybe the argument could be made, well, maybe those jobs aren't created and run by robots. So I now would direct our attention to maybe Daimler, Toyota, and maybe Honda. All have manufacturing facilities here, and I know they use robots, and I don't see the gentleman from Florida trying to shut them down.

What we're doing at this point in our history is driving the unemployment off the scale high because we're making ludicrous arguments against jobs creation bills across the spectrum.

In 1993 the U.S. accounted for 20 to 21 percent of all mining exploration. Today we are at 8 percent. It's because people have blocked the new mines throughout the West.

All we're trying to do here is make a land exchange, and the company giving up land is giving up twice the amount of land they are receiving in order to account for the value of the copper underground. We're trying to put about 1,500 long-term mining jobs in place in Arizona. Those jobs are going to be in the $60,000 to $85,000 a year range. They'll pay taxes. They'll come off unemployment. They'll come off of welfare and food stamps. So we cut the cost of government simultaneously with increasing the revenues. That's a business model that always succeeds.

The price of copper is what's driving this to be a mine site that is now economic. Previously, 10, 15 years ago, the price of copper was about 75 cents. Today, it's almost $4. So it's those economics that are encouraging us in this country to start producing from mines where we have not previously. This mine, by itself, would account for about 25 percent of the production in this country, needed in this country, for the next 50 years.

It's a good project. Let's approve the rule. Let's get on to debate of the underlying bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will be the final speaker.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I tell my colleague that I am prepared to close.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. With that in mind, Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, which I will not use.

I want to make it very clear to my colleagues that I'm not against foreign investment in the United States of America. I'm not against real jobs being created in the United States of America, including Arizona and including Superior. I'll tell Mr. GOSAR, I'll give you one Superior and I will match you with one Pahokee and one South Bay, Florida, where the jobs didn't come when the other circumstances that would take place in the community did.

I respect the mining industry, and I believe the mining industry can do their job in an environmentally and culturally sensitive way; and there are demonstrative evidences that take place all over this Nation that show that. But what I'm trying to get across here is that my colleagues on the other side are still not in the business of seeing to it that we immediately do something about firefighters, police officers, and school teachers in this country. And I assure you that that's something that we have not done in the 109 days that we have been here and almost 104 days that we have not.

Please, let's get about the business of doing something about the massive unemployment in this country that is desperately in need of the attention of this institution—the House and the other body.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, in closing, this is the map of the area which we're talking about. Everything that's orange there—or copper color—are historic or existing mines in this particular area. The yellow one is where this mine would take place. This is the mining district of the State of Arizona. Actually, even Arizona has the color copper in its State flag.

We are talking about jobs in Arizona versus jobs in where we are importing copper from now. We are importing copper from Chile, Canada, Peru, and Mexico—in that order.

□ 1500

We can either create jobs there or we can create jobs in Arizona. We can either develop our own resources or we can allow ourselves to rely on resources from foreign places. We can go forward in what we are trying to do here, realizing that even firemen and policemen need copper before they can actually do their work. All of us are going to have to have this mineral. We might as well get our minerals here, develop our jobs here, use our future here.

This is a great bill, and it is a fair rule in which all of the amendments—one technical and three which have nice sounds to them but which are going to be very difficult to put into reality if they actually are to pass—will be debated here on the floor.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I wish to reiterate once again the fairness of this structured rule. I urge this rule's adoption, and I urge the adoption of the underlying legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on House Resolution 444 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on suspending the rules on H.R. 2447.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 178, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 803]

YEAS—245

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)

Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—178

Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—10

Ackerman
Bachmann
Buerkle
Capps
Giffords
Lewis (GA)
Paul
Polis
Renacci
Wilson (FL)

□ 1529

Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, RANGEL, CARNAHAN, Ms. HAHN, Messrs. RICHMOND, FRANK of Massachusetts, and ELLISON changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. BARTLETT changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. BUERKLE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 803, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 235th birthday for the Marines, I want Members to know that in the audience is the Montford Point Marines. November 10 will be 235 years for the Marines. We are paying a special tribute today to the Montford Point Marines. They are in the House today, they are in the gallery, and I would like the men and women of this body to give them a standing ovation for their service to the United States. We thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say, this is one of the greatest bipartisan efforts, Mr. BACHUS and both sides of the aisle and the leadership. I wish I could say what they say—y'all help me—ooh rah! Anyway, let's pass this bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER). Members are reminded that the rules of the House prohibit references to occupants of the gallery.

## CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2447) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 804]

YEAS—422

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson

Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—11

Ackerman
Bachmann
Capps
Giffords
Lewis (GA)
Lynch
Miller, Gary
Paul
Polis
Renacci
Wilson (FL)

□ 1540

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## JOB CREATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a lot of folks in this Chamber talk about job creation, which is important because jobs should and must be our Nation's top priority. But the solution to our economic woes isn't going to come from Washington; it's going to come from domestic industries and small businesses across this Nation.

One industry that comes to mind is the energy industry, in particular the Marcellus shale natural gas play, much of which is located in my district. During 2010, the Marcellus shale supported nearly 140,000 jobs and is projected to generate more than $12.8 billion in economic activity just in 2011. The Washington myth that government creates jobs continues to be on the lips of many inside the beltway, yet the Marcellus has been so productive in part because the Federal Government does not have direct involvement in the regulation, which remains largely in the hands of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the government should be focused on removing barriers to growth, such as the 15 job-creating bills now passed by the House and ignored by the Senate. Here in the House, we haven't waited. It's time for our Senate colleagues to act and act now.

## LAURA POLLAN

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

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of yet another ruthless murder by the Castro dictatorship in Cuba and the loss of a tremendous hero.

Last Friday Laura Pollan, leader of the opposition group Ladies in White, died following another beating by Castro's thugs. For 8 years, Pollan led the Ladies in White, a group of wives, sisters and daughters of the 75 political prisoners arrested during the black spring of 2003. Following the arrest of her husband, Pollan, along with other women dressed simply in white, began organizing weekend marches demanding the release of political prisoners. Following a recent peaceful demonstration, Pollan was hospitalized and suspiciously passed away days later following what the Cuban dictatorship called ''a brief illness.''

Throughout the more than 50-year reign of the Castro dictatorship, suspicious and untimely deaths of healthy opposition leaders are not unheard of. We will never forget Laura Pollan's courage and a struggle for a free and democratic Cuba. She is yet another victim whose blood is on the hands of the Castro brothers.

## JOB KILLING

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last year the brains over at the EPA, in all their wisdom, came out with the conclusion that since milk comes from animal fat and fat has oil in it, therefore milk is a hazardous substance. And so if a dairy farmer has a spill in a milk tank, they have to have a hazardous substance evacuation plan. It was so ridiculous that Democrats and Republicans alike worked to repeal the law.

This is just one of the crazy examples that we see day after day from the bureaucracy in Washington, and it's one reason why businesses aren't investing in new jobs. There is a lot of money on the sideline right now because of regulatory uncertainty. Businesses need to know the rules of the game in order to engage. Right now there's no motivation to do it.

There is a beer brewery, and they came up with a beer called St. Paulie's Liquid Wisdom, just a whimsical kind of name. But what did Uncle Manny say? You can't have that name because it's a medical claim. That is the state of job killing in this administration.

I invite you to go to jobs.gop.gov to learn more.

## RETIRING CHIEF JOURNAL CLERK PATRICIA MADSON

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I just want to pause—I know my good friend from California this morning did mention this—to say goodbye to Trish Madson. This was her last day as Chief Journal Clerk for the Congress of the United States. She has been here 44 years, 7 months, and 5 days. This is what you all have to look forward to.

Trish, thank you so much for your service to this institution. You're a real humanitarian, and you're sensitive to the needs of us folks who call ourselves Congressmen. Thank you for your service to your country. God bless you.

## THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I spoke about this early this morning, and I want to reiterate my appreciation to CORRINE BROWN and to this resolution that was passed to honor the Montford Point Marines, 20,000 of them, African Americans, that served their country in such esteem, and the fact that we have this gold medal, which causes me again to raise the coming home of our troops from Iraq and again thank President Barack Obama for that decisive decision, recognizing that we are safe and secure as we protect the homeland and build up our military preparedness, bring our troops home and provide jobs for them, and have them restored to their families.

I just had an opportunity to meet with the Texas Air National Guard Reservists who have served well in Iraq and Afghanistan. I met with their general and want to offer my deep commitment to them. That is why it makes no sense for the State of Texas to issue a Confederate flag for the license plate.

Let us get an understanding of what is accolades and appreciation for our military. Let us go forward. I denounce the issuance of a Confederate flag. Let's issue the United States flag for the United States of America.

## THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I am honored to say that I was one of the cosponsors of the request for the Congressional Gold Medal for the marines. And I did so for them, I did so because of the history that it represents, but I also did so because when you support any of our military people, you're supporting all of them.

It was important to send a message that we support those persons who made it possible for others to have opportunities, but at the same time we're supporting those who are serving today in faraway places who desire to be at home with their families. We support their families who are supporting them. And regardless as to how people feel about various wars, every person ought to want all of our troops to come home safely.

I support them. I support what we're doing to let the world know that what they have done should be recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal.

□ 1550

## INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a story about American jobs. This is the story about American jobs and the story of where our money is misspent, how it hurts States, the United States, and how we can change that trend. It's how some U.S. policies currently are hurting U.S. citizens, and it's a story of how we can change policies, we can clean up our environment, create jobs, have clean air, clean land and clean water. It's about growing jobs without increasing our debt, borrowing from China, or raising taxes.

This is a story of the new American Dream for the next generation; the story that says if we have the will, we also have the way. It's a story that makes America back to work again. And best of all, it's a story that can come true. We can do this because we have the road to energy independence and American prosperity mapped out with this bill, H.R. 1861.

Today, a number of Members from both sides of the aisle, the Bipartisan Working Group on Energy, will describe America's needs and show how this bill provides the means to rebuild our aging infrastructure and meet America's growing energy needs and will grow millions of jobs, not for 90 days, not for one election season, but for 20 years into the future. This bill moves us towards energy independence.

But first, before we get into that, I want to talk about the energy needs of the world and what's happening with our own economy. We all recognize, and every Member of this House is concerned with the debt of this Nation which is now $14.5 trillion. It's 97 percent of the value of our economy. It's $45,000 for each man, woman and child, and growing at $58,000 a second.

We are all concerned that more than 25 million Americans are out of work or looking for more work. We are all concerned that we've lost 5 million manufacturing jobs to other countries in the last decade. We all know the global demand for energy is going to grow by 53 percent by the year 2035. And total U.S. consumption of liquid fuels, including both fossil fuels and biofuels, is going to rise from about 18.8 million barrels per day to 21.9 million barrels per day by the year 2035.

Now, we know that many people would like to have us get off oil, but we're still going to need oil, not only for transportation, but for manufacturing, for plastics and for chemical development. It is not something we can turn our back on, but it's something we need to recognize is a treasure out there that we can use, not only to stop sending our money overseas, but also to develop American jobs.

Keep in mind we can turn our energy around through energy because energy equals jobs. We import 65 percent of our oil, and some of that from hostile regimes. The U.S. currently imports roughly 20 percent, or 5 million barrels a day, from members of OPEC. The United States spends about $1 billion a day on foreign oil, or $129 billion each year from OPEC nations.

By converting to natural gas, 18 million diesel trucks and fleet vehicles which return to a central location overnight would cut OPEC imports in half. Choosing to enact no change in policy related to natural gas is the same as choosing to remain reliant on OPEC nations for our economic vitality. Our bill helps finance this conversion.

Gas costs families about $2,200 more a year than it did in 2009. And this House, this Chamber, has talked about energy independence since the 1973 oil embargo. The demand for energy is growing and growing; and, unfortunately, OPEC exerts control over world oil prices and has asked that it someday be $200 per barrel. We think it affects our economy now at where it is. Imagine what would happen when it reaches that level.

The Department of the Interior, however, estimates that we have between 86 billion and 115 billion barrels on our Outer Continental Shelf. That is enough oil and gas to replace imports from Venezuela and Saudi Arabia for the next 80 years, extensive tracts of oil, which, by the way, were last surveyed for the most part in the 1970s. And it's quite likely that also given areas that have not been reviewed or surveyed since then would have many times that amount.

Offshore exploration, including the revenues that come from the leasing, from the royalties, is about $440 billion alone. When you add everything else that can come from this, with over a million jobs a year, with manufacturing, the economic impact of this exceeds $8 trillion overall for our country. And new Federal revenues are estimated to be between $2.2 trillion and $3.7 trillion over the next 20 years.

Our option is to continue to buy from foreign nations which aren't friendly to us. Think of what happens with this $129 billion a year we send to OPEC nations, nations that oftentimes we send blood and treasure of our soldiers and our money to go protect. And what do they do with our money as well? They build islands, great highways, palaces.

Now, we recognize that many folks around the world are our allies, but we also have to recognize we are here to take care of our citizens and make sure our citizens have an opportunity to compete for jobs in America.

Ultimately, here's the problem America faces right now in our energy infrastructure. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America's infrastructure is crumbling. It would take $930 billion to rebuild our roads and bridges; $87 billion for aviation; $12.5 billion to rebuild our dams that are breaking and our locks; $255 billion for sewer and water infrastructure rebuilt in America, where we're leaking massive amounts of water every year in our clean water; $75 billion for energy infrastructure in this Nation; $50 billion for inland waterways; $50 billion for levees; $63 billion for rail; and $265 billion for our transit system.

What we would do is open up those areas for offshore drilling. And, quite frankly, I trust our ability to do it. Yes, there have been mistakes, but they have been rare; and I certainly trust our folks to explore for offshore resources and make sure they follow environmental laws to the letter.

But in this process of creating jobs and dedicating the revenue from this act, keep in mind we do not raise taxes, we do not borrow from China, and we do not buy this oil from OPEC. Instead, we create our jobs. We create our jobs now and in the long term.

We rebuild America's crumbling bridges and roads. We invest in clean American energy, not just talking about cleaning up our coal-fired power plants, not just talking about it would be nice to have nuclear power, not just saying it will be great if people can conserve more energy, because 40 percent of the energy of typical homes and buildings is oftentimes wasted through incredible energy inefficiency. We pay for that energy, but we don't get it. We pay to heat our homes and light our homes and cool our homes and offices; but whenever we are wasting that energy, that's power plants we don't need to have built.

There's also wasted energy in the areas that have to do with how our grid structure is so inefficient, but we can actually clean up the environment and conserve energy; and we can do all of this without raising taxes, as we said.

Now, I said this is a bipartisan bill, and I'd like to turn to a number of my

colleagues today to talk about how this can be done, and to hear the kind of support we have for this as we move through.

With that, I would like to yield to my colleague from California, Mr. JIM COSTA.

Mr. COSTA. Thank you very much. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his explanation of what truly is a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise, like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to support H.R. 1861, titled the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act of 2011.

Those of you who are watching on C–SPAN, take note: this is a bipartisan effort. It's the kind of thing I think most of you in this country want us to do in Congress every day. This measure—and the four important points to note that we all concur in and what America wants us to do is provide us a path to energy independence, it revitalizes our Nation's transportation, water infrastructure and other investments in our infrastructure that equal jobs, jobs, and jobs. It reduces the deficit with no new taxes, and it is a bipartisan effort, one that is supported on both sides of the aisle.

□ 1600

Several years ago, I joined with my colleagues from both sides to develop this sensible energy policy that acknowledges the challenges for our Nation's energy, both in the short term, the near term, the medium, and the long term, over the next 20 years. Similar to what we have done in previous Congresses, we formed this bipartisan energy working group, which includes my colleagues, Representative TIM MURPHY, who just spoke, Congressman TIM WALZ, Congressman BILL SHUSTER, and myself and other Members whom you will hear talk about why we feel this is the path we ought to pursue.

The Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act was developed by Members who are speaking here today, sitting down and talking to one another—not by lobbyists. We hammered this plan out over a period of months, having worked off of previous efforts in legislation that was introduced in previous Congresses. This is what's needed in Washington, and unfortunately, too often, it doesn't happen—the art of the political compromise. These aren't Republican or Democratic ideas, these are simply good, commonsense ideas that put America's energy future first.

Time and time again, I see too many Members rising on the House floor focusing on their talking points, giving the stump speeches. That's nice, but it doesn't comport with the reality of the challenges we face today in many instances. This legislation, however, does. Sound bites like ''drill baby drill'' or ''use it or lose it'' may sound good to certain constituencies, but I do not believe they constitute an energy policy.

This legislation, H.R. 1861, constitutes a real energy policy over the next 20 years. Let me talk about what this measure would do to enhance our path. First, it would expand domestic energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf. Secondly, it would advance alternative energy, including wind, solar, biomass, wave, geothermal, and other clean alternatives. Third, it would rebuild our Nation's roads, bridges, dams, water, and sewer systems—that, as Congressman MURPHY indicated today, is estimated to have a pricetag of over $900 billion. Fourth, it would develop clean coal energy technology, which we have an abundance of supply in. Fifth, it would develop ways in which we can finance nuclear energy technologies. Sixth, it would expand the use of energy-efficiency products and alternative fuel vehicles. Seventh, it would restore and protect our Nation's wildlife refuges, national parks, lakes, and waterways.

And how would it do all this? It would help also to assist in paying off our national debt. Why? Because the funds that we receive for energy on fossil fuels, both onshore and offshore on federal lands, is the second-largest single source of revenue that comes to the United States Treasury outside of the taxes we pay. It's the revenue that we would derive by expanding energy sources onshore and offshore that would go to pay for these efforts.

As a nation, we have to work towards a realistic energy policy. Our economy needs it. We can no longer afford to take any energy sources off the table. And while we tackle these problems, we have to rebuild our aging infrastructure. H.R. 1861 does that by dedicating these funds to that effort without raising taxes. As many of you know, I'm a firm believer in using all the energy tools in our energy toolbox, conventional energy together with renewable resources. A strategy for energy conservation while upgrading our transmission lines will best serve our long-term energy needs.

In closing, I'd like to continue to work with my colleagues on this collaboration. As was noted, since our first energy crisis in 1973, we have had a host of energy plans by previous Congresses and previous administrations. What's different between this and those efforts? I'll tell you what's different. We have not had the ability to get together, in a bipartisan fashion, to agree on one energy policy, stick with it, and implement it over the next 20 years.

H.R. 1861 allows us the path to do that. I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan effort to ensure that, once and for all, we put America first, put our politics behind us, and introduce—not only this introduction, but to do everything we can to enact H.R. 1861 both in the House and in the Senate and get this to the President's desk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to any potential viewing audience outside the Chamber.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I would now like to yield to the gentlelady from West Virginia, Ms. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO.

Mrs. CAPITO. I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for having this Special Order to discuss two really important issues: America's energy supply and our transportation infrastructure. And I'm really pleased that we have a bipartisan group here. We started like this several years ago. We all kind of closed ourselves into a room, Members only, to discuss our Nation's great needs. Many of us share the same types of States, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, where we know energy production. We know the jobs that it creates, we know how valuable it is to our country, but we also know that certain parts of our country are more reliant on certain sources of energy, particularly a State like mine, and Pennsylvania and Indiana, as well, I believe, with coal and other fossil fuels.

And so in concern of disadvantaging certain parts of our country because of our abundance of energy and our reliance on certain resources, we got together to try to solve some problems. And so H.R. 1861, I think, goes a long way. Mr. MURPHY has talked a lot about what this means in terms of our reliance on foreign sources of oil, he's talked a lot about the direct translation of energy into jobs.

We share a portion of our States bordering one another where we can see the energy sector exploding around the Marcellus shale. I'm from the northern part of West Virginia that borders on the Pennsylvania area where the shale is most prevalent, and just to see the creation of not just jobs in that industry, but jobs in the car lots, jobs in the county courthouse, jobs in the local restaurants and hotels, is exciting for a downtrodden area of our country. And so we know that further exploration on our Outer Continental Shelf will explode in terms of jobs. So he has a bill.

I also have a bill out that has a little bit narrower focus, and it is H.R. 2983, and I've nicknamed it the REBAR bill. As we all know, good nicknames for bills are always catchy. My bill has the same premise, which is maximizing our energy resources in the Outer Continental Shelf to generate billions of dollars. Mine has a more narrow focus because of the 9.1 percent unemployment situation that we find ourselves in right now and in the near future. I focus mostly on, or exclusively on, really, infrastructure development in terms of roads and bridges, and then our water and inland waterways. West Virginia also borders the Ohio River. We've got aging infrastructure. Some of our locks are over 100 years old. The Inland Waterways Trust Fund cannot possibly meet the demands of the need that is apparent on our waterways. We also have large estimates of $930 billion for roads and bridges. We all know the gas tax is not going to meet this demand. We have been funding the trust

fund for our highways for years. In recent years it has been to the tune of billions of dollars every year to meet the shortfall. States can't plan, companies can't hire, and equipment makers can't produce. There's all kinds of stalling that's gone on because of the uncertainty in our Highway Trust Fund.

We've set up a structure where you have a bill that lasts for 6 years so that you can plan, so that you can look at the future of all of our transportation needs. But if we don't fund that, we're not going to go anywhere, and we're not going to create the jobs that are going to be immediately created by a good and robust infrastructure bill.

The President talks about infrastructure. Many Members talk about infrastructure. But the next question doesn't get asked: How are we going to pay for this? And that's what I think is particularly creative about this bill, and I would say along the same lines as the bill that I had put in for consideration.

So I think it's something that obviously crosses party lines. The urgency is there. The win/win situation for a bill such as this is apparent on energy production, job creation, and infrastructure development. Those are the three pillars of a—I'm going to say it's a three-pronged stool. These are the three pillars that grow from this act. I think we should act on this. I think we've got critical mass in this House to be able to push something like this through.

□ 1610

As a member of the bipartisan energy group, I'm going to keep working with my fellow colleagues here today to see that we push this forward and that the American people understand the great importance and the great future that this will hold in terms of the growth of our country.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlelady from West Virginia.

I might add, as she was speaking about the Marcellus shale—this vast natural gas deposit which is underground in the States of New York, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and others—I know Pennsylvania has realized revenues from that in the billions of dollars and direct jobs of around 50,000. We're already talking about a couple hundred thousand jobs that can come from this and that we will have the benefits of that Marcellus shale natural gas over the next 30 years.

I bring that up because, although that is being drilled now and being brought to market now, it is a tiny, tiny fraction of what we're talking about in the coastal areas that we will drill in a responsible way and use to create American jobs. With the many millions of Americans out of work who want to work and who want good-paying jobs, we know one of the greatest threats to our country right now is poverty. The government can't provide all of those. We can let the private sector grow, and we can let these jobs come through, so we begin to work on these many areas of rebuilding America.

I would like to turn to one of my colleagues, one of the prime sponsors of this bill now, to talk more about the issues here, Mr. TIM WALZ of Minnesota.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. To the gentleman from Pennsylvania, thank you for your energy, your passion, your vision. Thank you also to all the folks who've gathered here.

Mr. Speaker, you're witnessing an all too rare event in this House—a group of bipartisan legislators coming together and working for the common good and rejecting the politics of division, rejecting the politics of the false choices—the either/ors—and coming together with the respect and understanding that this Nation can innovate, can become energy independent and, at the same time, can protect those vital natural resources.

You have a spectrum of folks who come from coal-producing West Virginia, from Pennsylvania, from Indiana, from California, from the plains of Minnesota. You have Members here who have a wide spectrum of political beliefs, but you also have folks here who have been in the business of producing energy, and you've got folks speaking who are endorsed by groups like the Sierra Club.

Mr. Speaker, this is what the American public is asking for. They're asking for us to get together, to use our knowledge, to collect information, to use that data, and to come up with a plan that will do the things that you've heard talked about here.

The very premise of this is just so simple, which is that this land is your land. It's the idea with the riches of this land and the natural resources, if we use them wisely, if we take those revenues and reinvest, that we can continue to do what we've always done—out-innovate, out-moving products to market—and do it in a way that protects and the natural park system that we have in this country. We can have it both ways if we're smart, but it needs to start here. It needs to start with a plan.

It makes no sense to anyone I talk to on the plains of southern Minnesota that we're spending over $1 billion a day and sending it to countries that hate us. They will hate us for free. We can keep the money at home, reinvest in the infrastructure, make sure the outdated locks and dams on the Mississippi are up to where they need to be to quickly move those farm products from the upper Mississippi down to the gulf and to the markets around the world. Those things can be done.

You heard each of our Members talk about the idea that we're reinvesting royalties. This Nation needs to make sure we're more efficient. We need to conserve on our energy needs, but to do so takes research; to do so takes investment. We have to upgrade our power grid. We have to make sure we're using smart grid technology and using the software and the technologies available to make sure we're using every bit of energy the most efficiently. We can take these revenues from the sale of the resources that are there, extract the resources in an environmentally sound manner, and take those back and put them into the research, into the infrastructure, into the ability to move forward.

For example, in my district in southern Minnesota, we're very proud. We're the fourth leading producer of wind energy in this Nation. You can see the beautiful windmills stretching across there and producing a large amount of our power. Yet the reality is Minnesota is one of the most coal-dependent States in the Union because of the nature of where it's at, so we simultaneously need to make sure we're doing that in the most efficient, effective, and environmentally sound manner while we're being realistic about what our power needs are.

This Nation and the world will become energy hungry like it has never seen as 50 percent more energy will need to be produced by 2025. We need to be smart on how we do it. The country that harnesses the innovation, that harnesses the ability to be energy independent will lead into the future. We can't afford to fall behind. We can't afford to allow the resources we've been blessed with to be squandered and not used and invested for our children's future.

So I have to tell you, as this has been worked on, to me, one of the most reassuring things about our great democracy is how this committee and this bipartisan Energy Working Group have gotten together outside the constraints of existing politics, outside the constraints of existing committees and has brought Members—new Members, seasoned Members, more liberal Members, more conservative Members—with a very clear idea: making sure that we use our resources effectively, become more energy independent, diversify our energy portfolio, and do so without raising a single tax; and making sure our infrastructure is modern, making sure it is efficient and effective and, in the long run, making us more competitive. So there are jobs that will be created by this; there is the ability to pay down the deficit that will be created by this; and there is a sense of pride that we will have as a Nation.

Back in March, President Obama challenged us to reduce our oil imports by a third over the next 10 years. To meet that challenge, there is only one plan sitting on the table right now that has the ability to do that, which is this piece of legislation. I have to say it's very gratifying to work on this. I very much feel that the American people are hungry for a bipartisan, commonsense ability to compromise where we need to, that there is the ability to bring the right research to bear and the ability to inspire the American innovative

spirit to get there and to do so with a set outcome.

This is real. This isn't talk. This isn't like, oh, we should become energy independent. I hear a lot of people complain about coal all the time. The reality of the matter is, if you're here today and complaining about coal, we need to turn the lights and the microphones off because they're being powered by that. Without another solution to that, we're not going to get any closer to what we'd like to see—affordable, clean American energy that is powering our businesses and powering our homes.

As the gentleman said, this isn't just an American Dream. This could become an American reality, and it could start as soon as we get this thing moved through.

So, again, to my colleagues, I thank you for putting the energy and the effort into this. I thank the gentleman for continuing to hold us together. I thank him for being ahead of the curve as this group has been for the past several years. As for the American public, we're getting right in lockstep with them as to what they want to see us do.

So I encourage my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and their constituents to continue to engage in this and to talk to their Representatives about becoming part of this group. If you're really tired of the bickering and if you're really tired of the gridlock and if you're really tired of our not spending our money at home on our energy and on our ability to create jobs here, this is your solution, and you've got a spectrum of folks. It isn't a Democratic issue. It's not a Republican issue.

To the gentleman from Pennsylvania, I have great appreciation for the work that you're doing.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his comments.

As he was describing the issue about making sure that we clean up our environment, the reason is that this bill pays for those things.

We know, for example, that the waterways just in the Great Lakes alone is a $30 billion problem with regard to pollution that has to be cleaned up. We know of our coal-fired power plants that 40 percent of them have inadequate or no scrubbers, and we need to clean them up.

The point is that shutting them down is not going to reduce the cost of electricity, and it's not going to clean up the environment when those jobs simply go over to other countries where they do manufacturing with little or no pollution controls because that still comes back over to our Nation. Keep in mind that this bill does not raise taxes, that it doesn't borrow from other countries, that it doesn't buy oil from OPEC, and that it doesn't put us more into debt.

I will yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), but I first want to yield to another gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. PAT MEEHAN, who is one of our new colleagues here, to also comment on this bill.

Mr. MEEHAN. I rise in support of the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act. Let me first just start with the element of process because I want to follow up on what the gentleman from Minnesota was so articulate in explaining.

On the merits, we can speak to why this is right for America, but today we're seeing scrutiny of the inability of the Congress to come together with commonsense solutions that address the real needs of the American people today and that will help us put people back to work today. Right before us here, we have just such a bill—one that enjoys bipartisan support in which you have leadership from both sides identifying the ability for us to use existing resources. Much like the way today we use the tax on gas, this allows us to generate the revenue to support the creation of a real commitment to infrastructure.

□ 1620

As a member of the Transportation Committee, I struggle with the reality of the tremendous challenges we have from bridges to roads to waterways across the Nation.

We have an opportunity to address that need. We have an opportunity to do it without having to continue the greatest wealth transfer in the history of America, which is the petro dollars we are spending to foreign nations. It is time for us to join together and support the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

What he is referring to also is taking care of our infrastructure, which has aged so much, and it's just a massive problem. I know it is something that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is committed to finding some solutions.

I now yield to Congressman BILL SHUSTER of Pennsylvania, one of the great leaders of this effort. I am proud that he's a colleague from Pennsylvania, and his commitment is second to none with trying to find some solutions to rebuild America.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank my friend from Pennsylvania. Thank you for bringing us all together here on the floor this evening to talk about such an important issue and an important bipartisan piece of legislation.

H.R. 1861, the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act, is a bill whose time has come. We came together, Republicans and Democrats, to figure out ways to find the funds without raising taxes to invest in America's infrastructure. And this bill does that from investing in clean energy, rebuilding America's aging locks, dams, bridges and roads, creating jobs which, of course, all the American people are very focused on; and this bill will do just that.

It invests in cleaning up our environment and it, again, has one of the largest infrastructure investments in the history of the United States. With this bill we can do that and, again, it doesn't raise taxes. Opening up our offshore resources and bringing that energy to bear to make us less energy independent is absolutely critical.

In Pennsylvania we know firsthand with the Marcellus shale gas play that's there. It gives Pennsylvania a second chance, a second chance to revitalize our economy in Pennsylvania and once again become one of the driving States in the economy of the United States of America. So we know that firsthand, and it was Pennsylvania 150 years ago with its coal and its oil that was found there that made Pennsylvania so key in the growing and the building up of America.

I want to focus on the funding that would go towards transportation, and my colleague has a great visual aid up there talking about the needs, almost a trillion dollars we need to invest over the next 15, 20 years in our roads and bridges. Aviation, $87 billion; our dams are very much in need; sewer and water, we have about a $300 billion backlog across this country to rebuild the infrastructure, to get rid of sewage waste and make sure we have clean drinking water; $5 billion in inland waterways and locks and dams, which are so critical.

This country grew up, became a power because of our waterways and able to move goods at a very inexpensive rate. We need to revitalize those to continue to use those waterways that we have naturally. But it takes money to rebuild those locks and dams.

When you look around America, I think everybody has driven across a pothole or sees a bridge that's crumbling or many of us live with tremendous congestion and, in fact, the congestion is crippling America. It costs American commuters approximately $115 billion a year because of wasted time and fuel, and those numbers continue to rise; 4.8 billion hours per year Americans are stuck in traffic. We have to find out a way to reinvest in the infrastructure that's made our country.

When you talk about trade, how can you talk about trade and increasing trade if you can't figure out how to get those bulldozers, those Caterpillar tractors that are going to be shipped overseas. If you can't get them from Peoria, Illinois, to the ports of Philadelphia and the ports of Los Angeles to send them over there, they're going to sit in those yards.

We've got to figure out a way to get commerce, not only in foreign markets, but also it's coming into this country. It's the transportation system that's absolutely vital to that.

Today we currently are spending about $44 billion on our transportation system, highways, bridges, transit systems, when we actually should be spending at the Federal level about $62

billion. That number is going down because of our budget constraints. So we have got to find new revenues, and Congressman MURPHY's H.R. 1861, this plan that we support in a bipartisan way, is going to do just that, get the funds to be able to invest in our infrastructure.

Our infrastructure, by the way, when you look back to the Constitution of the United States, a lot of people say, well, government shouldn't be investing in a lot of things. And I agree, there's a lot of things we do in Washington, DC we shouldn't be investing in; but transportation is not one of those.

From the time of our Founding Fathers in article I of the Constitution, it talks about the Federal Government regulating commerce with foreign nations and among the several States regulating and encouraging commerce to build post offices and post roads. The post roads of the 1800s are the highways and byways of today.

This Nation wouldn't be the great Nation it was if it weren't connected. And James Madison, the Father of the Constitution said: ''The power of establishing post roads must, in every view, be a harmless power, and may, perhaps, be judicious management, become productive of great public conveniency. Nothing which tends to facilitate the intercourse between the States can be deemed unworthy of the public care.'' Madison made that argument.

Also early on in our history, under the Jefferson administration, they authorized the building, 100 percent Federal dollars, of Route 40, which went from Baltimore into the Ohio territory. They authorized it under Jefferson, and the construction was completed under Madison. It opened up the territory, the Ohio Territory, to be able to produce commerce and prosperity to America. So early on in our Nation, the Founding Fathers knew the importance of our waterways, of building roads, of connecting this country.

And I on this side of the aisle can proudly say that it's been a Republican tradition in the United States Government and the United States Congress. Abraham Lincoln built the transcontinental railroad, not in the middle of a recession, but in the middle of the great Civil War.

He knew how important it was to connect America, to make sure that we move commerce in an efficient way and a safe way. From there, Teddy Roosevelt building the Panama Canal, which connected the two coasts together by water, extremely important for us to become an international power in commerce and in trade.

And then, of course, Eisenhower coming back from World War II, seeing what the Germans did with being able to move their troops around, had the idea that not only would it be good for America's security, but it would be good for America's commerce to connect this country. And that's exactly what he went about doing in the 1950s: we built the interstate highway system.

I have talked to many of my colleagues that have said the roads have been built, we don't need to spend on them. But they're crumbling; they need to be rebuilt. And one of the facts that I think we all ought to remember, it took us 65 years to go from 200 million to 300 million people, and we crossed that threshold in about 2005 or 2006. It's only going to take us 30-some years to go from 300 million to 400 million.

This Nation is going to continue to grow. We've got to be able to move people; we've got to be able to move our products throughout this country, to the ports to be able to trade globally. So this is something that has to become a national priority.

I believe that this bill, 1861, will help it to become a reality with the funding levels needed to invest in our transportation system. Again, you invest in transportation, you can see the return on investment, whether it's economic development or jobs created in the short term from building it or the long term and the commerce that it produces and the efficiencies that it allows our businesses to have.

Again, I thank the gentleman for bringing us together on a bipartisan basis. I would hope that more of our Members would sign up for this bill so we can push it to the finish line.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for his comments and in helping to lay out how we need to lay out America's infrastructure, clean up our environment and do this without raising taxes, borrowing, or buying more from OPEC.

I now yield to another one of the cosponsors and another Pennsylvanian whose district is just north of mine, Mr. JASON ALTMIRE.

□ 1630

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, we should do this more often, have a bipartisan discussion on the floor. We have debates. We have bipartisan interaction, but we don't have this type of situation occur very often where we have Members from all across the country, from all political points of view that have come together in support of a piece of legislation that is going to impact the country. It's going to impact all of our districts. There is no district in the country that is not going to see a positive benefit from the legislation that we are discussing here today, H.R. 1861.

When I'm home, I hear from constituents all the time about infrastructure. And in southwestern Pennsylvania, we have 1,000 structurally deficient bridges. We have roads that are in great need of modernization and improvement, and we need to invest in our locks and dams. The district that I represent along two different rivers in southwestern Pennsylvania has six locks and dams that average more than 84 years old, and they're crumbling and they need help.

We have a discussion every day in this Congress about the importance of Federal investment and the wisest use of money and taxpayer funds. I can't think of anything that we could be doing in this country that's more important domestically than improving our infrastructure, than repairing our roads and bridges, our locks and dams, our airports.

The waterways commerce that has been discussed here tonight means billions of dollars in southwestern Pennsylvania, and it's critically important for the entire country. Our roads and bridges need to be repaired. I talked about the thousand bridges in southwestern Pennsylvania. We have 6,000 just in Pennsylvania as a State that are in need of repair. So this bill takes a critical step in answering the fundamental question that we all deal with every day. That's great, I'll hear, that's fine. We need to improve our infrastructure, but where's the money going to come from? Where are we going to get the funds to do this investment? Hundreds of billions of dollars are required to complete or even make a dent in the work that needs to be done with the infrastructure in this country. How are we going to pay for it?

Well, currently we have a Federal highway trust fund that's 18.4 cents per gallon of gas purchased in the country. That trust fund annually runs out of money before the end of the fiscal year. Every year we find ourselves scrambling just to maintain our current infrastructure.

What the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) has done in introducing H.R. 1861 is come up with an alternative source of revenue that does not include raising taxes. It does not include finding revenue from some other program or transferring funds from some other priority for the country. It increases the amount of money that's available by doing something that I think we all agree we need to do in this country and that's explore our own domestic resources for energy, because if there is any issue that I hear about as often or more often than transportation infrastructure, it's energy. It's this country's energy resources and why aren't we tapping into our own reserves and why aren't we exploiting the use of coal and natural gas and in this case offshore drilling to increase our domestic energy supply.

We have had many discussions and will in the future on this floor about the necessity of getting ourselves off foreign oil, of increasing our domestic energy reserves. And what this legislation does is increase the supply of our own domestic resources, yes, which is critically important; but it then takes the royalties, it takes the money that is generated from that and applies it to our much needed infrastructure repair.

So what does this bill do? This bill expands offshore drilling and uses the

permit and royalty revenue to fund the infrastructure improvements and clean energy technology—solar, wind, hydro—the things that everybody in this country wants to support, but there hasn't been the money to maintain and upgrade that technology and do the innovations that are necessary in the future.

The revenue goes towards repairing roads, bridges, locks and dams, developing that renewable energy structure, developing clean coal technology, and improving nuclear technology. Twenty percent of the domestic energy supply with electricity comes from the nuclear technologies, and it helps develop alternative fuel vehicles. I hear all the time the internal combustion engine is a century-old-plus technology.

With all of these wonderful things that we have done in this country, can't we find a way to make a car run on something other than gasoline? It seems like something we should have done a long time ago. We haven't done it yet. We're making progress. This bill helps us get there, whatever that technology may be, whether it be electric, natural gas; some advocate hydrogen. But it does the R&D that's necessary to pursue those technologies. And 10 percent of the drilling revenues are set aside to pay down the national debt. Nobody can argue with that. So it creates a new pot of money that doesn't exist currently that's going to be used to pay down our debt, expand our energy resources, and repair our roads and bridges and our locks and dams.

I just can't imagine there is a more worthwhile piece of legislation and a piece of legislation that impacts everybody in a greater way in this Congress. So I would say to my friend from Pennsylvania, thank you for your leadership on this issue. And to the Members from across the country who have spoken here tonight, I hope that is a message not only to this Congress but to the entire country that, yes, we can come together as a Congress. There are things that we agree with on a bipartisan basis; there are things that we can do to improve the financial situation in this country, to improve our roads and bridges, to get ourselves off of our dependence on foreign oil, and to cultivate our own domestic resources. And we are going to get this done.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his support and insight into this.

Several of my colleagues have noted that this is a rare moment on the House floor. We actually have people from both sides of the aisle coming together during this Special Order hour, Mr. Speaker, and talking about an issue where we have to find agreement.

Now, if this was one of those times when we were in disagreement and insults were being hurled back and forth, the galleries behind me would be filled with the press reporting on this. Probably this Special Order won't be reported on much at all because Members are actually coming together with a common plan and a common goal to say we recognize we need jobs, we need to clean up our environment, we need to have an energy source, we need to do this without debt. And as my colleague from Pennsylvania just pointed out, this bill actually returns money to the Treasury and helps reduce the debt by a percent every year.

I might also add, the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, talked about this concept of using energy to pay for transportation when he said on September 15 in an address in front of the Economic Club of Washington, D.C., he said the following:

I'm not opposed to responsible spending to repair and improve infrastructure. But if we want to do it in a way that truly supports long-term economic growth and job creation, let's link the next highway bill to an expansion of American-made energy production. Removing some of the unnecessary government barriers that prevent our country from utilizing its vast energy resources could create millions of new jobs. There's a natural link between the two. As we develop new sources of American energy, we're going to need modern infrastructure to bring that energy to market.

Talking more about this bill and issues and how this will help us throughout the Nation, I turn to another one of my colleagues from Pennsylvania who's here, MIKE FITZPATRICK.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this legislation. I think you are absolutely right that this is a bipartisan moment here in the House, Members from both sides of the aisle coming together around a common goal. Many from Pennsylvania recognize that if this bill becomes law, it would be not just great for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but we'll see jobs created in the private sector, and it'll be good for our great Nation. So I rise in support of one of the few bipartisan plans for energy independence, job creation and infrastructure investment, the bill H.R. 1861.

I'm a proud cosponsor of this legislation because it addresses America's energy problems. It puts in place a plan to start rebuilding our country's aging infrastructure. And, most importantly, it creates American jobs. From the gas pump to electric bills, increased energy costs are straining American families and hurting American businesses. The U.S. Energy Information Administration has projected that the cost of heating our homes and offices will undoubtedly rise this winter.

Bernard Crandley, Bill Edmonds, and Richard Barkman, constituents of mine from the Eighth District of Pennsylvania, have recently contacted me and shared their concerns with these increased costs as winter approaches. In just the last 2 years, families are spending over $2,000 more on fueling their cars. Moreover, the population of the United States continues to soar above 300 million, which means that traffic congestion will only get worse, especially in our area, the northeastern section of the United States. The 2009 Urban Mobility Report finds that traffic congestion in the top 437 urban areas resulted in major choke points and bottlenecks, causing Americans to lose 4.2 billion hours and 2.9 billion gallons of fuel sitting in traffic jams.

□ 1640

Congestion hinders our progress in improving air quality, as vehicles caught in stop-and-go traffic emit far more pollutants than they do when operating without frequent breaking and acceleration. This means that our energy costs will only continue to rise.

The focus in Washington over the last several months has been our Nation's $14.8 trillion debt and the growing annual deficit. The current magnitude of our debt crisis has forced us to address these concerns with a renewed sense of urgency. Our national debt is growing at nearly $60,000 per second; and with each second that passes, our children and grandchildren inherit more of this burden.

Of course, the issue of our Nation's fiscal health and job creation go hand in hand. With unemployment hovering steadily at 9 percent nationwide and our manufacturing sector waning, the number one issue at hand now is how to put people back to work. At town hall meetings across the Eighth District of Pennsylvania, I have been listening to thousands of people, including small business owners, unemployed workers, and families struggling to make ends meet. The consistent message is that Washington must provide certainty and stability before our economy can begin to grow again and start adding new family-sustaining and good-paying jobs.

H.R. 1861 provides solutions to these problems in several ways. First, it addresses the need to lower energy costs by authorizing the responsible and environmentally sound leasing of Federal lands on the Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas exploration. The U.S. Department of the Interior estimates that we have between 86 billion and 115 billion barrels available off our shores. This is enough oil and gas to replace imports from Venezuela and Saudi Arabia for the next 80 years.

In addition to oil and gas exploration, the bill would invest in energy efficiency for our buildings and factories, which waste between 20 and 40 percent of the energy that they consume, and invest in renewable and alternative energy sources and technologies like responsible wind power, solar, hydrogen fuel cells, and electric vehicles.

H.R. 1861 moves us toward energy independence without paying hundreds of dollars per barrel of oil to OPEC and other hostile countries, spending billions daily on importing foreign oil,

raising taxes, or increasing our national debt to China and elsewhere.

Second, this bill would take billions in proceeds from these drilling leases and directly fund much needed construction and infrastructure projects. In my home State of Pennsylvania, our infrastructure is in desperate need of repair. We have bridges and roads that date back to the Civil War, and traffic congestion is a daily hassle. There is near unanimous agreement that we must invest in our Nation's infrastructure, but the question remains of how to pay for it. The President and some Democrats in Congress have suggested that we use taxpayer dollars in the form of a second stimulus package. This bill funds infrastructure investment using private sector dollars, not taxpayer money or borrowed Chinese dollars. This innovative approach will allow for the private sector to help fund our recovery without adding to the deficit.

And most importantly, H.R. 1861 would put countless Americans back to work. Offshore oil exploration is estimated to create 1.2 million quality jobs annually, and for every $1 billion invested in our infrastructure, an estimated 30,000 good-paying, long-term jobs are created for contractors, construction workers, engineers, steelworkers, building trades, and others.

Since the beginning, I have made jobs my top priority, supporting legislation designed to incentivize hiring and create an atmosphere where small businesses will grow. I welcome President Obama's recent entrance into the work already being done by the House of Representatives to address the unacceptably high unemployment rate. It is important that Congress put aside partisan politics and put America back on the track to prosperity. I call on the Senate and the President to pass the jobs bill that the House of Representatives has already passed with bipartisan support.

As the Congress debates various methods of economic growth and job creation in the coming weeks, I'm hopeful that we will take an approach which incorporates the common sense outlined in this bill. Doing so will require a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to be successful. It will not be easy, but I will continue to focus my energy on creating a strong American economy and a brighter future for our children and our grandchildren.

I thank my friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. JOE DONNELLY.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. I thank my esteemed colleague, who also serves in the Naval Reserves. We thank you for your service to our country in that role as well.

This is an extraordinary bill that is about jobs, jobs, jobs, energy independence, and a stronger America. It cuts across party lines and solves so many problems that we face, including assisting in bringing our deficit down. It is a commonsense piece of legislation that puts the United States first.

We have vast energy resources, and we should be utilizing them. Instead of sending $500 billion a year overseas to other countries that, as my friend from Minnesota said, we don't have to pay them to make sure they like us, they'll just not like us without any payment at all, what we need to do is stand up for America, to not worry about whether or not we can keep other countries happy in order to obtain their oil.

We need to stand up for America—our own natural gas, our own ethanol, our own biodiesel, our own nuclear, our own wind, our own solar. In doing that in all of these areas, you put other people to work. In the steel mills of northern Indiana, where I live, these mills are pumping out product for the oil patch. They're pumping out product to make the wind turbines. Across the board, you see jobs created in Indiana. But that applies to all 50 States.

You have almost a trillion dollars for roads and bridges that will be built throughout our country. And when you look at this, this answers the call. When folks say how can we get America to work together, how can we get America to stands up for itself, this answers the call: people going back to work; the deficit being reduced; manufacturing here in the United States. Across the board, it strengthens our Nation. So instead of wondering about how we can move forward, we have an answer as to how to do that.

I'm thrilled to be working with my colleagues to work together to strengthen our Nation, to reduce our deficit, to make it in America, and to become energy independent. We have enough natural gas in this country—just natural gas alone—to run our vehicles for the next hundred years. If we go across the spectrum, we can create incredible wealth and an incredible future for our Nation.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman. I thank all the speakers today.

Mr. Speaker, you just witnessed something—an hour-long discussion on energy policy that did not demonize producers of energy and did not demonize conservation groups, did not point out problems on the other side and did not become political. It put out solutions, answers that are workable, backed by facts and ready to be implemented.

We can do this. The American people deserve us to do exactly this. I encourage you and everyone in this Chamber to get behind this.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank all the speakers today.

Let me wrap up by saying this. In Pennsylvania, we're coal country; we're natural gas; we're the headquarters of nuclear; and we recognize we have a responsibility as a Nation to take care of our country and be good stewards of our environment. We also have to make sure we are creating jobs in America.

But I want to tell you something else. While people are out there criticizing oil, I still believe we can do it better. And one of the things to keep in mind is, when we're sending $129 billion in foreign aid every year to OPEC, we're paying for their bridges and their highways; and that OPEC money has a way of finding its way to countries like Iran and using that to fund terrorists who are attacking America, hurting our soldiers and maiming them. I've seen enough of them in the hospitals that I work with in the Navy.

Let me tell you, that alone, Mr. Speaker, is reason to pass a bill like this and stop harming our soldiers and our citizens in paying for terrorism. Instead, let's pass the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act. Let's keep our money at home; let's create jobs; let's keep America safe; and let's do this right.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1650

## ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 447

*Resolved,* That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Amodei.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and as a compliment to my colleagues who just left the floor, I'd like to compliment them for the bipartisanship that was shown. And perhaps bipartisanship is becoming in vogue because this is a bipartisan effort as well.

It is my firm belief that our Nation, while we have some differences on many issues, we do want to unite

around issues that are crucial and critical to all of us. I salute what they have done, and I look forward to this hour of bipartisanship as well.

I'm honored to be joined today on the floor by my colleague, the Honorable TED POE from Texas. He and I have been sponsoring this resolution on domestic violence for some years—since 2005, I believe—and I am honored that he is here with us today. I will be giving a statement. And after my statement, I will yield to my good friend from the State of Texas, in the Houston area. Thereafter, we have other Members who are present who would of course want to weigh in on this subject. But before I do, let me just thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for making this time available to us. It's important that we have this opportunity to address this issue not only here in Congress, but address it in such a way as to make it clear to our friends and our constituents at home that this is something that is exceedingly important to us, the issue of domestic violence.

So Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time. I thank the leadership for the time. And I thank all of the Members who will be appearing today for the time that they will share with us.

I'd like to, at this time, present my opening statement. Thereafter, I will yield as I have indicated.

Mr. Speaker, there are several Federal actions that have been instituted over the past 20 years to combat the issue of domestic violence. I shall highlight some of the many actions that have been taken.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first observed 22 years ago in the month of October. This month provides an opportunity for our communities to recommit themselves to keeping the victims and the families of domestic violence safe while holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions.

I'm honored to say that the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, which was championed by then-Senator JOE BIDEN, has created a new culture for police officers, judges, and those who work in the courthouse to treat this crime as the serious crime that it is, and it is a serious crime. I look forward to supporting the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. And I want to say, by way of a little bit of commentary, that I was a lawyer practicing before we had a change in this culture. And I saw how this culture that existed at that time devastated the lives of many persons who were victims of domestic violence because there was this thought that this was something that was a family issue, that it was something that people should resolve themselves, they should try to work things out. I thank God that that attitude no longer exists, and that if it does exist in some quarters, we are working to change it. I would also add that the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act supports emergency shelters, crisis intervention programs, and community education about domestic violence.

This Congress has done much to try to reach out not only to the victims, but also to the various communities against the length and breadth of the country to make sure that communities are well prepared and equipped to help those in need of some assistance.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided law enforcement with the tools it needed to protect families. It specifically included $225 million for Violence Against Women programs and $100 million for programs that are a part of the Victims of Crime Act. These funds will supplement Federal dollars so that local providers can retain and hire the personnel to serve victims and hold offenders accountable. We also provided critical funding for law enforcement to keep cops on the street and to support law enforcement programs and services through the Byrne Grant program. In 2010, 854 local domestic violence programs received stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which allowed them to maintain or create 1,384 jobs.

Awareness of domestic violence is growing. All over this country and over the last several decades the work of many individuals and organizations has created a sea of change in the way we as a society look upon the issue of domestic violence. Police, courts, and the public used to consider it a private family matter, as I indicated previously. Not surprisingly, domestic violence was close to, if not the, number one underreported crime in this country. Today, there is much more awareness. And we have started to pass critical legislation at both the State and Federal levels so that we can combat domestic violence properly.

We have made a substantial impact on the lives of domestic violence survivors through laws, programs, services, and funding, but our jobs are not yet done. We have seen much progress. However, there is still much more to be done. In the year 2010, a survey was done by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. This survey found that in one day, while more than 70,000 people received help from domestic violence programs, over 9,000 requests for help went unanswered because of a shortage of resources.

Many victims continue to suffer in silence, and for many others who do come forward, there simply are not enough resources available. Victims of domestic violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, safety planning, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse.

The problem of domestic violence is not confined to any one group of people but crosses all economic, racial, gender, educational, religious, and societal barriers, and it is sustained too often by societal indifference. Make no mistake about it, when domestic violence occurs, it has a long-term damaging effect. And it has this effect on the victim, but not only the victim; it also leaves a mark on the family of the victim, the friends, and the community at large.

In my home State of Texas, according to the Texas Council on Family Violence—and this is a special report; it indicates that 37 women in Harris County, a county where my district happens to be—37 women lost their lives due to domestic violence in 2010. One hundred forty-two women were killed by their intimate partners in 2010. There were 56 occurrences of murder-suicides in Texas in 2010, which often left children without one or both of their parents. Three 17-year-old high school students were murdered in Texas in 2010. Five pregnant women were murdered in Texas in 2010. No year is a good year for the victims of domestic violence, and 2010 was no exception.

The current statistics are staggering. One in every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Three women are killed by an acquaintance or former intimate partner each day in America, on average. The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year, including $4.1 billion in direct health care expenses. Domestic violence has been estimated to cost employers in the U.S. up to $13 billion annually.

Sexual violence is intolerable in our society because it creates a cycle of violence.

□ 1700

As many as 15.5 million children witness domestic violence every year in our country. Children who are exposed to this sort of violence are more likely to attempt suicide, abuse drugs, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit sexual assault crimes.

Men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and adult domestic violence as children were almost four times more likely than other men to have perpetrated domestic violence as adults, according to a large survey that has been reported.

This is a call to action. Let us rededicate ourselves to the goal of ending violence against women and helping heal the lives of domestic violence survivors and their families. No one should have to live in fear in their own home, and we must continue to work to eliminate these acts of violence from our society.

Nearly 1.3 million women will confront violent acts this year. America's leaders and our Nation's families must not let this stand. Let us continue to work to end domestic violence and make every home a safe home.

I urge my colleagues to stand with us and support the survivors and their families by supporting the programs that target this insidious ill of domestic violence.

At this time I am honored to yield to my colleague and friend from Houston, Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank you for your leadership on this issue. I appreciate you, Congressman GREEN. We've known each other a long time. Thirty years ago we both started as young buck lawyers at the Harris County Courthouse in Texas and tried cases against each other, you as a defense lawyer, me as a prosecutor. You continued to work in the defense category until you assumed the role of a judge in Houston. And so it's good to see you again, and I appreciate your leadership on this very important issue.

Some people may not know but Judge GREEN and I, we disagree on some political things, but on some basic human rights issues we're very strong advocates and work together. And I appreciate your civility and ability to work together on important issues such as domestic violence awareness.

This is an important issue, Mr. Speaker, and it's good that we recognize the importance of understanding how domestic violence occurs in our country and how we should recognize the important people that are involved as victims of domestic violence.

I, too, remember the days when domestic violence was not a case where the police really got involved. Certainly, as a former prosecutor, we never saw those cases. Society's attitude about domestic violence was, It's not our problem, it's not a crime, it's their problem, it should stay in the family situation. Thank goodness, after many, many years of that, really, philosophy in this country and other countries who still have that philosophy, in the United States that's not the philosophy of our culture any longer; that in the family situation, spouses have the legal responsibility and the moral responsibility to treat each other with the dignity that they deserve as another human being.

The most important person in my life has always been my grandmother. She lived to the age of 99. She told me a lot of things that I understood. She kept it in a simple way. Congressman GREEN, you'd be glad to know that she never forgave me for being a Republican. She actually said I'm not sure you can go to heaven being a Republican. I think she meant it. That's unfortunate.

But anyway, she said something that was true then many years ago that's true today. She said, you never hurt somebody you claim you love. And that's true. We should have that attitude in this country. And in family situations, people should not hurt people in that family they claim to love. But that happens, and it happens on a regular basis.

Congressman GREEN's given a bunch of statistics, especially from our home State of Texas, where this dastardly crime behind closed doors occurs every day in the United States. And we, as a society, cannot tolerate it. And I commend all the various victims rights groups, the women's groups who are continuing to make us aware of this problem and how to help solve this problem.

You know, the Violence Against Women Act is something that this Congress needs to reauthorize. The VOCA funding should be reauthorized, Violence Against Crime Act. This legislation started way back with President Reagan. It's a novel idea.

Here's the way it works, Mr. Speaker. Criminals who go to our Federal courts and are convicted of a crime, the Federal judge, many times, will order them to pay into the Crime Victims' Fund. That is a fund of money that goes to crime victims, and that fund is important for these services that help these victims' service groups throughout the country.

I understand that today there's almost $6 billion in the Crime Victims' Fund. Now, let's make it clear. This is not taxpayer money. This is money that criminals pay to help the people they've hurt. It's kind of like paying the rent on the courthouse, make them pay for the crimes they created. And it's a great idea.

But every year, and not only under this administration, but previous administrations, we have the same problem with the bureaucrats. They want to take that money that belongs to crime victims and use it for other purposes, and it doesn't belong to other purposes. And it's our duty, as Members of Congress, to make sure that fund is sufficient and the fund goes where it's intended, and that's to crime victims, not for some other purpose, even paying off the debt, because it doesn't come from taxpayers.

After spending 22 years on the criminal bench in Houston hearing felonies, everything from stealing to killing, there were a lot of people who came down to the courthouse, other than defendants, that didn't want to be there, and many of those were crime victims. But they were picked, many of them, spouses, they were picked by someone who claimed they love them, and they were hurt. Sometimes they didn't have the ability to live through the injuries that they sustained. They were murdered by a spouse. And we cannot tolerate that.

That's one of the reasons, when I got to Congress, along with JIM COSTA from California, bipartisan, we started the Victims Rights Caucus, a caucus made up of both sides of the aisle to focus on the importance of crime victims and making sure that we take care of them.

There were two situations I'd like to mention. We have not far from here, over in Maryland, a wonderful lady by the name of Yvette Cade. Yvette Cade was separated from her husband, and she had gone to represent herself in a court of law in Maryland, and the judge, for some reason, did not extend the restraining order against her spouse that was supposed to stay away from her.

So when that wasn't renewed, she is working, in a video store, and her husband comes in the video store with a jar of gasoline and pours that gasoline over Ms. Yvette Cade, and set her on fire, all caught on video. Thank goodness for some people in the store who did the best they could to rescue her and put out the fire. And it was—and she survived that awful attack on her.

Now, she's a remarkable woman. She's got a spirit that I just do not understand—even though she was burned over most of her body, and it's a person who claims to love another that caused that crime. And we, as a culture need to reach out to people like Yvette Cade, wonderful lady, and make sure that, not only they're taken care of, but there are not more of them.

Another case was one that I heard back in Houston. It was a little girl. Every day—she was a second-grader—she would catch the bus to go to school somewhere in Houston. One day the bus driver pulls up in front of her house, and she would not get off the bus. She would not. She refused to get off the bus.

She's hanging on that seat in front of her, Mr. Speaker. And the bus driver comes back and tells her, says Lily, you need to get off the bus. This is your house. And she's crying, refused to get off the bus. And she finally told the bus driver, I only feel safe when I get on the bus in the morning and during the day, but I'm not safe when I get off the bus.

□ 1710

And that's because behind those closed doors in the silence of horror, she and her mother were assaulted on a daily basis. Thank goodness for that bus driver who intervened. Law enforcement got involved, and the person was prosecuted mainly for what he did to his wife, Lily's mother. And there's case after case after case that occurs like this. And we need to be constantly aware of this situation, this crime, understand it's not only a crime, but it's a health issue. It's a health issue for Americans, for those people that are hurt behind those closed doors.

So I commend the gentleman from Texas, my friend, Mr. GREEN, and also the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), the co-chairman of the Victims Rights Caucus, for their leadership on this issue, making sure that we keep Domestic Violence Awareness Month something that we understand and promote and let people know out there in America that we have this tremendous problem, but we're going to stay on top of it and solve this problem.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, would you please make me aware of the amount of time that remains to us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 27 minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. GREEN, my colleague from Texas, fellow barrister. I myself practiced law for 27 years before becoming

a Congressman. Much of that time was spent as a criminal defense lawyer, and 12 years of that time was spent as a magistrate court judge. So I have an intimate awareness of the domestic violence issue. And there are not many things, Mr. Speaker, that are more important than our responsibility for job creation in this Congress. Not many things can transcend that, but certainly this month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is a proper occasion to do that. And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Between 1990 and 2005, Mr. Speaker, firearms were used to kill more than two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse victims of domestic violence, and it's clear that the presence of guns makes domestic violence much more likely to result in death. According to one study, domestic violence assaults involving a firearm are 23 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons such as the gas jar, the jar of gas that threatened the life of Yvette Cade that my colleague from Texas alluded to. Most of these deaths will come from the use of firearms.

And, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes. We are talking about our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, and our friends. Their lives, Mr. Speaker, are at stake. The thing that disturbs me is that the Tea Party Republicans could care less about their lives because their allegiance belongs to the NRA.

But let me tell you what really scares me: H.R. 822, the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011. The Judiciary Committee reported this horrific bill out today. Every single Republican on that committee voted unanimously against every amendment that was posed by Democrats to try to make that bill more safe. And then, with the final report of the bill out of committee, every single colleague on the other side of the aisle voted to issue that bill out favorably with the exception of one Republican.

This dangerous bill will allow domestic abusers to carry concealed guns nationwide, making it easier for domestic abusers to follow their victims across State lines. During the Judiciary Committee markup, I offered an amendment that would have kept concealed weapons out of the hands of domestic abusers. This commonsense amendment to protect domestic violence victims was rejected unanimously by the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee. The Republicans, the Tea Party Republicans, stayed faithful to the NRA. Could you believe that they rejected amendments to keep concealed handguns out of the hands of sex offenders, suspected terrorists, anyone convicted of selling drugs to a minor and anyone convicted of assaulting or impersonating a law enforcement officer?

Ladies and gentlemen, although Halloween is right around the corner, we are not in the Twilight Zone. This is real life, and the Tea Party Republicans have sold out the safety of the American public to the NRA. It is truly a sad day in America when we move such legislation, especially during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

At this time, I am honored to bring to the floor a very dear friend from the State of California who has been an outspoken supporter of all of these bills to help victims of domestic violence, the Honorable LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I thank the gentleman for bringing this Special Order together with Congressman POE.

Mr. Speaker, every day, millions of Americans, the great majority of them women, live in fear of attack, not from a stranger lurking in the bushes or a dark alley, but perhaps even more frightening, from the partner with whom they share a home or a bed.

Domestic violence is an assault on everything that matters in a woman's life—her physical safety, her dignity, self-respect, and her job security, as well as her capacity to be a good parent.

Children are directly in the line of fire. Too often they also are physically abused, but mere exposure to the violence can cause behavioral issues ranging from poor academic performance and truancy to drug abuse and domestic violence of their very own.

□ 1720

The societal impact, Mr. Speaker, is huge—billions in health care costs, lost economic activity and more. Domestic violence is a problem that affects all of us.

Increased awareness in recent years has made a difference. There was a time when a woman trapped in a violent relationship had little recourse and faced a stigma that kept her from getting help. Just the fact that women are more likely to call 911 represents huge progress, but we have to do much more.

For example, the Family and Medical Leave Act allows employees to take unpaid time off work after giving birth, after adopting a child or in order to care for a sick relative. I've introduced a bill, the Domestic Violence Leave Act, H.R. 3151, that expands FMLA so that workers can cope with the consequences of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. This would give people the time they need to seek medical care, counseling, legal assistance, and to otherwise heal both physically and emotionally.

Mr. Speaker, if we're serious about showing compassion for those who've suffered abuse, then we have to give them job flexibility. Being punched or raped by your partner is devastating enough. To also lose your income and livelihood as a result is a gross injustice.

Let's make every month Domestic Violence Awareness Month by extending support to women and men who have experienced the pain and betrayal of domestic violence. One way to do this is to sign on to and pass H.R. 3151, my legislation. Another is to make sure that we support and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and all of the programs that that act supports.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank you for your words, and I trust that you will continue the fight. You have been an outstanding champion for women's rights.

At this time, I am honored to yield to the Honorable BARBARA LEE, the former chairperson of the CBC and a great Member from the State of California.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank Congressman AL GREEN and Congressman TED POE for their leadership in organizing this Special Order on domestic violence. It is critical to speak out against domestic violence and to call attention to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, but it is extremely important to hear from men and to recognize your leadership on this.

As someone who understands domestic violence on a deeply personal level, I know how traumatic this experience is and of the strong, consistent support system needed to emerge as a survivor. I also know from personal experience that domestic violence is not only physical; it is emotional. It is brutal, dehumanizing to the batterer and the battered, and without strong and enforceable criminal laws and services, one's life can be shattered and destroyed.

As a survivor of domestic violence, once elected to the California legislature, I knew I had to do something. I am so glad to see my colleague, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, who was then in the legislature at that time. We worked so hard on domestic violence issues. I will never forget that I was able to write California's Violence Against Women Act. I wrote many, many domestic violence bills that were signed into law by a Republican Governor. In coming to Congress now, again we've worked together in cosponsoring numerous bills in Congress to support victims of domestic violence and to prevent domestic violence.

In my home district of Oakland, we've also worked extensively with A Safe Place, which is a victim-centered agency, because we know that staying in a shelter or working with an advocate significantly reduces the chances that a victim will be abused again and that it will improve the victim's quality of life. A Safe Place in Oakland is Oakland's only comprehensive domestic violence program for battered women and children. They provide both shelter and professional supportive services to victims of domestic violence, and have truly been a vital agency in my district.

A Safe Place has served Oakland for 34 years, and earlier this month, held its 10th annual walk against domestic

and teen dating violence. This walk continues to call attention to the issues of dating and domestic violence in the City of Oakland, building vital partnerships with law enforcement, the criminal justice system and faith-based organizations to better serve the community and the region. Their programs and services are designated to address the many complicated—and I mean these are complicated issues—which affect victims of domestic violence and are a true blessing to my constituents in my community. It is my hope that we use Domestic Violence Awareness Month to recommit ourselves to fighting the scourge of violence against women and men.

We've had some accomplishments over the decades on this issue, but challenges still remain. Around the world, nearly one in three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Here in the United States, as many as one in three American women reports being physically or sexually abused by a husband or a boyfriend at least once in her life. Children who see or experience domestic violence have a much greater chance to become either victims or perpetrators as adults. They're also more likely to attempt suicide, use drugs and alcohol, run away from home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit other crimes.

Beyond the cost to children, domestic violence affects the community with as many as half of the domestic violence victims reporting a loss of a job at least in part due to domestic violence, so cuts to domestic violence programs should not even be on the table. Women make up 70 percent of the deaths—mind you, deaths—caused by intimate partner violence, and services for abused heterosexual men and for those in the LGBT communities are clearly nonexistent.

Although this is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we can't just work on this during October. We must remember that, for men, women and children who are experiencing, or who have experienced, domestic violence, every day must be a day of awareness as well as a day free from emotional badgering, physical assaults, harassment, stalking, and every other violent behavior which constitutes domestic violence.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentlelady from California.

How much time do we have remaining, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBS). The gentleman has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much.

At this time, I yield to another Californian, the Honorable JIM COSTA.

Mr. COSTA. Thank you, Congressman AL GREEN and Judge TED POE, for organizing this Special Order to recognize the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

While I think I speak on behalf of all of us that we wish such a month were not necessary to commemorate, it is important that we educate not only our colleagues but Americans on the tremendous challenges and difficulties facing Americans who are dealing every day with domestic violence. Today, all of us stand up for the victims of those heinous crimes, victims who too often suffer under the shadows.

In Fresno just last week, I visited Central California Legal Services to announce a $500,000 grant that is to focus on victims of domestic violence in the San Joaquin Valley. What I saw and what I heard is, sadly, a reminder of what continues to occur throughout the country as I've worked with these folks for many years. There is an added burden today with the tough economic times that we're living in that has strained families because unemployment is higher than it should be. Unstable economic conditions oftentimes mean higher stress and more incidences of domestic violence.

At the same time, we are reducing the kind of support at the Federal and State levels to provide for organizations that help these victims of crime. While more women and men and children suffer from domestic violence, less support remains to help them, so Congressman Judge TED POE and I founded the Victims' Rights Caucus in 2006 to be a bipartisan voice for victims' rights in Congress.

□ 1730

One of the major initiatives that the caucus works on is the protection of the Violence Against Women Act, otherwise known as the V-A-W-A, VAWA. It was established in 1994 to grant funds for programs to State and local and Indian tribal governments.

Today this fund seeks to encourage the collaboration among law enforcement, judicial personnel, and public-private service providers for the victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Another goal of this fund is to increase public awareness of the domestic violence and address the needs of these folks who are victims of sexual and domestic violence that occurs within our communities.

This fund has been a source of much resource, because it's been able to provide support for more victims to report domestic violence to the police, often one of the most difficult cases that our local law enforcement agencies will tell you that they deal with on a daily basis.

They also provide monies for the rate of nonfatal domestic violence, and this has helped decrease violence in many areas across the country. It also has reduced the amount of acts of crime of killing an intimate partner. Last year the decrease was 24 percent. Oftentimes, sadly, these domestic violence cases result in death.

Although much progress has been made, obviously much more needs to be done. Crime victims, it's been said before, but I'll say it again, are our mothers. They're our fathers. They're our sisters. They're our brothers. They're our friends and they are our neighbors. They are people that we all know of. They deserve our support. They deserve the vital services to help them cope during these horrific time periods within their lives.

As National Domestic Violence Month continues, let us all do everything we can to encourage folks to attend events, to recognize and honor those who are at the vanguard of trying to protect those who are victims of violence: those good people who serve them, who are out working in this area, like the Central California Legal Services foundation; those who are in law enforcement; those who are in our justice system; those who are in every way working in our communities to help those victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Only through education and awareness will our communities be able to ultimately put an end to this domestic scourge and respond more effectively to those victims.

I want to thank Congressman GREEN again for his efforts, and Congressman POE and my other colleagues who have spoken so well today. Today's Special Order, let it be a call for all of us to action, to continue advancing the rights of victims across the Nation and to protect the Violence Against Women Act.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his words.

I now yield to the gentlelady from Texas, who is a colleague, and we share a common boundary in the State of Texas—our districts are adjacent to each other—the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me thank Congressman AL GREEN and Congressman POE for convening us today on such a very important topic that includes the issue of domestic violence in this Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, it's been my privilege, sadly, however, to have worked on the Violence Against Women Act for a very long time and be an original cosponsor and author of the reauthorization of that bill some years ago.

My initial premise on this day that we express our concern is that the laws need to be stronger. I simply want to acknowledge, as we have worked on these issues, that domestic violence has not decreased in spite of the hard-working advocacy groups and places of refuge for the women in our community.

I want to acknowledge the Houston Area Women's Center, of which I served as a member of the board for a number of years, and the great work that they do, along with many other organizations in the Houston area that are refuges for women.

But let me cite these numbers to you:

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 85 percent of all domestic violence victims are women. I

do want to acknowledge that men suffer domestic violence as well. We are sympathetic and want to include them in fighting against this dastardly deed.

It is disturbing that every 9 seconds a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten. More often than not, she knows her abuser. The numbers are alarming.

Between 2000 and 2005, about 63 percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimization against women occurred at home, 9.4 percent of these attacks were near home, and 11.1 percent of the abuse occurred at a friend's or neighbor's home. The aggressors were often intimate partners, relatives, friends, acquaintances, and even strangers.

Every year, nearly 5.3 million women over the age of 18 will be victims of domestic violence. And according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this violence will result in nearly 2 million injuries and 1,300 deaths.

In the State of Texas, for example, at least 74 percent of Texans know someone who has experienced some form of physical, sexual, or verbal abuse, yet these incidents remain underreported because there is great fear.

According to the Houston Area Women's Center, which, as I indicated, I served as a member of the board, 142 women were murdered in Texas by an abusive partner. The youngest of these victims were only 17 years old and the oldest was 78. In 2007, the center served over 2,800 survivors of domestic violence and took almost 39,000 calls.

As I conclude, I want to just give this brief story of a recent 17-hour attack that occurred in Houston, which was noted as one of the worst local domestic abuse cases ever. A man's tortured wife follows years of abuse, and this lady never reported it because of a fear of the impact or the abuse or the violence against her four children. While this horrific act was taking place, it was occurring while her 1-year-old daughter was in another room.

This 33-year-old woman was violated by this vicious man with a long record of absolute insanity and violence using a hairspray can and a lighter match and taking a match with that hairspray to her breasts and her genitals. Right now I stand on this floor in absolute outrage. Sheriff Adrian Garcia likened the suspect to an animal and that he is—rabid dog.

The terrible part of this is that he is charged with assault to a relative. I, frankly, want him to be charged with a much more heinous act because—in many instances when you are charged with this particular action, which the legislature probably thought that these were relatives against relatives, but this was a heinous act—this gentleman should never see the light of day. And there are actors like this around the Nation—and around the world, by the way, because there is that kind of violence around the world—that should never see the light of day.

As we continue to work on this, I will continue to advocate funding, as I provided funding for our local agencies in Houston. I will continue to champion stronger laws to prevent, if I can, in terms of the stronger laws and intervention, so that women can have the strength to go to places like the Houston Area Women's Center and to save them from this heinous and dastardly act. This woman will be mutilated for life and will have to have reconstructive surgery—again, a can of hairspray and a lighter match for 17 hours while her 1-year-old child remained in the room.

Let me thank, again, our colleagues for allowing us to come to the floor and, again, let me make a commitment to all of the women out there and those in Houston and Texas that I will never step away from fighting for you not to suffer this indignity. Please, leave the home and go to a refuge like the Houston Area Women's Center and other places to save your life.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the lady.

I now yield to the gentlelady from California (Ms. SPEIER). I would also add that this is a colleague who served with me on Financial Services, and I found that she has been a strong advocate for the rights of women.

□ 1740

Ms. SPEIER. I thank my colleague, and thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for hosting this Special Order on domestic violence, and I thank Congressman POE for his participation as well.

Imagine you were beaten at the hands of your boyfriend or husband, maybe in front of your child. Imagine that before you were able to call the police, your attacker fled. But he doesn't get far before the police catch him and throw him in jail. But days later he is set free, not on bail but with a clean record. And he's angry. More so because he first beat you, and now he wants to get revenge because you caused him to be arrested. No, this isn't a scene from a horror movie. It is, instead, a dose of reality from Topeka, Kansas, where the city council voted earlier this month to repeal the city law against misdemeanor domestic battery.

The council claimed that budget woes required this act of public policy cowardice. By repealing this law, Topeka sent a clear message to the women: your safety is not a priority; we will not protect you if you are victimized; we will not hold your spouse, former spouse, boyfriend, or live-in accountable if they assault you. You are on your own.

And this happened in a city where a domestic violence murder occurs every 10 days; a domestic violence incident occurs every 22 minutes; and a person is—or I should say was—charged with domestic violence every 41 minutes. But no more in Topeka, Kansas.

These are tough times for local and State governments. Everyone is being asked to do more with less. Difficult choices must be made. But let me say this without hesitation: the choices made during difficult times reflect who we are as Americans, who we are as human beings, and our mutual respect for the law. The Topeka decision is another example of how women in this country are becoming second-class citizens, or chattel, or even less.

We shun our global neighbors who allow violence to openly occur without repercussions. Today, as we recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the more than 1 million victims who are terrorized every year, I urge each and every State and locality in our great country to take a stand against what just occurred in Topeka, Kansas. Shame on Topeka, Kansas. Shame on them for not recognizing one of the most grievous acts that occurs in a local community. Domestic violence is one of the most reported incidents and one of the ones that police, frankly, are the more concerned about going out to because more often than not there is violence associated with it.

For the sake of the nearly 16 million children who are exposed to domestic violence each year, and the women who are abused every 9 seconds, we must recommit ourselves to supporting domestic violence victims.

Speaking of tough times, domestic violence shelters know a thing or two about pinching pennies. Three-quarters of the shelters nationally report losing money from government sources since the recession. And as their belts are tightened, the demands for their services have only increased. For the third straight year, 80 percent of shelters nationwide are reporting an increase in domestic violence cases.

I was always struck when I was in the State legislature that there were three times as many animal shelters as there were battered women shelters. It says volumes about where our priorities are in this country.

Three out of four shelters attributed the rise in violence to financial issues. Almost half said that those issues included job loss, and 42 percent cited the loss of a house or car. More than half of the shelters also reported that domestic abuse is more violent than it was before the financial crash. Studies shows that abuse is three times as likely to occur when a couple experiences financial strain. Take note: A 5-year study reveals that when a man experienced two or more periods of unemployment, he was almost three times as likely to abuse his female partner.

The irony with Topeka's decision is that domestic violence is expensive to the communities where it is more prevalent, and I'm not talking about the cost of prosecutions. I'm talking about the $8 billion to $10 billion in lost productivity, medical bills, and other costs. In fact, between one-quarter to one-half of domestic violence victims report that they lost a job at least in part due to domestic violence. And if we do not prevent these crimes and penalize those who commit them, we will

pay tenfold in the years to come. Studies show that 60 percent of the nearly 16 million children who witness domestic abuse every year mimic it later in their lives.

We have our work cut out for us, but one thing that defines our country is the notion that anyone who abuses another human being, woman or man, will be brought to justice. When Topeka, Kansas, decriminalized domestic violence earlier this month, we took a huge and unacceptable step backwards. In honor of the victims who have lost their lives to domestic violence and those who live in fear every day, let us recommit ourselves today to their safety.

I thank you again, Mr. GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the lady, especially for citing the statistical information. It is important for our Nation and our country to understand that these are real people who are being harmed and that this is not something that occurs in some segments of society. This crosses all lines—economic lines, gender lines, political lines—and it's up to us to have bipartisan efforts to end this.

I'm honored that my friend, Mr. POE, has joined us today, as this has been a bipartisan effort. But we've got to get this message back to the communities because indifference is what allows this to continue to a certain extent. No one should be indifferent. Everybody has a duty to report it, everybody has a duty to condemn it. And if we do this, then we can make every person who performs an act of violence persona non grata in our communities.

I want to thank the Speaker for the time. One hour is never enough to cover all that we should cover, but I'm grateful to the leadership for giving us the 1 hour that we've had.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2576, MODIFYING INCOME CALCULATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 674, GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR WITHHOLDING REPEAL ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (during the Special Order of Mr. AL GREEN of Texas), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–261) on the resolution (H. Res. 448) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2576) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to be recognized to address you here on the floor. And before I go into my presentation, I want to go into the subject matter the gentleman from Texas has led this previous Special Order on, just as a means of discussing a way to look at victims' rights.

For me, I was caused to reexamine the situation as a victim. I had had some heavy equipment that was destroyed by vandals back in the year 1987, a year that shall live in infamy. It was in the middle of the farm crisis years. A lot of that damage was uninsured, but we did catch the perpetrators. A long, long story; it was hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage. I followed through on everything, seeing myself as a victim who had an obligation to assist the prosecution as a citizen and a victim would and should. And I remember sitting in the courtroom in Sac City, Iowa, when they brought up the trial of one of the perpetrators. The bailiff announced to the court: This is the case of the State v. Jason Martin Powell. And I sat there thinking, how is it the State versus the perpetrator? I'm not in this equation. I'm not even the versus; I'm just here as a spectator. And so I began to examine what that really means. What it means is that the State and the law enforcement component, in this case the State, is the intervenor. If you have a grievance with someone, and I certainly had a grievance with the people that destroyed my equipment and nearly destroyed my business, before the law and order days, that would be settled in some other fashion, likely in some violent fashion. And if you go back a couple thousand years or 3,000 years before the law was established, like Mosaic law, or Roman or Greek law—but as law was established, it was to eliminate the vigilante component of this, and the State stepped in and intervened.

Another way of looking at it would be when everything was owned by the State. The subjects in, let's say, old Western Europe, old England, the subjects were the property of the king. The State supplanted the king. The subjects and everything they owned were the property and the ownership of the king in England, so when you see old English common law and you see how it transfers into the United States, and it becomes the State v. Jason Martin Powell, the perpetrator, convicted perpetrator, I will say, and I can say his name in the record here now, that transfer was, if you committed a crime, you shot one of the king's deer, if you murdered or assaulted one of the king's subjects, you were committing a crime against the king. So in our society when you commit a crime, you are committing a crime against the State.

I'm taking us all to this point, Mr. Speaker, because once the State is satisfied that they have established justice, the victim doesn't really have anything more to say about it. The victim is not in that equation. My position needs to be developed more than it is, but my point is if the State is going to intervene, then the State has to enforce the law, then the State has to protect the citizens adequately. And when they fail, then what's the obligation of the State? They are not ensuring us to be protected from violent crime. They're simply doing the best they can without a consequence for the State. All the way around that circle is this.

□ 1750

Back in those years, I remember a study that was done, and that study will come to me in a moment. It was a 1995 study. In that study, they put a value on each crime. And I remember that a rape victim—they valued murder at around a million dollars; rape at about $82,000. Now, I can't imagine who would submit to rape for $82,000 dollars, but that was the quantity.

Then they also put in that study that a criminal who was loose on the street—an average criminal loose on the street—would commit $444,000 worth of crime in a year. Well, it costs about $20,000 a year to lock them up. They do $444,000 worth of damage to the society in a year. But that damage is not compensated. That comes out of crime victims in great, huge, whopping chunks of their lives, their security, and their property.

So I would just suggest that if the State were liable for all of the damage that's caused by perpetrators, we would have a more effective criminal justice system. I'm not advocating that we bring that forward in this Congress, but I just discuss that way of looking at this, how we got to the point where the State is the intervenor. Because the State is the successor to the Crown in old English common law, and a crime committed under the Crown was a crime committed against the King, because he owned everything, and it damaged his ability—even if it was the serf—to produce.

So we are now the successor philosophy, but we've forgotten this part, that victims are paying the price. The State is not paying the price. It's no longer a crime against the State, even though the State is the intervenor.

I would yield to the gentleman from Texas and thank him for presenting this. It just sparked that memory, and I wanted to put that into the RECORD and let you know how I think about crime victims.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I especially thank you for placing things in a proper historical context. It's greatly appreciated.

Having taught a class myself in trial simulation, one of the things that we discussed was the origin of the concept of the State. And it evolved to the extent that you've called to our attention, but it also became a ''we the people'' country. Our country is a ''we the

people'' country. And sometimes if we substitute for the State ''we the people,'' because it becomes the people in many places against the defendant, and I think it's appropriate that it be the people against the defendant.

I think we as a society have some things that we will not tolerate, and, as a result, we have codified these things into laws that carry penalties with them. And these penalties, in my opinion, have to be imposed so as to maintain an orderly society.

I would mention, to my friend, this. You have said $82,000 for rape. I just have to make sure that I go on record saying I agree with you; $82,000, I cannot imagine how someone managed to conclude that $82,000 was the worth of a person having been raped or that crime itself.

I support the notion that we must compensate victims. Victims ought to be compensated appropriately, which is one of the reasons why I have supported the Violence Against Women Act; and I'm hoping that we'll get it reauthorized, because it does establish a fund so that victims of crimes of this nature can have their perpetrators pay money into this fund so as to make sure that victims are properly compensated.

I think you and I together, today, want to make sure that the people—we the people—are heard, and we the people in the courts of this country can take the necessary steps to not only prevent but also to compensate the victims of these dastardly deeds.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, and I thank the gentleman from Texas for making those points.

We the people have vested our authority in our government, and that's how that transfer takes place. But I remember clearly the bailiff saying, ''The State versus,'' and that rang my bell; and I looked back through history to understand the root of that.

I would point out also that the $82,000 for a rape victim, I believe, was quantified in this way—loss of work, medical treatment, psychological treatment; that kind of impact that was just simply the economic impact on her life, not the emotional impact and the trauma. But even still, to quantify that—and the Department of Justice has quantified crime also with different values. And I don't recall them well enough from that chart, but I know there's a 1992 Department of Justice study that laid some values out.

I think it would be a plus for us, even though pain and suffering and the loss of life is immeasurable in a dollar form, if we could quantify it in a way we begin to understand what crime does to society. That would be helpful if we could move down that path. It's been a long time since there's been a real broad study done in this country that laid out the complete loss of all of the crimes in the United States that are committed. I would think it's in the billions of dollars. We accept it because it's a victim here and a victim there. It's not like they're all coming together in one large group. It's scattered out across our society. And the higher the level of crime in your community, the higher your tolerance has been because of the continual incidence of that violence.

I appreciate the sentiment from the gentleman from Texas, and I wanted to add some words to the sentiment that you brought to the floor here tonight in this Congress.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman for his comments. I greatly appreciate the time that you took from your time to continue to elaborate on this. It means a lot to the people that we both represent, and I thank you again.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

I came here to talk about a couple of other subject matters, Mr. Speaker. The one that's on the front of my mind that I want to make sure I address is the Missouri River flooding that has taken place all down the Missouri River drainage area all summer long. I think for the rest of the country it hasn't been brought to their attention how bad and how devastating this flood is.

You can pick your river in the world and you will know that every river has flooded in history. That's what they do. That's why we have river bottoms. They're flattened out because of the floods. Whether it's the Mississippi River flood or the Missouri River flood or any of the floods that we've had up and down—the New Jersey floods, for example, and the other floods in the northeast part of the United States—they have been devastating; and we have watched on television as we've seen people scramble to get above the waterline and to sandbag to protect the assets that they have.

We watched as the water flooded into New Orleans several years ago with Katrina and the human suffering that went on down there. Some of us went down and did what we could. Myself, I've made four trips down after Katrina to try to lend a hand down there. I've contributed in some way, and I say humbly, in a small way, Mr. Speaker.

But this summer, Midwesterners—people in Missouri and Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana—have all suffered from the greatest runoff experienced in recorded history from the Missouri River. This greatest runoff is accumulated this way. It wasn't particularly dramatic in snowcap in the wintertime, not particularly dramatic by March 1 as they measure that snowcap, but several things contribute to the runoff. It's the snow up in the mountains all the way up into Montana; it's the rainfall that takes place there; and it's any dramatic rainfall events.

All of those things came together in the perfect storm fashion—late season, significantly higher snowcap up in the mountains, and then early spring rains that saturated and became a significant runoff. On top of that, a very heavy rainfall event around particularly the Billings, Montana, area where they got 10 to 12 inches of rain; 8 inches, I think, in Billings and 10 to 12 across a vast area, some of it up to 15 inches in some areas.

So the circumstances were that we had all the snow that needed to come down—a large, large amount of snow. We had a lot more rain than expected. The ground was saturated so it didn't soak in. That was running off from broad rains across that had taken place in April and in May. And then on May 22, the massive rainfall that fell in the Billings area and around that was unprecedented in its volume. All of that together created a runoff that if you think of it in these terms, that the largest experience that they had seen was actually 1997. Prior to that was 1881.

In 1881, there were 42 million acre-feet of runoff. That's water a foot deep over 42 million acres; all of that volume, if you just calculate that volume, running off into the Missouri River.

□ 1800

There are six dams that have been built in the upper Missouri River, reservoirs created by them. And these six dams start in Montana and string down through North Dakota and South Dakota. The furthest most downstream one is Gavins Point at Yankton, South Dakota, and that would be the last valve that controls the flow of the Missouri River from that point, just upstream from Sioux City, all the way down to St. Louis. That's the control valve at Gavins Point.

Forty-two million acre-feet of runoff in 1981, 49 million acre-feet of runoff in 1997, 61—or I guess they said last night 60.4 million acre-feet of runoff this year in 2011, roughly 20 percent more than we had ever experienced before. If you would exempt '97, it was a third more than we had experienced in 1881. These six dams were designed to protect us downstream from serious downstream flooding in the largest runoff event experienced. That was 1881.

He used the commonsense logic of the floods of 1881. The floods in 1943, the floods in 1952 accelerated the construction of the Pick Sloan program. By 1968, we had built the six dams. They were completely operational for the full season of 1968. They were built to protect us from serious downstream flooding, and they were designed to the design elevations necessary to protect us from the largest runoff ever.

And the Corps of Engineers has always held 16.3 million acre-feet of storage as the volume necessary to protect us from the largest runoff ever, 1881. That hasn't changed. Over five different versions of the master manual, the document that governs how they manage the river, hasn't changed at all; but neither had the largest experienced runoff in history, 1881.

Now, I have to quantify that. The 49 million acre-feet in '97 was for the

breadth of the year. You compress the 1881 into several months—I believe 4 months of runoff, but it was a shorter period of time. So the monthly volume of runoff was greater in 1981 than it was in 1997. And so the Corps of Engineers had managed this all these years. In 113 years, we had not seen the kind of runoff that we saw in 1881. But it was designed to protect us from the largest runoff ever.

This year, we have the largest runoff ever, and the discharge that previously, coming out of Gavins Point, that last valve to release into the river that goes all the way to St. Louis, the largest discharge was 70,000 cubic feet per second. This year, because of the large volume, the discharge became 160,000 cubic feet per second, substantially more than twice as much volume as we've ever seen before coming through Gavins Point. Designed for a large amount of that, it did hold together and the system held together very well upstream.

But here's their problem, Mr. Speaker, and that is that the Corps of Engineers has determined that this runoff this year is an anomaly, that it's a 500-year event. And so in a 500-year event, they wouldn't change their management of the river substantially because they argue that it's unlikely that it will ever happen again.

My response to that is, a year ago, standing here, no one knew we were going to get the runoff in 2011. The odds of this kind of flood happening that has happened to us in 2011 weren't any greater than they are for the same thing happening next year. And it's the equivalent of—the risks for 2012 are the same as they were for 2011 for a runoff of that magnitude for a number of reasons, but the simple one is this: if you flip a coin twice in a row and it comes up tails twice in a row, what are the odds it will come up tails three times in a row, the third time?

Now, that's just one of those classic examples of statistics. You might think that the odds get to be one in six or something like that; but, truthfully, the odds are 50/50 that that coin will come up tails the third time in a row. If you flip it on its tail six times in a row, what are the odds that it will be tails the seventh time? Fifty/fifty, because we don't know next year whether there's going to be any more or any less runoff than we've had this year. The odds are the same, except that because of the damage to our system, our levees, and our storm protection, because of all of that damage, we're not as prepared to deal with a runoff of that magnitude as we were coming into 2011.

So the risk is greater, even though the odds of it happening again next year are the same. And no one, no mortal that's looking at 113 years of records—and maybe a little more than that—can tell you what a 500-year flood event is. It's not within the capabilities of mortal man.

And the reasons are, because if you're going to calculate the odds of a 500-year event, you would have to look across several thousand years to try to find a pattern to see if you could make that prediction. How many times did this kind of runoff happen in the previous 2,000 years or the previous 3,000 years? I mean, 3,000 years would only be six different increments of 500-year events. Would it happen six times over 3,000 years? Who knows. We have no records to go by. So it's a judgment call made by somebody sitting in an office somewhere—probably in Omaha—that this is a 500-year event. Therefore, they're not going to change the way they manage the river. They got by, okay, for 113 years—not managing the river all that time, just since 1968. But this time we got burned really badly, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to make this point, that to visualize this, this thing that Members of Congress haven't seen—not very many of us—the public hasn't seen hardly at all, think of this, think in our mind's eye of what it looks like to go up near the northwest corner of Iowa, South Dakota border—Sioux City, Iowa—and look at a Missouri River bottom that was flooded with water all summer long from around the first week in June until the first week in September.

That's a mile and a half wide where normally it's a few hundred feet wide. And go downstream a few more miles and the river is 8 miles wide hill to hill. And go down stream a little further to Omaha, right where Interstate 680 goes across, and the water is 11 miles wide. And once it goes through Omaha, Council Bluffs and Glenwood, that's compressed it down within the levees that miraculously held or we would have had a similar-to-Katrina event in Council Bluffs where we had at least 30,000 people living below the water level in their homes. If there's a breach in that dike, they get flooded like they did in New Orleans.

But downstream from there, the river that was narrow enough to go through the cities widens out again four or five, six miles wide on down into Missouri—and SAM GRAVES can tell you the rest of that story. Now, that's water from hill to hill in many cases, and water that's not sitting there stagnant, Mr. Speaker. This is water that is flowing out in the channel, 11 to 12 miles an hour, and out against the hillside, oh, let's just say six miles away from the channel, or seven. That water is still flowing at four to five miles an hour, and 12, 14, 16 feet deep. Farm buildings, businesses flooded up to the eaves—they're built on the highest piece of ground in the bottom, by the way—this water flowing at four or five miles an hour, dropping sand, debris—not as badly as I thought, but debris—and sand now that's laid out over thousands of acres, some of it 6 feet deep, everywhere, drifts of sand, dunes of sand that are 10 or 12 feet deep.

The trees that are up and down the river that have stood in water for 3 months, most of them will be dead next year. Farms have been destroyed. Thousands and thousands of acres have been destroyed. That's the magnitude of this flood.

Now we have to put the pieces back together, and some people have lost a lot and they can't be made whole again. There are others that will find a way to put it back together. There is a lot of indecision with floods; that's the nature of floods. And we have trouble getting definitive answers to people. But if they're under water June, July, August, into September, if their building sites are surrounded by an ocean—and I have boated to these farm sites. I've flown over it a number of times, and they are sitting in the middle of an ocean where it might be five miles to dry land. And that's the happy family home where they've invested their future.

We can, at the minimum—even though we have some programs, we have some individual disaster assistance, there is some ag assistance, there is also some public assistance for the public utilities that are there, but there is not enough to put the pieces back together. The least we can do is manage the river system so that this doesn't happen again with the similar runoff that we have this year.

We built the Pick Sloan program, the six reservoirs to protect us from the largest runoff ever experienced. Now we have a larger runoff. I cannot comprehend how it isn't just simply an automatic to lower the water level marginally in the upper six reservoirs to have the storage capacity to protect us from this type of runoff.

And just to do the math on it, the bill that I've introduced requires the Corps of Engineers to manage the river to protect us from serious downstream runoff in the event of the largest runoff in history. All it really does in the end is it replaces 1881 with a 2011 flood year.

□ 1810

It is not particularly complicated. Yes, they have to lower some water levels; but if those water levels are lowered, the effect of that isn't nearly as dramatic as some of the people have described.

First there were some, I will say, some things that alarmed people when the Corps announced that they would have to lower the water levels 12 feet, and that was too much, and they couldn't manage the river. I looked into that. It was 12 feet on the upper three reservoirs, not on all six; and that was with 70,000 cubic feet per second at discharge at Gavins Point, that lowest valve that we have there just upstream from Sioux City.

After a series of questions, they did another analysis. They raised the flow of discharge up to 100,000 cubic feet per second, and just the adjustment of that in the upper three reservoirs changed the 12-foot lowering level elevation down to six.

We should be able to deal with six because, historically, since 1968, on average, Fort Peck has been 7.4 feet below

the target elevation. We just lower the target elevation 6 feet; it's still higher than the average of what Fort Peck was. That's also true of each of the dams in the top three, which are the only ones they wanted to adjust because they're the largest.

So that's the effect of the bill, but it also has the effect of protecting us from flooding, serious flooding downstream. And I'm asking my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to sign on to this bill, particularly those who represent the Missouri River bottom area, those of us who have been affected by the flood, those of us who represent Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. And by the way, all the delegation in Iowa, Democrats and Republicans, have signed on and endorsed the bill. Most of Nebraska has. A lot of the Missourians that are affected have.

I'd ask the others, take a look. This isn't complicated. The red herrings that have been drug across the trail have been addressed and corrected. And the meeting last night in Omaha was, I will say, volatile and dynamic with people that have suffered all summer long. They want to be able to make plans on whether they should be investing in trying to put their farms back in shape. They can't do that, Mr. Speaker, unless we give them some assurance that we're going to manage the river to protect them from serious downstream flooding.

And while that's going on, we just set that highest priority up. Congress has the authority, in fact, we have the obligation to set the standards for the Corps of Engineers. If we fail to do that, they are, then, whip-sawed by all of the litigation that comes of all the special interests. Those special interests can be taken care of below the level that I'm suggesting, and they can have those same levels of priorities that they had within that—irrigation, barge traffic, electrical generation, recreation, fishing. All of those things can work at that level without hardly even noticing it upstream. But you notice it downstream, and the billions of dollars that it takes to put this back together from the damage can never be matched by the recreational investment that goes on upstream. They'll have it anyway. It won't be diminished in any appreciable way. We need to have the protection.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that's H.R. 2942. I have trouble remembering that bill number. I could be wrong. It's the King bill, and I appreciate all those that have cosponsored it; and I'm hopeful that the rest of the Missouri River Representatives will take a look at it. I'm under the understanding that there will be a companion bill introduced in the Senate. Hopefully, it will be bipartisan. That will give us some more incentive to get this done this fall while there's still time to address this issue. If we fail to do so, this river will be managed for another year the same way it was in this past year.

Could I inquire as to the amount of time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 2 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will then just conclude this discussion on the river and not address any other subject matter.

We have not, as a Congress, looked at this Missouri River issue. It's a natural disaster that has been, to some degree, mitigated by the Corps of Engineers. Some of those decisions were awfully tough on a lot of people, and I believe we have an obligation to manage this river system, to protect us from serious downstream flooding, to set that priority and to set the levels, not at 16.3 million acre-feet anymore, that was 1881, but to increase those million acre-feet, not all that much, but enough to protect us from that serious downstream flooding.

If the Members of Congress that represent those areas come together unanimously, we can move a piece of legislation through this Congress, and I would think we could do it under suspension. It's a no-cost piece of legislation. It is a commonsense piece of legislation. It really isn't all that tricky, although we went through all 450 pages of the master manual, and it was hard to write; but now it's a pretty simple solution to a complex problem. I would urge my colleagues to take a look.

I would thank all of those involved for their public statements last night in Omaha and all the meetings that will be taking place up and down the river. I thank the Corps of Engineers for their cooperation in getting me accurate data to work with. And I look forward to resolving this issue, at least for the long term, while we help put people back together in an individual basis in the short term.

With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your attention, and I yield back the balance of my time.

## JOB CREATION AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm happy to be here on the floor in a way tonight because it gives me a chance to speak up for so many Americans, so many Ohioans that I have the great privilege to represent from Ohio's 13th Congressional District. The people that I have the honor to serve are hardworking folks, people who want nothing more than a government that works with them and not against them.

In recent days we've seen and, frankly, for weeks now we've seen a number of Americans out in the street. The Occupy Wall Street movement has grown. It has spread throughout the country, and we still hear some people say that they're confused about what it is, that those who are out there protesting, what is their message.

Well, a few weeks ago I traveled to Wall Street and joined the protesters to see what it was that brought them there. And while there are a number of voices, there was one theme that was extraordinarily consistent; and, really, what that theme was is there are so many people out there who are struggling. And they are just begging to be heard, heard by those of us who come here to represent them. And they want to be heard, not just their voices, but they want to see their voices reflected in policies that will improve their lives and their opportunities in this great country.

We are a great country because we have a strong middle class. We have upward mobility that allows people who are willing to work hard, it's that American Dream, that if they're willing to work hard, that there will be a chance for them to take care of themselves and their families and find a way to live in a comfortable manner. But that dream is slipping away from so many; and so we see them gathered, sometimes at these protests, and we see them when we go home to our communities, because we know that American families have been suffering under the effects of this recession.

And at the same time American families, so many workers and others are suffering, we're seeing some here in this body, and beyond the House of Representatives, we see them continuing to look out just for those who are at the very top of the heap. And so thus comes the phrase, ''we are the 99 percent'' that we hear echoed on Wall Street and throughout the United States, because they want to be recognized. They want to be heard, because the top 1 percent, those who control so much of the wealth and so much of the power in this country, they have a lot of money to speak with. They can speak through campaign contributions, and they do. And they can speak through sometimes secret committees that impact elections and impact policy, and they do.

But who will speak for the rest of the people, for policies that will make sense to the American people, those who I have the privilege, as I said, to represent in Ohio? Those hardworking folks who just want a job, who just want a fair shake, who just want an opportunity?

I believe in them. I believe in the American people, and I believe that if given a chance, they will take that chance and they will climb that ladder of opportunity. That's why we see kids, see students out in those protests. We see them, who have done everything we've asked them. They've gone to school, they've gone to college, and now they're trying to pay off that college debt, and there's no job.

□ 1820

And instead of being focused on jobs here in this body, here we are at the

end of October and the Republican majority has not brought any jobs agenda forward. Oh, yeah, we hear about—what do we hear about? We hear about the need for more deregulation. Well, the very thing that brings some of those to Wall Street, the fact that we had deregulation. Deregulation. It wasn't the college students that I speak of who drove our economy off the cliff, it wasn't the kids on Head Start, and it wasn't our seniors; and yet it is those groups that are being targeted here for cuts instead of those who drove our economy off the cliff.

All that people want is for everybody to pay a fair share and for people in this country to have the chance, for those who are in the middle class to stop getting squeezed, and for those who aspire to the middle class to be able to reach for that dream that has served us so well.

So that is why I come to the floor tonight, to speak up for those who are out there who are begging to be heard, not only their words, but to have their words reflected in a better way and a better day.

So here tonight I'm very honored to see my colleague, Representative TONKO, who is a great leader, a man of great compassion and thoughtfulness, a problem solver, somebody who's looking for solutions for the people. The most innovative and capable people in this country have joined me tonight. Thank you, Representative TONKO, for being here.

Mr. TONKO. My pleasure, Representative SUTTON, and thank you for bringing us together into a format of thoughtful discussion on the House floor.

You're very right. It's about the American Dream, pursuit of the American Dream. And I believe what many people across America are espousing right now is take a look at the problem from its broadest perspective in order to propose the solution. And if we are just going to do an instant snapshot and not really deal with the facts at hand, it will get us in trouble. It will be wasted energy. We'll be spinning our wheels.

What they've suggested is looking back at how we came to the problem. We borrowed totally for a millionaire-billionaire tax cut. We borrowed from China and Saudi Arabia to give everyone in that category a tax break. Now, borrowing has happened throughout the course of government and there are oftentimes societal needs that get met. So I would ask: What was the good that was bought here? And it translates into a loss of 8.2 million jobs. So we borrowed from millionaire-billionaire tax cuts and from foreign economies in order to get a result of 8.2 million jobs lost. That's the starting point.

And this Presidency, the Obama Presidency, has been about growing jobs, providing the reforms that are essential. And so today, people are speaking out. They're speaking out about the fundamental unfairness that exists out there, and they want that transformed into fairness.

They know, they acknowledge, and we agree that people struggle to find a job. They are struggling, as we speak, to find a job. They struggle to keep a job. They struggle to make ends meet. This is the fight. This is the concern. It's about empowering the middle class and empowering the purchasing power of the middle class, which serves all income strata tremendously well.

If we have a robust middle class, if we have a purchasing power that is enhanced, people then begin to invest. They begin to share that with the regional economy, State economy, and national economy. It's as plain as that.

People are now connecting the dots. They saw where we went with the policy of the past, they saw the deep hole that drove us into, and now they're saying, we want reform, fundamental reform. It's about providing justice to the middle class.

I am so happy that you're here encouraging this discussion. The dialogue must be carried forth in order to share with the general public exactly what happened and what needs to occur now as we go forward.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman.

And you put it so very well, and this chart also helps us begin with the starting point for what people out there are feeling. They know that something is fundamentally unfair. They know that something is very, very out of whack. They know that our economy suffered a Great Recession. They know that they are still suffering a Great Recession.

And do you know what else they know? They know that Wall Street has recovered. They know that in 2009, after receiving trillions in taxpayer-funded bailouts, the top 38 financial firms gave record pay to their employees during that Great Recession. So they're calling on us for some increased fairness, taking some of this and translating it into opportunity. After all, it was the taxpayers who came to their aid.

I am now happy to welcome Representative JOHN GARAMENDI, a great leader, a guy who understands that we need to create jobs in this country, that we need to make things in America.

Representative GARAMENDI, thank you for joining us.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you very much, Representative SUTTON and Mr. TONKO.

It's good to be back on the floor and to talk to you and to be talking about basic fairness, about the basic fairness of: How is America going to get back on track? How are we going to create the jobs?

I did a town hall in my district on Wednesday this last week, and the subject matter on everybody's mind was the jobs: How are we going to get a job? How am I going to stay in my home?

There is a way to do it. The American Jobs Act that the President has proposed—I suppose had that actually been proposed by anybody else it may very well have passed the Senate. But the American Jobs Act actually has the ingredients to get Americans back to work.

Just this week, I guess it was actually last week now, the Senate took up a couple of pieces of the American Jobs Act, a bill that would put 200,000, almost 300,000 teachers back in the classroom and about 100,000 police and firemen back on the streets to protect us with a one-half of one—one-half a percent increase in taxes on those who have an adjusted gross income over $1 million. And the Senate Republicans killed the bill with the filibuster, didn't even allow it to come to a vote. So with the filibuster, they were able to kill a bill that would have put 400,000 Americans back to work in the classroom, on the streets for policing, and protecting us with firemen. I wonder what they are thinking.

There's a basic gross unfairness in that, that middle class teachers lost their jobs because of the recession; lack of tax revenue at the county or State level, they've lost their job, and because the Republicans in the Senate and in this House refused to put a little teeny, tiny tax on millionaires' income, those people can't go to work. Where do you stand in fairness?

And this Wall Street business. OMG—text this, folks. The Wall Street bonuses—you have 2009 on your chart there, Ms. SUTTON, but the Wall Street bonuses in 2010 and 2011 are even bigger. Extraordinary income for Wall Street while teachers cannot get a job, while police and firemen are out of work, where protection in our community is not available. And the Wall Street barons are continuing to make money, and they're not making loans. They're doing this by simply gambling in computerized trading. And it's got to stop. This basic unfairness has got to stop.

Thank you so very much for bringing this to our attention. And you wonder what this Occupy Wall Street, occupy cities across the Nation, that's what it's about. People in their gut know something is wrong and it's just not right.

Ms. SUTTON. You are so right, Representative GARAMENDI. And at a time when all elected officials across all levels of government should be focused on jobs, we see our colleagues across the aisle here, the Republicans, offering nothing by way of jobs, and we see them fixated on protecting millionaires and billionaires and Wall Street banks that helped to drive our economy off the cliff.

At the same time, they look to go after things like Medicare that our seniors depend upon. They look at cuts for nutrition programs that are so desperately needed. They want to take it out of the hide of our workers. It wasn't our workers who drove our economy off the cliff; and, frankly, they are not part of the problem.

Getting them to work, back to work, the American people back to work, is the key to solving our problem. And they want us focused on jobs.

So I'm so grateful that you are here, and I'm glad that, Representative TONKO, you are here to stand up for common sense, for a future that is as great as our past.

Representative TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Before I came to the House just 3 years ago, I served as president and CEO of NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

□ 1830

We saw what small business creation was about from an innovation economy perspective, from a clean energy perspective. We can grow our self-sufficiency for energy supply simply by moving toward an innovation model.

How does it happen?

We know most of the job generation in the last decade, if not the great majority of job creation, was done through small business, through the entrepreneur, through an investment in the ideas economy. If we were going to invest money, should it have been these tax cuts for those high on the perch or should it have been for those start-ups that needed their investments to grow jobs in the local regional economy?

That's what it's all about.

It's what people have told me in their statements as they've gathered in communities. They've said it's about the pursuit of the American Dream, but from their perspective, it's like the evaporation of the American Dream. It's fizzling away from them. They want to be able to embrace that dream. If they play by the rules and if they work hard, they should expect to achieve success, but we're taking that away from the middle class. We should provide the tools—give them the toolkit for job growth via small business, innovation and an ideas economy.

We drove an economy as an infant Nation. We developed the Westward Movement and then an Industrial Revolution, and we impacted the world with our product delivery through all of the factories across America. That pioneer spirit is still alive within us. It's within our DNA. Yet now, as a sophisticated society, we've grown to a new realm of product development and ideas, and we are in the midst of a need globally for all sorts of inventions and innovation for energy solutions, for health care solutions, for communications. We have the technical wizardry. We have the intellect. We have the intellectual capacity that needs to be embraced by this Nation.

The House ought to show leadership in that regard. We ought to tap into that resource and enable it to be the job manufacturing center across this country—small business, entrepreneurs, an innovation economy: moving ideas along from prototype to manufactured concept. That's how you make a down payment and investment in areas that grow an economy, not this rewarding of people simply because they're of an income strata and receive a tax cut at a time when we need it to invest in an innovation economy. If you look at the global race on clean energy and innovation, countries are bulking up in their investments. They're investing in research and development. We're cutting those programs—the advocacy to cut.

The President has said in his American Jobs Act proposal to invest in research, to invest in the small business community, to invest in job creation. That's the sort of investment that gets America to the new realm of job creation. The investment that has been made to this point has been about investing in tax cuts. That's an order of spending that we cannot endure, so we need to go forward with, again, a strong agenda for the middle class.

It has been said over and over through the years: no pain, no gain. The middle class is absorbing all the pain, and they're now questioning: Where's the gain? They can't take the pain of overtaxation. They can't take the pain of unemployment. They can't take the pain of program cuts like Medicare, like Medicaid, like job creation, research moneys. These are the painful measures that have been induced their way, and they say ''no.'' They say emphatically ''no'' to that. Now they want to know: Where are the jobs? They've asked the right question.

I am very proud of the conference in which we serve. The Democratic Caucus has been about manufacturing, about making it in America, the jobs agenda, tax fairness, policies that take us forward, not backward. So again, Representative SUTTON and Representative GARAMENDI, it is great to add my voice with yours in this House for a legitimate agenda for the middle class. It's about empowering our middle class—the strength of America, the fabric that takes us forward.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman for his passion and for his brilliant remarks. There is brilliance in common sense, and we know that the American people get it. This is no secret. That's why they're speaking up. They're standing up for what has always made this country so great.

Mr. TONKO. Representative SUTTON, I've heard you talking on this floor about the plight of Ohio workers. I've heard you speak to the wisdom of sound investment for workers, that it's about empowering the worker. They have a voice in BETTY SUTTON that shows compassion, care and concern. They have a voice in Representative GARAMENDI about being smart about our agenda. We must see it through the eyes of the American worker—people who are being taxed unfairly because they make money through work—and know we're taxing differently those who make money on money. It's a different scenario.

Your advocacy, your passion, your empathy for workers is stated repeatedly from both of you on this floor, and that's what should motivate and inspire us.

Ms. SUTTON. I hope that everybody will take that approach, and I thank the gentleman for his kind words. Do you know what? You're right. The workers can say it better than anybody.

When I went to Wall Street, when I traveled there to stand with those who were standing up for fundamental fairness and opportunity, that really is the essence of what it is. I've heard from so many people in Ohio, and they've put it so well. I'll just share a couple of remarks they sent my way.

Jessie from Silver Lake, Ohio, says:

A strong working middle class is what drives an economy, not 25 percent of this country's wealth in the hands of the upper 1 percent. In a democracy, all votes should have the opportunity to rise. There will always be some with more money and some with less money, but this disparity now is disastrous for our future.

Debbie from Avon, Ohio, says:

We need to stop corporate greed. The rich are continuing to get wealthier and not pass down opportunities in the form of jobs to the people who are the most needy. People want to work for a living. We need the people who are benefiting the most to give people an opportunity by creating jobs. My fear is that we're creating a society where there is strong resentment.

Alice says:

Many big companies have not created jobs in the U.S. Instead, they've taken many of their jobs to the countries with the cheapest labor, the least regulations and few employee rights. This flies in the face of the Republicans' concern that taxes on the rich mean fewer jobs.

On that point, every day in the United States we are losing 15 factories. Yet, here on this House floor, those on the other side of the aisle are content in trying to protect the loopholes that encourage jobs to be shipped overseas. We don't think that's a good idea. We don't think that's good for America. When I pledge allegiance to the flag, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America; but when multinationals pledge allegiance to the flag, I don't know who they pledge allegiance to.

I think it's really important that people down here stand up for U.S. manufacturing and U.S. workers. Close those loopholes that continue to help ship our jobs overseas, and make some sense, frankly, of our trade policies. We need to really crack down on unfair trade practices like the currency manipulation. We passed that bill through the House last year, a bill that would have reined in China's currency manipulation. It is ready to go again. It passed in a bipartisan way. If the Speaker of the House would just bring it to the floor, we know that we would

pass it. It's estimated it would create a million jobs. It could make the difference of a million jobs, and would cost us nothing.

Yet, Representative GARAMENDI, there you stand with a plaque that is really important because, instead of going for those million jobs, what do we have?

Mr. GARAMENDI. What we have is the Republican agenda. The Republicans have now been in control of the House of Representatives since January—over 10 months now—and they have not produced one jobs bill.

You were talking about the issue of shipping jobs overseas, and it is true. The American tax system, prior to December of last year, gave a tax break of some $15 billion a year to American corporations for every job they shipped overseas. The Democrats, by a democratic vote, passed a law that eliminated that tax break. Not one Republican voted to eliminate the tax break that American corporations had when they shipped jobs offshore. Just so you know where people are in this House, the Republicans refuse to end the tax break that American corporations had when they offshored jobs.

□ 1840

The Republican agenda: no jobs. That's their agenda. They talk about cuts. Every time there has been a cut—and there's been numerous cuts. We've been through this for the last 10 months. Everybody's cut is somebody's job. They've lost that job.

What we need is a different agenda. What we need is a Democratic agenda. What we need is a better deal for America.

And it's this: We'll Make It in America. We will build, we will rebuild those parts of the American economy that create jobs, solid jobs.

You mentioned the China currency bill. Yes, it is true, and they say American businesses can't compete. That was directly from our Republican colleagues. That's not true. Economists say over and over again the American industries can compete on a fair level playing field.

But when China has its currency 25 to 30 percent cheaper, there's no way we can compete. It is unfair; it's unrealistic. It has got to end. The Senate passed that bill. The Speaker of this House has refused to allow the Chinese currency bill to come to the floor for a vote.

We passed it last year when the Democrats ran the House. This year, with the Republicans, apparently they want to make sure China succeeds and America fails.

Bring the bill to the floor, Mr. Speaker. Bring the bill to the floor so that we can vote here in this House on the Chinese currency bill and end the unfairness. And if they want to continue, China wants to continue to undervalue its currency, then we'll put a tariff on their goods coming in here, and we will have a level playing field.

We need a better deal for America. Here's the Republican deal: no jobs, no jobs. That's what they are about.

We are about building jobs in America. We're about Make It in America once again, helping our manufacturing sector, creating those middle class jobs; and we can do it with fair tax policy, as Mr. TONKO has so eloquently explained, and for the manufacturing policies that you have, Ms. SUTTON.

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to be on the floor with you and to talk about making it in America, rebuilding the American middle class. We can do it. This is a great country.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman. I thank you for laying it out in very simple terms.

I mean, the fact of the matter is we can invest in America. We can put people back to work because we do have a long-term deficit that we're going to deal with, but the biggest deficit we have right now is a deficit of jobs.

And we have no deficit of work. There is much to be done, and we've got a lot of people trying to do it, wanting the chance to do it. We could build our infrastructure; and when we build our infrastructure, we can do it with American iron, steel, and manufactured goods.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And how about the President's proposal, $50 billion?

Ms. SUTTON. The President's proposal to put people back to work. We can't get rid of the long-term deficit in this country unless people go back to work.

This is a great country that we have the privilege of serving, and we just want to make sure that we do right by the country and by the people who we are here to represent. We have heard it before, we know we have heard those out there who say corporations are people. Well, I say people are people, and those are those people I'm here to support.

Representative TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Well, Representative SUTTON, you know, I hear people who listen and endorse our concepts, but they'll ask, well, how do we afford these investments? Well, the work done here in the House on the floor, in the United States Senate is all about priorities. So it's establishing the right priorities.

I have a bill that would cap well below the 700,000 that we now allow for contractors to this government, to have that reduced. We need to belt-tighten inefficiency, waste, fraud, outmoded programs. Go after it, but don't cut programs that serve the middle class and invest in job creation. Establish the right priorities.

I know we are running out of time, so thank you for bringing us together on the House floor.

Ms. SUTTON. Thank you, Representative TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI. We do need to stand up together, stand up for seniors, push back those attacks on Medicare. We need to stand up for workers.

We need to stand up for jobs, and we need to stand up and make sure that those who have done well in America do well by America. Wall Street and everyone needs to pay their fair share.

I yield back the balance of my time

## SOLVING OUR FISCAL PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight to talk a little bit about our Nation's fiscal problems and work that the supercommittee is going to be doing, and I want to challenge them to think big, go big and try to solve our problems.

Over the next decade, the Federal Government is projected to spend more than $43 trillion. If the supercommittee only cuts $1.2 trillion, as required by the Budget Control Act, we reduce Federal spending by only 2.7 percent. If the supercommittee would go big and agree to cut $4 trillion over 10 years, we are still only cutting the Federal budget by 9.1 percent.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better, and we must do better. We cannot continue to spend our Nation's future away. My children, my grandchildren deserve so much better and so much more.

I'm proud tonight to stand here with one of my colleagues, the gentleman from Oregon, to have a discussion tonight about this very issue. Republicans and Democrats alike, we believe that we must do more, be more and be better for the next generation of Americans.

With that, I would like to yield some time to my colleague from Oregon.

Mr. SCHRADER. Thank you very much. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here on the floor doing a colloquy with a Republican colleague of mine. That's not common these days. Perhaps in the not-too-distant past it was more common, but I think it shows that there's an opportunity for actually good big-picture agreements on what we need to do in general, although we may disagree on some of the particulars.

I'd like to point out some of the real problems that my colleague from Wisconsin alluded to. First and foremost, I have got a chart here that talks about the amount of money we're actually borrowing to make our payments in this country. He's right, we're spending way too much. We're spending almost $3.6 trillion. Our revenue's only about $2.2 trillion. We're borrowing almost 40 percent of what we spend.

You can't do that in your household, folks. You can't do that in your small business, and we shouldn't be doing that and can't do that as the greatest Nation on Earth and keep our fiscal balance sheets in play. Right now our debt is almost up to $15 trillion, and our deficit has been stuck at $1.3 trillion for the last 3 years.

The projections are even worse. I would like to show a chart that shows the long-term projections, given the current rate of spending at our level of revenues, which are quite low at this point in time.

It's a little bit busy, but there's a grayer portion down below you can see that talks about the actual current law budget. That's the stuff that my friend in Wisconsin and I have to budget to that the Congressional Budget Office puts out.

But the real budget is what the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget talks about. That's the real long-term debt that we're dealing with. That assumes, unlike the current law budget, that we're not going to eliminate all the tax breaks to middle class Americans, different corporations. It assumes that we're not going to have docs have to pony up a 30 percent cut in their wages to make ends meet, and it also assumes that we're going to do something to keep the alternative minimum tax from affecting middle class Americans.

I would also like to point out that this is not a good picture. You look at what's happened historically, we're in a really bad situation at this point in time and there are some pretty big historical drivers to this.

I'd like to switch to a different chart. This chart shows historically where our revenues and our spending have been. The top line here is our spending; this lacquer line down below is our revenues. They have been a little out of whack forever.

Only during the years when we had a Democrat President and a Republican Congress were they back in good shape. That was just 15 years ago.

But you can see that we historically have had our revenues probably in the 18 to 18.5 percent range and our expenditures in the 20 percent range, not great, but we're worse now. We're at 25 percent and spending and only 14 or 15 percent in revenues, to emphasize the point my colleague from Wisconsin made. So we've got to really work at getting this stuff back under control, or we're not going to be where we need to be.

I'd point out real quick that to that point, we're actually giving away almost a trillion dollars in tax breaks. And I think my colleague has some good points he's going to make in a moment on that. And we've got to get this Tax Code under control.

As a small businessman, you can't possibly do your own tax; you can't even come close. When I started my veterinary business way back when—I'm not going to say how old I was, my friend—but I could actually do my own taxes. That's impossible these days. That's impossible, and it shouldn't be that Byzantine.

The other piece of the problem here is the entitlement system. People don't want to admit this, particularly people on my side of the aisle, but we're going broke here in the Medicare system. The bottom blue is Social Security. Medicaid and other health expenditures is the green. And Medicare is up at the top there.

And here's our revenue line. We're busting through with Medicare. That's not because of malfeasance. Yeah, there's some waste, fraud and abuse that we have got to get under control, and I'm sure we can get it under control.

But there are some simple economics here. In 1960, there were five workers for every one beneficiary.

□ 1850

Right now there are only three workers for every beneficiary; and in 2035, there will be two workers for every beneficiary—less money in to take care of more folks. Back in 1975, we had about 25 million beneficiaries, I believe. Now it is almost 89 million beneficiaries. And the cost per Medicare recipient has gone through the roof. We are living longer, hopefully living healthier lives. In 1975, we spent about $2,000 per Medicare enrollee. That's hard to believe in this day and age. Now it's $18,000.

So more people, more expensive care, which is good quality care, and frankly fewer workers to provide for the benefits adds up to this huge growth in spending that will be facing us over the next few years unless we get our act together at this point in time.

Mr. RIBBLE. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate the slides and the discussion. Our country is facing a demographics problem. Right now our birth rate is getting close to replacement levels, and the circumstance that my colleague just showed with Medicare and Social Security spending outstripping our ability to pay is in part because of this: we have a declining population and will have.

I have a grandson who is 8 years old today; and when he reaches age 65, nearly 47 percent of the U.S. population will be age 65 or older. And so this problem if we don't address it soon will simply get worse. And so the sooner we get at it, the better.

We need to take a look at all areas of spending, and we also need to take a look at revenue. My colleague just mentioned the need for tax reform, and I couldn't agree more. Our tax system is notoriously complex, forcing families and employers to spend over 6 billion hours and over $160 billion a year trying to negotiate our Tax Code. Comparatively, the U.S. spends $50 billion to $60 billion per year on pharmaceutical R&D which has the potential to save lives.

I'd like to show the American people this is what our Tax Code looks like. It is over 9,000 pages long of fine print, and no one can really understand it. I want to compare it to something else because I think this is salient. This is the United States Constitution. When our Founders founded our country, they were able to print this on about 30 pages right here. And yet today, our Tax Code is almost 10,000 pages. And inside this document are myriad ways that businesses and individuals can find loopholes, places to hide, and places to basically kind of dictate how they can apply their taxes and how taxes are applied to them. We need to simplify the Tax Code for sure.

I would challenge the committee as they look at ways to consider removing loopholes, removing tax deductions, and simplifying this Tax Code so that we can have a Tax Code that is fairer, simpler, and easier for the American people, the idea that we are spending billions of hours to do tax returns.

Take, for instance, my own small business. During my career, I had C corporations and S corporations and LLC corporations, but I chose to operate those corporations as pass-throughs. We would pass the profits of those corporations through to me as the shareholder and through to our employees, and we would pay those taxes at a personal level. And so it's easy to say, well, let's just change the Tax Code for businesses. But if we don't change the Tax Code for every American to make it fairer, simpler and easier to comply with, we really don't get at the problem.

I also want to talk a little bit about identifying the problem correctly, because I think sometimes here in Washington, D.C. we might connect the dots, but we don't often connect the right dots. Let me show you a slide that talks about consumer spending. I think the idea is if we discuss consumer spending, most Americans would say that consumer spending goes down during recessions and therefore we should come up with some type of tax reform, give a $200 tax credit or 2 percent tax credit so we can boost consumer spending to get our economy going again.

But if we look at it historically, each of the dark lines here represents recessions that our country has faced. In the very last recession, we had a very modest drop in consumer spending, but if we feel that we have identified the problem in consumer spending, this chart shows that consumer spending is not the problem. It's not the problem. Now, did it drop a little bit? Sure. It dropped back a year and a half or 2 years' time, but it didn't drop much. So if we just try to fix that—in fact, consumer spending today is up higher than it was during the recession. So if we continually tell ourselves that consumer spending is the problem and we try to fix it, we are not really identifying what the real problem is.

We need to remember what put us into this mess, and it was really a housing crisis. And, in fact, housing has not come back at all. Anything that we look at as far as trying to fix our economy, spurring job growth, I believe we need to take a look at our Tax Code. We need to take a look at the regulatory environment. We need to take a look at energy policy. We need to take a look at home construction.

Those types of things will help spur economic growth. Those are the types of things that we need to focus on that will actually begin to change the dynamics of the U.S. economy again.

I'll turn it back to my colleague.

Mr. SCHRADER. I thank you. Yes, we need to get this economy going again. The bottom line, while everyone is looking for a magic wand from Washington, DC, private enterprise is the real engine of economic growth. My colleague has talked about that and has a chart that will demonstrate that.

The point being here that it's going to take a huge lift and a huge push by this committee to go way beyond what anyone has ever considered in the past. I mean, I would like to remind America we already passed this Budget Control Act in August that set some targets for our domestic and defense discretionary spending, but that's only a third of our budget. Two-thirds of our budget is the mandatory payments, some of the entitlement programs that I pointed out a minute ago, as well as ag payments and other income stream payments for special groups. We've got to get our mandatory payments under control to make sure that we get on a trajectory that's going to make a difference.

A lot of people say let's just cut defense or get rid of the Department of Education. I'm not sure that I agree with all of those ideas out there. Certainly we could reduce in both of those Departments; that's a good idea. But what I have to point out is our current deficit is $1.3 trillion. That's more than the combined budget of the defense and domestic discretionary programs. So you have to get at the long-term programs and the revenue issues that my colleague and I are talking about to actually put this country on a different trajectory.

How do you get that business to start investing? How do you get private enterprise to be part of the engine of economic growth? Well, we may agree or disagree on the floor here. There are a lot of different ways; you've seen that in Congress this past year. But I would point out to my colleagues that at the end of the day, it was Republicans and Democrats that passed the CR, the continuing resolution, for 2011. It was Democrats and Republicans that voted to put the Budget Control Act in place, and it was Democrats and Republicans that voted to make sure that the 2012 budget came out the way it was.

So while I think the rest of the world thanks the media and looks at us as huge failures, and certainly we could do better, at the end of the day when the chips are down, maybe at the last minute, we seem to be delivering. And it's up to the supercommittee to do the same.

Right now they're charged with only coming up with another—''only,'' I say, relative terms—as a small business man, I can't believe I'm saying this, REID, but only $1.2 trillion or $1.5 trillion. That's a hunk of money. But to solve this problem, according to the credit agencies, top economists in this country, think tanks and working groups from Simpson-Bowles, Rivlin-Domenici, Congressman RYAN's work, they've all indicated we have to do much more than that to change the trajectory of our country's financial future; and that's getting close to a $4 trillion change overall.

We made a down payment. The committee is charged for doing only 1.2 or 1.5, but that's not enough. They have to double up their charge to get to at least $4 trillion or more in savings and revenues to close that gap.

Right now we can argue—we probably have different opinions about where we want to be as far as how much debt we should hold, what's the right amount of deficit on an annual basis, but a lot of folks think if we get our debt down to 60 percent of GDP in the near term, going more later on without harming the recovery is the main question there, and also get our deficits down to 3 percent of GDP on an annual basis, that we will be in a much better spot, a spot where we will not get our credit downgraded by Moody's and Standard & Poor's and all these guys.

□ 1900

So we have a lot of work to do, I think. And this committee is going to have to really go way beyond the natural divisions. This is not a simple exercise. Everybody's cut is someone else's sacred program. If I had a big defense base in my district, I would probably look at the Department of Defense a little bit differently. But I do think there's some opportunities in contracting and weapons procurement. I want to protect the men and women on the ground just like my colleague from Wisconsin does. But this is not enough. We have to look at the bigger cost drivers. And that's in our revenue system that's terribly broken.

I'd point out another idea that's out there that I happen to subscribe to—it seems to get some horsepower in my town halls—is the Bowles-Simpson approach to tax reform. What they do is talk about changing the tax rates and the tax breaks. They get rid of all the tax breaks. That's a scary thought. We'd have a lot of people with lifetime employment trying to get those back, wouldn't we? Get rid of all those tax breaks and reduce everyone's tax rates. We give away so much in revenue that we can reduce the tax rates for every single income bracket and still put money on the table to pay down on our debt and maybe keep a couple of programs alive.

Their proposal reduces on average the low-income tax rates from about 15 to 8 percent; the middle class from about 22 down to about 15 or so percent; and the higher income and corporate income taxes from about 36 to 39 percent down to about 28, somewhere in that range. If we went to a territorial tax system along with the individual changes—because I agree with my colleague you have to do individual and corporate together or it doesn't work for the reasons he talked about with an S corporation. I'm a small businessman, too, and I got taxed on stuff that I was paying principal on, that I was investing in. I didn't see it at my dinner table or in my personal bank account.

So we've got to really fix the system. That's a great way to go. I guess I wouldn't advocate getting rid of all the tax breaks you probably had some defined amount in. But not a trillion dollars. Maybe something that goes away after 10 years. We pick things that actually make America more competitive, put us on an economic trend where we need to grow, and actually can grow, businesses and get businesses to make that investment that they're holding off on at this stage of the game.

Mr. RIBBLE. Let's talk a little bit about that investment. I think the idea here is we often think that the investment has to come from Washington, DC. But the key to reducing unemployment is restoring private investment, as this chart shows. Every single time that private investment goes down, unemployment rises. Private investment goes down, unemployment rises. And there is a key linchpin to our economy, and it's related to private investment. Companies like mine and like my colleague from Oregon, his company.

If we don't modify the tax code, if we don't fix the regulatory environment where there's so much uncertainty, if we don't address these things, then businesses are afraid and fearful to invest. And right now that's exactly what we're seeing in the U.S. economy. There's more money sitting on the sidelines than ever. We hear about it every single day. And that fear factor is keeping our economy from moving forward. And without private investment, it's difficult to drive unemployment levels lower. And we need to drive unemployment levels lower as quickly and as in fast order as we possibly can to put Americans back to work.

I agree also with your comments about the spending habits and how we have to address the key drivers of our debt, which include both the mandatory spending in entitlements like Medicare and Social Security as well as the large discretionary spending in defense. It isn't an either/or. It must be a both/and. Unfortunately, for some reason it's difficult for us to get there because every single Member represents a different district. The makeup of their districts are different. I come from a district that's very agricultural. So farm subsidies and discussions about agriculture, whether it's meat production, whether it's dairy and cheese production, or whether it's corn production, play into our Nation's deficit and debt.

And we know that the pie has to get smaller. And at some point we have to be honest with the American people,

Mr. Speaker, that we must begin to reduce the size. And that means Federal largesse has to go down, and we must encourage private investment to spur economic growth and get this country moving again. But there are things that are also obstructing it, and that is the idea that sometimes we end up demonizing really great ideas, really good ideas, or even we demonize ideas that aren't so good. And I'll tell you, the way we speak to one another not just in this Chamber but in the media, how we talk to each other in our campaign commercials and what have you, I think destroys confidence. I think it hurts the system. I think it damages debate. I think it keeps good men and women from possibly running for an office like the one that I hold here. And we have to somehow, some way, find a way to begin to speak to each other like adults. The things that we teach our children when they go to kindergarten, we could learn here.

We have to learn to be able to listen with open ears and see each other in a different light, and begin to actually have solid debate about ideas without criticizing the person, without demonizing the individual, and without demonizing the idea. Let's instead open our debate, open our ears, open our eyes, and find solutions so that our children and grandchildren can have a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow.

It's part of the reason that my friend and colleague from Oregon and I came to the Chamber tonight, so that we could have the conversation and demonstrate to the American people that it is possible to treat each other with respect even when we have some disagreement. And I think we're trying to demonstrate that tonight.

Mr. SCHRADER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RIBBLE. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. SCHRADER. I totally agree with the gentleman from Wisconsin. Far too often maybe I haven't done my duty and come down to the floor and spoke up with friends and colleagues across the aisle like we're doing here tonight. It gives the American people that watch C–SPAN or CNN or you name the show the idea that everyone is out here just for political gain and scoring their points. I think Wisconsin and Oregon folks can smell what is really honest discussion and what is just the talking points off the latest poll that you or I did last week. I think we've got to get past that.

When I go back home, people are more concerned about, just get along. They're past the point almost, except for the extremes, in criticizing me or the work here. They just want us to start to get along and do what the gentleman from Wisconsin is talking about—and that's work together and recognize that you're not going to get all your way, I'm not going to get all my way. Your ideas are as valid as mine, and me talking to you for another 20 days on the floor isn't going to convince you that your ideas are all worthless. And I've got to get over that. I've got to recognize the fact this is a big country. What's good in Wisconsin may not be perfect for Oregon or Texas or Miami or San Francisco or New York, but it has a valid point.

I think at this point in time it's ''put up or shut up'' time. This country is in a world of hurt not like I have ever seen in my lifetime. I hope never to see this again in my lifetime. I have got two young boys at home; one is out of a job, the other is trying to get a job. Just got out of college. I'm lucky my other kids actually have jobs right now. I thank the lucky stars.

But it's a tough, tough environment out there. We don't want to end up like Greece. I guess that's the poster child for America to look at in a negative way. Greece, right now their debt is 150 percent of GDP. That's 150 percent, folks. That country is imploding as we speak. The European Union is trying to help bail them out. Well, what is going on? Actually, right now, Greece is scaling back its pensions dramatically, increasing property taxes significantly, and cutting income tax exemptions by 40 percent. That should have happened a while ago.

Well, here's what they did a while ago. They already increased tax rates, raised excise taxes, and already had a reduction of 15 percent in public wages. This is going to be our country's future if we don't take the little steps now. They seem harsh, they seem tough. But as my colleague spoke very, very eloquently about, we've got to do some little things now. Everybody's ox has to be gored a little bit to be fair, but not so much that you end up throwing people out on the streets.

We can make our Medicare and Social Security programs stronger. We can have a tax code that's more friendly to small business and makes us more competitive internationally going forward. We just have to have the courage to step up and do that.

I, for one, am going to stand with my colleague from Wisconsin behind this supercommittee if they go big. If they just kick the can down the road by doing the $1.2 trillion minimal, what I need to do to get out of Dodge thing, I'm going to be critical. But if they actually are big and broad-thinking, realize their kids and their grandkids have a stake in this, and that the future of our country—we will end up a second-tier country. And that's not a dramatic statement. It is a fact. If we do not come up with a $4 trillion comprehensive approach overall, including the $900 billion we already put down, we will be downgraded significantly, I think, by every single major rating agency.

□ 1910

China's currency will look a lot more attractive potentially than the U.S. dollar. If it looks like America is headed the way of the European Union, businessmen and -women are not going to be wanting to invest in America. They're going to invest anywhere else—India, China, Brazil, maybe even Russia. That's not a prospect that I want for my kids' future or my country's future.

We have a lot at stake at this point in time. Failure is not an option. Failure is clearly not an option. I think we need to put aside partisanship, look at the big picture, and not poke each other in the eye.

Look at the Senate the other day; right? Do you remember that? Here the Senate, we're coming back from our work period, and the Senate has two interesting votes. On the surface, both pieces have merit. One was—in my opinion anyway—let's do a deal where we help schoolkids have teachers, make sure we have first responders, but the way they pay for that is they poke the other party in the eye by saying, well, we're going to have this millionaires' tax. That is political rhetoric, folks.

The next vote is a 3 percent withholding vote, which is part of the President's program to, frankly, get the onus of this potential tax off of businesses and contractors so they get back to working without having to pay the government money they don't have right now. But that's paid for with a 20 percent cut in domestic discretionary spending—poking the Democrats in the eye.

That's not what this country should be about. That's an example of how to do it wrong, scoring political points.

I'd like to think this next election—and, frankly, the future of this country—relies on people like my friend over here from Wisconsin that's willing to put that partisanship aside, look at the big picture, do what's right for the country, take the hits.

I'm getting hit back home on my discussions, the stuff we're talking about, but I'm explaining to folks—and maybe I'm lucky, coming from Oregon. Folks are actually willing to listen a little bit. But I think most Americans are willing to listen if you have smart people like my colleague from Wisconsin willing to lay it out for you where it just makes sense.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. RIBBLE. We have just a few minutes left. I want you to know that my colleague Mr. SCHRADER and I, together with Representative ROONEY, sent a letter to the supercommittee, and I'd like to just read it to the American people:

''We write to you as a bipartisan group of Representatives from across the political spectrum in the belief that the success of your committee is vital to our country's future. We know that many in Washington and around the country do not believe we in Congress and those within your committee can successfully meet this challenge. We believe that we can and we must. To succeed, all options for mandatory discretionary spending and revenues must be on the table.

''In addition, we know from other bipartisan frameworks that have targeted some $4 trillion in deficit reduction is necessary to stabilize our debt as a share of the economy and to assure America's fiscal well-being.

''Our country needs our honest, bipartisan judgment and our political courage. Your committee has been given a unique opportunity and authority to act. We are prepared to support you in this effort.''

My colleague and I have backed and encouraged the supercommittee to go big, to look at $4 trillion of deficit reduction, 9.1 percent. We know we can do that. It does not necessarily have to be draconian, and I know that we can get there.

And for the last minute or so, my colleague from Oregon, any last comments?

Mr. SCHRADER. I just want to say it's a pleasure to be on the floor of the House of Representatives in the United States Congress with a friend and a colleague that's willing to put country first. And I think this is hopefully the beginning of a good relationship in this body and brings our country out of its worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

## OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011 AT PAGE H6989

We ask this in Your Most Holy and Eternal name. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCKINLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## EMPLOYING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

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

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 489. An act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir, and for other purposes.

H.R. 765. An act to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1843. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the ''John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1975. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the ''First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the ''Matthew A. Pucino Post Office''.

H.R. 2149. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the ''Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building''.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3576. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Navy Case Number 10-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3577. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received October 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3578. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-201-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-1215] received October 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3579. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8197] received October 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3580. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities (RIN: 1820-AB59) received October 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3581. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting The Sentinel Initiative — A National Strategy for Monitoring Medical Product Safety, pursuant to Public Law 110-85, section 905(c); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3582. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 2010 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress, in accordance with the requirements in Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3583. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-093, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3584. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3585. A letter from the Co-Chief Privacy Officers, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Privacy Act Report for fiscal year 2010, pursuant to Section 522 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2005; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3586. A letter from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interpretive Rule on When Certain Independent Expenditures are ''Publicly Disseminated'' for Reporting Purposes [Notice 2011-13] received October 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

3587. A letter from the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's report regarding the activities of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for 2010, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 5601 et. seq.; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3588. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 110210132-1275-02] (RIN: 0648-XA630) received September 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3589. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Octopus in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 101126521-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA683) received September 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3590. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Big Sioux River from the Military Road Bridge North Sioux City to the confluence of the Missouri River, SD [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0528] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3591. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; Eglin AFB, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0087; Airspace

Docket No. 11-ASO-0] received September 23, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3592. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Glendive, MT [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0560; Airspace Docket No. 11-ANM-15] received September 23, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3593. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting the Common Features Project authorized by Section 101(a)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996; (H. Doc. No. 112—66); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

3594. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a statement of actions with respect to the Government Accountability Office report ''Data Center Consolidation: Agencies Need to Complete Inventories and Plans to Achieve Expected Savings''; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

3595. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting the Board's quarterly report to Congress on the Status of Significant Unresolved Issues with the Department of Energy's Design and Construction Projects (dated September 23, 2011); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Armed Services.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. House Joint Resolution 70. Resolution to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years; with an amendment (Rept. 112–259). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 2146. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–260). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 448. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2576) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities (Rept. 112–261). Referred to the House Calendar.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3254. A bill to amend the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 to ensure access to employment opportunities for low-income persons; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 3255. A bill to delay any presumption of death in connection with the kidnapping in Iraq or Afghanistan of a retired member of the Armed Forces to ensure the continued payment of the member's retired pay; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROSS of Florida, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 3256. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify the law prohibiting the Secretary of State from issuing certain visas to nationals of countries that refuse or unreasonably delay repatriation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 3257. A bill to provide for a time-out on certain regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KIND, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. INSLEE):

H.R. 3258. A bill to extend for a 2 year certain geographic practice cost index (GPCI) adjustments under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 3259. A bill to establish the National Infrastructure Bank to provide financial assistance for qualified infrastructure projects selected by the Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 3260. A bill to establish a pilot grant program for first responder agencies that experience an extraordinary financial burden resulting from the deployment of employees; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HENSARLING:

H. Res. 447. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 449. A resolution honoring the lives, work, and sacrifice of Joseph Curseen, Jr. and Thomas Morris, Jr., the two United States Postal Service employees and Washington, DC, natives who died as a result of their contact with anthrax while working at the United States Postal Facility located at 900 Brentwood Road, NE, Washington, DC, during the anthrax attack in the fall of 2001; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 3255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution clause 18 (relating to the power of Congress to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 3257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted Congress under the United States Constitution, including the power granted Congress under article I, section 8.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 3258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 3259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 3260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 14

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. TURNER of Ohio.

H.R. 176: Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.

H.R. 178: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 186: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 374: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BERG, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 452: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 466: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 508: Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 574: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 645: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 676: Mr. STARK and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 692: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 733: Mr. DENT, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 735: Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 750: Mr. SOUTHERLAND and Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 777: Mr. MICA and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 787: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BROOKS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 835: Mr. DOLD, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 860: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 886: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. QUIGLEY Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 900: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 938: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1134: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 1161: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 1173: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. KELLY.
H.R. 1179: Mr. KELLY.
H.R. 1193: Mr. BARTLETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. TURNER of New York.
H.R. 1219: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1235: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 1239: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1321: Mrs. SCHMIDT and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1370: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 1397: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1404: Mr. REYES and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1410: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 1418: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 1426: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1449: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 1463: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 1464: Mr. MARINO.
H.R. 1580: Mr. LATTA and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1581: Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 1582: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1639: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 1704: Mr. KUCINICH and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1739: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 1744: Mr. COLE and Mr. KELLY.
H.R. 1746: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1792: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1822: Mr. BROOKS and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1831: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1834: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1845: Mr. BENISHEK and Ms. BASS of California.
H.R. 1872: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 1878: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1903: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 1907: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1912: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 1946: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARTLETT.
H.R. 1957: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 1965: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2010: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.
H.R. 2040: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 2048: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2059: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 2077: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2092: Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2128: Mr. RIVERA and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 2139: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 2168: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2182: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2198: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2200: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2214: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. HECK, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. QUAYLE.
H.R. 2245: Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2248: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2256: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. REYES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CHU, and Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 2288: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 2305: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 2335: Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 2337: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2346: Mr. WATT.
H.R. 2360: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2364: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2367: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 2369: Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2376: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2403: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2447: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. BARTLETT.
H.R. 2466: Ms. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 2471: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 2499: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2505: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2514: Mrs. ADAMS and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 2528: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 2543: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2599: Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 2600: Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. TURNER of New York, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2602: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2617: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2670: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 2672: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 2679: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. JONES, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2688: Mr. CARDOZA.
H.R. 2728: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 2810: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 2815: Ms. CHU and Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 2866: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2874: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2888: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2913: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2914: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2918: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 2930: Mrs. SCHMIDT and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H.R. 2945: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2954: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2959: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 2961: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2966: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DOLD, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2982: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2997: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 3007: Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 3012: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3032: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 3057: Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. TURNER of Ohio.
H.R. 3066: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3077: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3086: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3094: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 3095: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 3097: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 3099: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 3118: Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 3127: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.
H.R. 3130: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3133: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3148: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 3156: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CROWLEY, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3159: Mr. JONES and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3162: Mr. FLEMING, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. DOLD, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 3164: Ms. CHU and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3185: Ms. JENKINS and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 3187: Ms. JENKINS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3192: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 3205: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 3213: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. JONES, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 3221: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3233: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.J. Res. 69: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire.
H.J. Res. 80: Mr. FILNER and Mr. STARK.
H.J. Res. 81: Mr. HERGER, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H. Con. Res. 77: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. STEARNS.
H. Res. 16: Mr. STARK.
H. Res. 98: Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. BOSWELL.
H. Res. 134: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H. Res. 137: Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H. Res. 177: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H. Res. 253: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H. Res. 298: Mr. MORAN.
H. Res. 401: Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Res. 416: Mr. LAMBORN.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## PATRICIA MADSON, JOURNAL CLERK

### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the service of those who sit on the dais here in the well of the House typically attracts little public notice.

But, as Members, we feel their presence each time we enter this Chamber and observe the work of these dedicated men and women. Day in and day out they serve us tirelessly, without regard to party but with full devotion to public service. Without their assistance, the House of Representatives simply could not conduct its essential legislative business on behalf of the American people. We do not thank them often enough for their professionalism, their patience, their good cheer, and the many personal sacrifices they make in service to the House.

In that spirit then, I rise to thank and pay tribute to the House's Journal Clerk, Patricia Madson, who will retire this week. Trish has spent her entire professional life in service to the federal government, nearly all of it here on Capitol Hill. Her work here in the House alone spans four decades and includes service to seven Members as well as the Office of the Clerk.

For the past 21 years, Trish has worked for the Office of the Clerk on the House Floor. In her current role as Journal Clerk, she directs three Assistant Journal Clerks who maintain the official record of House proceedings. Whenever the House is in session, no matter the time, no matter the day, no matter the circumstances, Trish and her colleagues are at their stations at the rostrum.

In her tenure as a Journal Clerk, Trish has had a front-row seat to history, and her work in documenting that history from the House Floor has preserved for all time the essential record of this hallowed institution.

Trish began her congressional career in 1969 as a staff assistant for Representative Paul Findley of Illinois, and over the next dozen years she advanced to more senior-level administrative positions for other Members. She worked in senior assistant roles at the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation before returning to the Hill in 1985 to consult on legislation for Representative PAT ROBERTS of Kansas. In 1987, she was appointed Assistant Tally Clerk to Minority Leader Robert Michel.

It is my privilege to commemorate Trish's long and distinguished service to the House. Trish, your dedication to your profession and your family are unmatched, and I wish you the very best in your retirement.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as domestic violence awareness month. Domestic violence affects individuals from all parts of the country throughout communities in every state, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as many as one in every four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Whether in the form of physical or verbal aggression, this harrowing statistic highlights the largely obscured threat of domestic abuse that is tearing entire families apart.

This form of violence commonly occurs within the personal confines of the home, hidden from the watchful eye of the public and is consequently difficult to track. Some victims may often even feel too embarrassed to speak out against their partner, while others may simply be too afraid out of fear of further violence. This is simply unacceptable in any society.

We must work diligently to expose these crimes by speaking up for those who cannot. We must make resources available to help the millions of victims today who may continue to experience abuse tomorrow. Sadly, we must also mourn the losses of those who could not find help in time before the violence turned fatal.

While the people of this nation have taken great strides to address domestic violence, there is still much work to be done. Despite the tremendous successes we've seen in Congress and throughout the private sector to provide legal and financial support in the defense of these victims, our efforts must not cease until domestic violence is eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to hear that there are still so many victims of domestic violence among us. Yet a bigger injustice would be to ignore this harsh reality. That is why domestic violence awareness month is imperative so that we may shed further light on an issue that continues to erode the social fabric of our great society.

Until we can sufficiently reduce or eliminate domestic violence, it is pivotal that we continue to openly denounce these crimes and seek out those who look to harm innocent people and spoil the lives of future generations.

## RECOGNITION FOR THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and take pause to thank the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for all that you do on behalf of victims of domestic and sexual abuse here in New Hampshire. The line of work you all have chosen is by no means an easy one and without your organization, the victims you work with would have nowhere to turn.

Since the Coalition was founded in 1977, it has worked to provide services to those suffering from abuse, to spread awareness about violence, while also working to prevent it. During the month of October, I wanted to take the time to recognize all those who work to end violence, as well as those who suffer from it. I commend you for all your hard work and dedication. Far too many people have suffered needlessly at the hands of another, and the Coalition's work to stop and prevent this type of violence is admirable.

I appreciate all you do on behalf of the women and families that are coping with the hardships of abuse. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I rise today to commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year, we have good reason to celebrate. Thanks to important changes to the law in the last 5 years, it has never been easier to receive the valuable preventative care that is vital to preventing and treating breast cancer.

Thanks to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, a mammogram is now one of the free annual preventive services covered by Medicare. Already 4 million women have taken advantage of that benefit this year.

For Medicare beneficiaries, a free Annual Wellness Visit means that you can discuss your personal risk for breast cancer with your doctor, and receive free preventative screening based upon the decision you and your doctor make together.

In addition, more and more insurance plans are providing free screening services of their own.

Finally, genetic testing for risk of breast cancer is available, with the legal guarantee that

such testing will not result in discrimination against a woman. I fought for 13 years to pass the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) so that anyone could choose to find out their genetic disposition for illness, without fear of discrimination. Since GINA became law, no health insurer can raise an individual's rates and no employer can make hiring or firing decisions based on genetic information.

Unfortunately, even though a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every two minutes in the United States, screening rates for this dangerous disease are declining. A recent study found that out of 1.5 million women over the age of 40 with health insurance, less than half had received the recommended annual screening.

As we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it's important that all women know that affordable screening options are available.

Screening tests can find breast cancer early, when it is most treatable. They are the best way to lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. The 5-year survival rate for breast cancer caught early is 98 percent, compared to 23 percent when it is not.

I encourage women to take care of themselves in every possible way, and to make a renewed commitment to following the recommended screening guidelines for breast cancer. Together, we can take the important steps necessary to win the fight against breast cancer.

## REMEMBERING DAN WHELDON

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 16, race fans everywhere mourned the tragic loss of Dan Wheldon from injuries suffered at the Las Vegas Indy 300.

Though he was only 33 years old, Wheldon was highly-accomplished within the Indy Racing League.

In 2003, Wheldon received the Indy Racing League's prestigious Rookie of the Year Award, which he followed up by winning the Indianapolis 500 in 2005 and 2011.

Dan Wheldon was an incredible ambassador for the sport and the Indianapolis 500, the largest sporting event in the world, which is located in my District at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. His loss will be felt on and off the track.

My deepest sympathies go to his wife, Susie, his two sons, Sebastian and Oliver, his family, his friends, and to the legion of fans around the world who are mourning his passing. Dan Wheldon's memory will remain in the hearts of race fans everywhere, and his achievements will never be forgotten at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

## HONORING SCCOG FOR 50 YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) for providing 50 years of intergovernmental service to the people of Southeastern Connecticut.

SCCOG's origins date back to 1961, with the founding of Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (SCRPA) as one of the one of the first regional planning agencies in Connecticut at the time. The agency transitioned to SCCOG in 1993, and today serves 20 member municipalities and counts as non-voting affiliate members two federally recognized Native American Tribes, and has liaisons from the United States Naval Submarine Base and the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Under the leadership of James Butler, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments ensures the various governments participating in the group have a platform for cooperation and organization on a diverse array of issues. They act as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region, budgeting for and implementing essential and transformative transportation projects. SCCOG has played a vital role in many of the region's top infrastructure priorities and support for Naval Submarine Base New London.

By providing services to over 240,000 people, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments has established itself as the second largest regional planning organization in Connecticut. For 50 years, the group has been influential in the planning of countless housing, technical, economic development, and emergency management projects in the SE CT region.

Having worked with SCCOG closely on a number of regional priorities, I know firsthand the tremendous value it provides to decision makers, local communities and the vitality of this unique part of our state. With the challenges before our state and the region, coordination through groups like the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments serves as the backbone of strong communities across the nation. By combining strong planning foresight with a commitment to inclusion, SCCOG has contributed to building Southeastern Connecticut into a unified, burgeoning region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring SCCOG for 50 years of service to southeastern Connecticut.

## HONORING MR. THOMAS C. GAGEN

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas C. Gagen for his work and contributions towards improving the accessibility and affordability of health care to those living in the Sacramento region. For over a decade, Tom has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento (SMCS) and during that time he has been an outstanding civic leader. As Tom retires, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and leadership in our community.

After graduating from Purdue University, Tom went to Cleveland State University to receive his Masters in Business Administration. Before coming to Sacramento in 2000, Tom was a leader at a number of health care facilities, including the Carondelet Health Network in Tucson and then Scripps Health in San Diego, where he served as Senior Vice President. Throughout Tom's decade long tenure, he helped Sutter General Hospital and Sutter Memorial Hospital grow into one of Sacramento's largest not-for-profit organizations. During Tom's career leading SMCS, it was twice named as one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation and it received the Sutter Health's President's Award for patient satisfaction. Tom played a key role in improving care at SMCS and across the Sutter Health system as a key member of Sutter's Blue Ribbon Team on Quality.

Under Tom's vision SMCS has shown incredible support of the community, donating over $20 million to dozens of local non-profit organizations. Tom served as the first chairman of Sacramento's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and has always worked to bring social services to the neediest. For his work with the homeless, Tom was the recipient of Cottage Housing's 2011 Beacon of Hope Award. Tom was also named the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Businessman of the Year, in part for his involvement with the Sutter's ''Triage, Transport and Treatment'' program, which addresses the needs of frequent emergency room visits by the uninsured.

Since being elected to Congress, I have come to know Tom as an incredibly intelligent and forward thinking leader. He cares deeply about improving the quality and access to health care in the Sacramento region and he cares just as much about our community. As he retires, Tom leaves a true legacy of accomplishments that will be felt in Sacramento for generations.

Mr. Speaker, as Tom, his wife Pat and their friends gather to celebrate his retirement, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and recognizing him for his many years of service. Tom has contributed an immense amount to making Sacramento a better place to live, work and raise a family.

## IN RECOGNITION OF GINA BARTLOW ON BEING NAMED ANCOR'S 2011 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

### HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Gina Bartlow on being named ANCOR's 2011 Direct Support Professional of the Year. It is truly a prestigious honor to be considered as the best in your field and this recognition demonstrates Gina's compassion and commitment, as well as all the hard work she does for those with disabilities.

Throughout her twenty five years of working on behalf of those with disabilities, Gina has not only become a trusted and valued employee by her supervisors, but a mentor to her coworkers and a friend to the people she serves. While her path started at home with her son Steven, it quickly extended to others in the community who were lacking the help and support they needed to thrive in their everyday lives. The spirit and generosity she brings to her work is admirable and sets a fine example to others who dedicate their lives to advancing that same spirit of kindness.

I congratulate Gina for receiving this award and for her outstanding commitment and leadership on behalf of those with disabilities. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

## RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ADELE K. SCHAEFFER

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Adele K. Schaeffer on the occasion of being honored with The Wistar Award for her compassion, integrity, generosity, commitment and vision in service to The Wistar Institute and the community at large.

Because of her selfless dedication of time and energy to a myriad of boards and committees, Adele Schaeffer has been called the consummate civic leader. She has been an active Trustee of The Wistar Institute Board for more than 20 years, currently serving as Chair of the Development Committee and as a member of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Adele served as Chair of the first Wistar Gala in 1994 and has continued in this role for each Wistar Gala since. She has helped raise over $1 million for Wistar's lifesaving research.

In addition to her commitment to The Wistar Institute, Adele is also a Trustee of the Moore College of Art and Design, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a Trustee Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania. She is a current member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Orchestra Association, serves on the Orchestra's Academy of Music Committee, and is past-President and current board member of the National Liberty Museum.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of service to The Wistar Institute and a litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Adele K. Schaeffer on the occasion of her being honored with The Wistar Award.

## EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the people of Turkey who are suffering in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck on Sunday, October 23, 2011.

A deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the eastern region of Turkey on Sunday, 12 miles from the city of Van and the town of Ercis. Aftershocks have continued to impact the region, making initial assessments and relief efforts difficult.

Over 1000 buildings have sustained damage throughout the region, including homes, businesses, hospitals, cultural institutions, and schools. With a death toll in the hundreds and growing, and more than one thousand people injured, rescue workers continue to work diligently to find survivors.

In the face of such destruction there has been tremendous bravery, and I applaud the rescue workers who are risking their own safety to ensure that every survivor is found. There are currently 2,400 rescue workers involved in the efforts along with 680 medics, 12 rescue dogs and 108 ambulances, according to reports. Aid workers have congregated in the region to provide much needed food, shelter, and medical attention.

My thoughts and prayers are with those touched by Sunday's devastation, especially those who have lost family members and friends. Our hearts and minds must also be with Turkish Americans who are currently attempting to reach out to people in the region. Homes and churches can be rebuilt, but we can never replace loved ones.

The strength and resilience of the Turkish people is evident, and I know that in the wake of this great tragedy they will recover and rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must stand with Turkey during this challenging time, as we extend our deepest sympathies to those affected by the earthquake.

## CONGRATULATING OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S ''SCRIPT OHIO'' ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ohio State University's ''Script Ohio'' on its 75th anniversary. Script Ohio is a band formation tradition that has played a major role in football game days at Ohio State throughout the years.

In October of 1936, the OSU Marching Band marched into its first Script Ohio, a formation where the cursive word ''Ohio'' is spelled out by the members of the band, with the letter ''I'' dotted by the sousaphone player. The inspiration for this famous band formation came from the band director at the time, Eugene Weigel, and band member, Ted Boehm. 75 years after its first OSU appearance, the tradition continues to be an important part of every home football game.

As graduate of the Ohio State University, I take great pride in the traditions of my alma mater. Ohio State Football is definitely one of those traditions—and Script Ohio is certainly part of that tradition. Football games would not be the same without Script Ohio, and I offer my congratulations on its 75 years. I look forward to seeing Script Ohio march in the Horseshoe for many years to come.

## RECOGNIZING DALLAS AREA BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four magnet schools in my district of Dallas, Texas which have been identified as Blue Ribbon schools. These four Dallas Independent School District, ISD, schools are the Environmental Science Academy, the School of Science and Engineering Magnet High School, the Rosie M. Collins Sorrells School of Education and the Social Services Magnet High School and Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School.

Being identified as a Blue Ribbon school means you are one of the best in the Country and I am proud four of these gems are located within my Congressional District. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.

Mr. Speaker, the students in each of these four schools are our best and our brightest, and with encouragement and support from their principals and teachers, these students are achieving remarkable success. Because of the high quality education the students in the Dallas Independent School District and other schools like it are receiving, they can have the opportunity to live the American dream—to do anything they want to do, to go on to a great college or university of their choice, and to pursue any career path that sparks their interest.

Mr. Speaker, these schools help us out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world. We must identify ways to help improve schools like these that provide educational excellence to my community. We must not waver in our commitment to our children, their children, and the future of this country.

## WELCOMING AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2011 NEWTON FREEDOM FLIGHT

### HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over 160 Iowa veterans from the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Wars will travel to our nation's capital to visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful nation. For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they will visit the capital and the first time that they will see their monuments.

On Sunday, they were given a warm send-off by their neighbors and friends from Newton and throughout Jasper County. More than 800 Iowans gathered to give them the recognition they deserve but, for far too many of these heroes, was never received. When they arrive in

Washington today, I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and to personally thank Iowa's—and our nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

The Freedom Flight brings together three generations of veterans who will travel together and support one another throughout their trip. It also brings together veterans who were never given the homecoming they deserved. This trip, made possible by generous donations from Iowans, many of whom the veterans will never meet in person, demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. The veterans will be able to visit their monuments today because their fellow Iowans refused to let their service go unrecognized. That generosity is truly humbling and should inspire us all to continue to work each and every day on behalf of those who serve our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Newton Freedom Flight and Iowa's veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 802 I was not present to vote because I was participating in a public meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the historic flooding that we have experienced along the Missouri River this year. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAPPE FIRE COMPANY

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trappe Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of selfless dedication and commitment to its community.

This is a great milestone and a considerable accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to help honor the men and women of the Trappe Fire Company for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 100 years, the officers, firefighters, fire police and ambulance corps of Trappe Fire Company have proudly and capably served and protected the thousands of citizens of Montgomery County, including Trappe and Collegeville Boroughs and the Townships of Upper Providence, Perkiomen, Skippack, and Limerick. They have always answered the call to help their neighbors in distress, whether it is putting out a fire, aiding those whose homes have flooded, or rescuing animals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Trappe Fire Company on its 100th anniversary and to honor this exemplary organization for its commitment, dedication, and outstanding history of service to its community.

## CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE WOMEN'S CARE CENTER OF LA GRANGE

### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Women's Care Center of La Grange in my home district. The Women's Care Center is a life-affirming crisis pregnancy center, providing non-judgmental guidance and support to women who unexpectedly find themselves with a child.

The Women's Care Center of La Grange is affiliated with International Life Services, a non-profit organization that safeguards the dignity of human life while supporting women in their moment of need. Chicagoland women now have the option to seek refuge at the Women's Care Center and receive accurate information and confidential counseling in a comforting environment. Besides offering emotional support, the Women's Care Center provides free and affordable health care for new and expecting mothers. Pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and pre-natal care are offered, as well as medical referrals. After the child is born, the center continues to aid the family. Support is available in the form of baby clothes, diapers, baby furniture, and food assistance. Every mother deserves access to quality medical care, and I am pleased that this facility prioritizes the health of the mother and the child.

I am proud to have this charitable organization in my district and I look forward to its positive impact. I am certain that this new facility will be a gift to the community. Please join me in celebrating the Women's Care Center of La Grange as they pursue their life-affirming mission of improving the health and wellbeing of local women and children.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF DON L. RIDING

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Riding in the event of his retirement after 39 dedicated years of service with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Mr. Riding was appointed to the Officer in Charge position at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Fresno in September 2003. Prior to this, he had served as Officer in Charge of the Fresno INS Suboffice since May 1984. In his previous capacity, he supervised the enforcement and benefits function of the INS in Central California. These operations included the processing of applications for benefits such as permanent residents and naturalization, investigation of criminal and administrative violations, as well as the detention and removal of violators of immigration laws.

Mr. Riding began his career with INS in 1972 as an Immigration Inspector in El Paso, Texas. He transferred to Baltimore, Maryland in 1975 as a Criminal Investigator. In 1980, he was promoted to the position of Course Developer and Instructor at the Immigration Officer Academy in Glynco, Georgia with a focus on Examinations. In 1982, Mr. Riding was promoted to the position of Port Director of Laredo, Texas. This job supervised the inspection of persons entering the United States at one of the largest land border ports of entry. He held this position until he was transferred to Fresno as Officer in Charge in 1984.

Prior to beginning his career with INS, Mr. Riding spent two years in the United States Army and two years on a church mission trip to Brazil. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Brigham Young University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in law enforcement in 1972. He is married to Donna Bright of Baltimore and has five children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Don Riding for his years of dedication to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

## REMEMBERING GORDON ST. ANGELO

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the passing of Gordon St. Angelo, a prominent Hoosier and community activist.

Mr. St. Angelo was born and raised in Huntingburg, Indiana, where he operated a clothing store. He is most known, however, for his involvement in the community. Mr. St. Angelo helped create a foundation with Milton and Rose Friedman to promote and establish educational choice in America. He also served for 25 years as the senior program officer of community development at the Lilly Endowment.

Gordon St. Angelo's other community involvements included serving as chairman of the board for The Indianapolis Star's Jefferson Awards and for the Indianapolis Civic Theatre, was a board member and vice president of the Indianapolis Airport Authority from 1983 to 1999, and served on the boards of numerous community organizations and colleges.

Many Hoosiers also remember Gordon St. Angelo for his political involvement in Indiana and on the national stage. He began his career with the Democratic Party, and was instrumental in the successful election campaigns of Governor Roger Branigin, U.S. Senators Birch Bayh and Vance Harke, as well as many other candidates. In 1964, he was elected chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party, a position he held for ten years. He also became the Democratic Party's deputy national chairman in 1968 and helped manage Hubert Humphrey's presidential bid.

Mr. St. Angelo was known for his ability to relate to many different kinds of people, and perhaps surprisingly, migrated to the Republican Party a little more than a decade after his involvement in Humphrey's democratic presidential bid. He served as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party from 1981 to 1989, and is remembered as an honorable man who could be friends with his opponents and worked to get the best candidate in office.

A committed family man, Gordon St. Angelo was married for 53 years to his beloved wife,

the late Beatrice. They loved to travel, and visited more than 100 countries during their life together. I offer my deepest condolences to his three sons, Paul, Kurt, and John. The Old Book tells us that ''the Lord is close to the brokenhearted,'' and that is my prayer for you. During this difficult time may you find solace in faith and family.

## IN HONOR OF JAMES L. MEYER

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Mr. James L. Meyer for his unfailing service to Alexandria and Central Louisiana. Due to his prominent and tireless efforts for our great state, his legacy will live on as the Alexandria International Airport Commercial Terminal will now be named the James L. Meyer Commercial Terminal.

Mr. Meyer's ambitious career started at Louisiana Tech University where he earned two degrees: one in Chemical Engineering and the latter in Civil Engineering. After his marriage to Mrs. Joy in August of 1957, he served as an officer in United States Air Force from 1957 until 1960. He eventually returned to Alexandria where Mr. Meyer was employed as a design engineer.

In 1968, he decided to start his own engineering firm. While growing James L. Meyer & Associates—his consulting, engineering, and surveying firm—to a successful business with five locations across Louisiana, he also held numerous board positions and received many distinguishable awards for serving his region.

Mr. Meyer's presidency for the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce and becoming the first Chairman of the England Authority are the reasons he is being honored today. His services from both positions evolved a military base closure into a commercial international airport; therefore, air passengers were doubled and millions of dollars were brought into region through capital construction.

Mr. Meyer's efforts reflect how one dedicated person can affect an entire region and his life should be an inspiration to others. His career has brought honor and pride to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana. I congratulate Mr. Meyer upon his legacy that will be known as James L. Meyer Commercial Terminal.

## IN RECOGNITION OF DR. LARRY DICHIARA FOR BEING NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a special school superintendent today, Dr. Larry DiChiara.

Dr. DiChiara was named Superintendent of the Year by the School Superintendents of Alabama in October 2011.

Dr. DiChiara has always been committed to teaching and helping students. He was a former principal, teacher and coach from Loachapoka Elementary and High Schools in Lee County, Alabama, before taking over at Phenix City Schools in Russell County.

I'm proud to congratulate Dr. DiChiara on this great achievement and hope he will continue his service for many years to come to our children, parents, teachers and our community. Congratulations!

## HONORING ELOUISE COBELL

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Indian country in mourning the death of Elouise Cobell, who passed away on Sunday, October 16. Her role as lead plaintiff in the historic Cobell v. Salazar litigation has forever changed the way the federal government views the trust responsibility with Native Americans. Elouise Cobell was a true Indian leader.

She was born Elouise Catherine Pepion, November 5, 1945, on the Blackfeet Nation reservation located on the eastern edge of Glacier National Park in Montana. After graduating from Great Falls Business College, she became an accountant and rancher. Later, Elouise served as Treasurer for the Blackfeet Nation for 13 years and helped found the first all Indian owned national bank.

It was during her time as tribal treasurer that she realized the royalty checks received by tribal members seemed substantially lower than the value of the resources owned. She learned as much as she could about the way the federal government handled the Indian trust fund accounts and found that over decades, others in Indian country had claimed the funds were badly mismanaged.

In the mid 1980s Elouise, already frustrated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, came to Congress looking for assistance and justice for all Individual Indian Money account holders. All she wanted was what all of us expect from our banker—to know how much is in each account and a showing that the balance was correct.

In 1992, the House Government Operations Committee issued a report titled, ''Misplaced Trust: The BIA's Mismanagement of the Indian Trust Fund.'' The report called the BIA's management of Indian trust funds ''grossly inadequate in numerous important respects.'' It further found that the BIA had ''failed to fulfill its fiduciary duties to beneficiaries of the Indian Trust Fund.''

Congress passed the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 to give account holders more control over, and access to, their funds, and to provide a model to reform the system. Unfortunately, little was changed at the BIA. Fed up and frustrated with stonewalling and continued mismanagement, in 1996 Elouise filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of more than 500,000 Indians at a time when no one else would.

In 1999, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia confirmed what Indian country had always known—the Department of the Interior had breached its trust obligation to Indians in handling Indian funds. Fourteen years after the case was first filed, 220 days of trial, 80 court decisions, and two contempt citations against Cabinet secretaries later, President Obama signed into law the landmark $3.4 billion settlement for the Indian account holders.

Because of Elouise and the litigation that she initiated, the Department of Interior has made numerous changes to the way it does business with respect to Indian funds and trust resources. Seattle University Law School Indian Law Professor Eric Eberhard said there is ''no doubt that Elouise Cobell changed the legal landscape when it comes to Indian law and the federal government's trust responsibilities.''

Against all odds, Elouise persevered with her commitment to the issue. Since the early 1990s, the Committee on Natural Resources held numerous hearings on the issue associated with the handling of Indian trust funds. It was during my tenure as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee that I had the privilege and honor of getting to know and work with Elouise. Her dedication to this issue was bar none.

Elouise won so many battles; the only one she lost was to the cancer that took her from us too soon. She will be remembered for her strength, courage, and positive outlook. We can honor her life by continuing the work she started.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Elouise Cobell and her many achievements, and in expressing our sincere condolences to her husband Alvin, her son Turk, and all her family and friends.

## IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF NITA THOMAS

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Mrs. Nita Thomas, whose life and countless contributions to this world should be celebrated by all.

The definitive Southern woman, Nita possessed outstanding character, unwavering faith and matchless elegance. She carried herself with such charisma and poise guaranteed to light up every room she entered.

Her deep devotion to her family and friends is one of her most memorable qualities. With each encounter, Nita's love and joy she felt for her loved ones was evident. I extend my deepest condolences to those this wonderful mother and grandmother leaves behind.

In Acts 20:35, the Lord Jesus himself said ''it is more blessed to give than to receive.'' She was a champion for those with special needs and passionately worked to ensure each person was met with an accepting heart. With all that Nita gifted to everyone she came across, it is indeed apparent she lived her life by these words.

Nita grew in Jackson Parish, where she was taught to love thy neighbor as thyself. She never lost touch with her roots. Nita had the stature and charm to walk with those in the upper echelons of power, but she had the grace and dignity to remember those whom society had forgotten.

Today, our words may seem futile in comparison to the indelible mark Nita left in our hearts. Some say—and I honestly believe—that the heart has its own memory, one that is

more genuine and more sincere than the memory of our minds. Without a shadow of a doubt, I know Nita has a permanent place in the hearts of those who had the good blessing to know her.

To say that Nita left her fingerprint on the world is an understatement. She was a friend and confidant to many, and deemed a source of strength by all; I know she will continue to touch and guide the loved ones she leaves behind.

## CONGRATULATING DR. MARK J. LEMA ON THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to congratulate Mark J. Lema, M.D., Ph.D on receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The award is the highest honor bestowed to an individual for lifetime of exemplary service and achievement in the specialty of anesthesiology.

As the 65th recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the organizations' one-hundred plus year history, Dr. Lema joins an illustrious group of awardees that includes the founders of anesthesiology, and pioneers in the field.

Dr. Lema is currently Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. He also serves as Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology at the University of Buffalo, State University of New York, as well as a board member on the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER). He has also served as president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (2007), the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (2004) and the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (2001). He is currently President of the Medical Society of the County of Erie.

Dr. Lema received his PhD in physiology from University at Buffalo and his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Throughout his prominent career Dr. Lema has been recognized as one of the country's authorities in the field of anesthesiology. He has served Western New York community with nearly thirty years of service and achievement in scientific research and organized medicine.

Mr. Speaker it is with great pride I recognize Dr. Mark Lema for receiving the Distinguished Service Award and extend my thanks for his countless contributions to the Western New York community in which he calls home.

## HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS, JR.

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I wish to commend United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Cerros was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. While serving in Afghanistan on his first deployment, Specialist Cerros was killed by enemy forces during a firefight while conducting combat operation on October 8, 2011. His sacrifice will forever be remembered by those he fought to protect.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Ricardo spent his early childhood years in Gary, Indiana, before moving to Salinas, California, to live with his father. He graduated from Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas and continued his studies at the University of California in Irvine. He enlisted in the United States Army in July 2010. Family members recall that Ricardo had a strong feeling to join the military, and that he wanted nothing more than to serve his country. Colleagues remember Specialist Cerros as a well-respected leader. Family and friends remember Ricardo for his cheerfulness, positive attitude, and happy-go-lucky manner. For his courage and sacrifice, Ricardo has been honored by the military with awards including: the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. Ricardo will be greatly missed by so many people in the communities he was part of and forever cherished by those who loved him.

Specialist Cerros leaves behind a loving family. He is survived by his father, Ricardo Cerros, Sr., and stepmother, Deborah A. Cerros, both of Salinas, and his mother, Marguerite D. Cuevas, of Gary, Indiana. Ricardo also leaves to cherish his memory his siblings; Nicholas, Theresa, and Marco Cerros. He also leaves behind many other dear friends and family members, as well as saddened communities and a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros, Jr. Specialist Cerros sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his passing comes as a great loss to our nation, which has once again been shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Cerros will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his communities, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,940,671,706,465.75.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $4,302,245,960,171.95 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

## RECOGNIZING DIXIE SMITH AS A HASTINGS' STAR STUDENT

### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dixie Smith, a Suncoast High School senior in Riviera Beach, as a Hastings' Star Student. During her junior year of high school, Dixie earned recognition as the Palm Beach County All-Conference selection for diving. This year however, her accomplishments go even further. Recently, world renowned tennis player Serena Williams chose 17-year old Dixie as the recipient for the M Foundation's Silver M Award. With this award, she joins the ranks of previous recipients who are viewed as ''exemplary role models'' in their communities. The award will present Dixie with a $1,000 college scholarship and a $1,000 donation to a charity of her choice. It was Dixie's commitment to giving back to her community which earned her this award.

Without a doubt, Dixie Smith exemplifies the term volunteerism. She started the Autism Speaks club at her high school, teaches gymnastics at Gymnastics Revolution, and also lends her time to instructing developmentally disabled children at the Renaissance Learning Center. Additionally, she has taught surfing to autistic children for the past three years, and has participated in the Surfers for Autism event regularly. In a recent letter, Dixie shared with me how these events served to be a humbling experience as time after time she witnessed children, who were initially afraid of the ocean, overcome their fears and catch waves on their own. She believes that surfing changes them, and the joy felt by their parents as they thank her is better than any award or scholarship she could ever receive. Dixie's work with developmentally disabled children is to be commended. Her selfless service represents a true dedication to the betterment of her community. I am sure Dixie's outstanding achievements are an inspiration to her peers and to the greater Riviera Beach area. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

## HONORING THE LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored long-time members with their 25, 40, 50, 60, and 70-year service pins at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 presented pins for 25 years of membership to: Scott H. Allmon, Jeffery Bacon, George R. Bassett, Jr., Scott Blount, John Breezley, Richard J. Cervantes,

Daniel L. Claussen, John Eggebrecht, Alexander W. Einikis, Paul James Einikis, Jimmie D. Fauser, Jr., Travis Frank, Jerome Franz, Gregory A. Gill, Michael J. Gorski, Kathleen Gray-Wesley, Anthony J. Gresham, Jeffrey Arnold Hamilton, Emmett R. Higgins, George Carl Hofer, Kenneth R. House, James E. Irvin, Steven A. Johnson, Timothy K. Kelly, Kyle Whitney Kingsbury, Benny Knox, James D. Knox, Robert J. Krantz, Anthony R. Ladwig, David W. Leonard, Russell Eugene Long, Richard J. Majewski, Jr., Fred J. McColly, James L. Miller, Ronald Dean Miller, Mark D. Moore, Timothy Shawn Myres, Gary Noveroske, Edward K. O'Daniel, Jeffrey E. Pierson, Michael R. Price, John Rachford, Victor Neville Rachford, Arnie P. Ranegar, Jr., Jeff R. Relinski, Scott R. Ribar, Mike C. Rivich, Anthony W. Romanowski, Vance Thomas Rozdilsky, Richard J. Singel, William Michael Sweeney, Kevin Allen Szczudlak, Eva M. Washington, Ted Daniel Wells, Philip Everett Werno III, David L. Whisler, David Gordon White, Rodney Whiteside, Richard Gene Wozniak, and Eugene R. Yagelski, Jr. Pins for 40 years of membership were presented to: James Alm, Howard L. Alward, Jr., Gene E. Arnold, Gerald S. Banach, Frank Beiglebeck, Keith E. Benson, Roby W. Billings, Joseph E. Bloomfield, Larry E. Boger, Jerry W. Bryan, Roland L. Butler, Joseph L. Byers, John Cubit, Benjamin Dear, Jr., David W. Erb, Jerrone Garlach, Milton D. Gerner, Robert Golden, Randall B. Hamilton, Dale A. Hansen, Terrence Henney, Donald Hill, George C. Hofer, Kevin B. Hoffman, Clifford E. Hudson, Jr., Clifford L. Hynd, Carlton Kobe, Thomas L. Koedyker, Jerry H. Krachinski, Arthur Kurth, Thomas L. Leornard, Daniel Longacre, Tom G. Lopez, Gus Marktakis, Fred T. Minard, Ronald M. Muha, Marty Mushinsky, Floyd M. Nelson, Thomas Nuni, Walter J. Olenik, Larry D. Perigo, Katherine Plahtaric, Hugh Ponder, Jr., James J. Potesta, Richard Preissig, Rocky W. Richardson, Joseph Edward Ring, Steven D. Sasko, William T. Schaeffer, Michael Schammert, Richard Shinabarger, Eugene Skalba, Normand J. Soucy, Robert L. Swisher, Michael J. Turner, Ronald E. Vaughn, Michael J. Vernich, John W. Wacnik, Robert J. Walton, Larry Whisler, and Dennis G. Wojciechowski. The 50 years of membership pins were presented to: Edgar B. Baker, Walter Biser, Walter Bogielski, J.B. Bugg, Gilbert W. Franz, Roger Gault, Dellis Ivers, Robert J. Kish, Arthur John Kobeske, Jr., Gordon F. LaBounty, Frank Macewicz, Donald L. O'Dell, Hugh Ponder, Jr., Homer H. Rachford, Louis R. Trznadel, and Gerard Wardell. The honorees for 60 years of membership are: Miles R. Becvar, Sr., Earl Chance, Melvin E. Crook, Eugene H. Koontz, Robert L. Molnar, James Moscato, Leland E. Thompson, and Louis R. Trznadel. Finally, for his outstanding dedication, Raymond J. Klodzen received a special recognition as he was honored for his 70 years of service to the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals who have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District. I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

## CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF OFFICER REYNAUD ''REY'' WALLACE

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Reynaud ''Rey'' Wallace of Fresno, California, as he celebrates his retirement from the Fresno Police Department. For 30 years, Mr. Wallace has served the Fresno community proudly. Not only did he work to keep our neighborhoods safe, but he also served as a mentor, coach, father figure and friend to many people in our community.

Mr. Wallace was born on October 18, 1952, to Carl and Ernestine Wallace in Montgomery, Alabama. The eldest of six children, Mr. Wallace grew up immersed in sports and was an avid baseball, basketball and football player. Mr. Wallace graduated from John Muir High School in Pasadena, California, and eventually made his way to Fresno.

In 1981, Mr. Wallace joined the Fresno Police Department. During his time with the department, Mr. Wallace served as an innovator and educator. His inventive spirit led to the creation of the Fresno Police Activities League, better known as PAL, in 1992. Fresno PAL seeks to prevent juvenile crime and violence by establishing relationships between law enforcement personnel and Fresno youth. Mr. Wallace spent seven years in PAL where he coached teams and served as a consultant for the national PAL program. He oversaw programs in Oregon, Santa Barbara, Ojai, as well as others in the San Joaquin Valley. Many current police officers were in the PAL program while it was under Rey's purview.

Following his time in PAL, he became a member of Southwest Problem Oriented Policing, where he continued to use his leadership and collaboration skills to protect and improve the lives of those he served.

Mr. Wallace's unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community has earned him recognition from his colleagues and community members. In 1985, he was named the Northwest District Officer of the Year, and in 2007, he was recognized as the Officer of the Year for the Southwest District. In addition, Mr. Wallace was awarded the Life Saving Medal of Valor, the Medal of Merit and the National Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Reynaud ''Rey'' Wallace for his years of service to the Fresno Police Department and to the people of Fresno, California. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Wallace's commitment, dedication, and success and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors.

## RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON'S SECOND ANNUAL 'PELOTON OF AWESOME'

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Global Road Safety Caucus I rise today to congratulate the men and women who took part in the recent World Bicycle Relief charity bike ride. The ride is the brainchild of DC resident Miriam Schwedt, who was inspired to take her love of bicycling and share it with the world. Miriam, upon learning to ride a bike—about a year and a half ago—felt like she had discovered a whole new world. She started biking everywhere—to work, to play, to run errands—not only was it fun, but she got to work faster and cheaper, and was able to explore places she'd never been before. Miriam realized that if biking had changed her life in these ways, what might bikes mean for people who face far bigger transportation challenges? That's when Miriam discovered a charity called World Bicycle Relief. World Bicycle Relief not only funds bicycles in communities around the world, but also fosters local expertise and supply chains for local assembly and repair of bikes, creating important related jobs and skills.

In conjunction with World Bicycle Relief, Miriam decided to join forces with her friend Katie Heller to start what would become an annual charity bike ride and fundraiser in Washington called 'The Peloton of Awesome'. For those of you that don't know, a 'peloton' is a group of bikers. Miriam and Katie enticed their friends to join the peloton because they wanted to bring the opportunities and fun of biking to communities where faster, easier transportation can create access to markets, schools, health care, and other opportunities. These women also took the initiative to partner with local businesses to help the cause. Bike and Roll donated bikes for the ride to enable people to participate who don't own a bike, and a local restaurant hosted a post-ride celebration with a percentage of the profits donated to World Bicycle Relief. In addition, they added a raffle for items donated by local cycling stores, including a brand-new bike. Through generous support, last year the team raised almost $10,000, with all of the funds going to World Bicycle relief to purchase nearly an entire school's worth of bicycles in Zambia. More than 150 bicycle activists came together for the inaugural event. Given the success last year, the Peloton came together once again earlier this month. The second annual 'Peloton of Awesome' took place on Saturday, October 1st, and by all accounts it proved to be just as big a success, despite some inclement weather.

I helped form the Congressional Global Road Safety Caucus because I believe that safe and effective transportation is a key component of global economic development. World Bicycle Relief is just one of many organizations nationally and internationally who are helping to make the dream of safe roads and effective transportation for everyone possible. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Miriam Schwedt, Katie Heller, all the staff and volunteers of World Bicycle Relief for their hard work and I look forward to hearing about the future successes of the Peloton, as I am sure this ride won't be the last.

## HONORING BONI FINE

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to commend Boni Fine for her service to the community. Boni will be recognized for her outstanding commitment to the residents of the First Congressional District by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Northwest Indiana, at its annual Circle of Friends Event, held on October 19, 2011.

Throughout her accomplished career, Boni has held several prestigious positions, allowing her to demonstrate the skills and business acumen developed as she earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University. Her professional experience includes Director of Personnel for the Daily Telegraph in London; President and Publisher of the Post-Tribune in Merrillville, Indiana; and Vice President of Strategic Development/Advertising for the Sun-Times News Group in Chicago, Illinois. Moreover, her bachelor degree in social work from Syracuse University and her work as a child welfare caseworker established the foundation upon which Boni built her tireless enthusiasm for improving the quality of life for our area's youth.

Boni's resume highlights many of the organizations in which she participates and children in Northwest Indiana are most fortunate to have benefitted from her championing their cause. Not only has she previously chaired the Juvenile Diabetes Association's Walk to Cure, she was a founding member of the Children's Literacy Academy at Indiana University Northwest. Further, she has served on the Executive Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana. Most recently, Boni served as the Interim Executive Director for the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, and it is for her work with this organization that she is being honored.

The YWCA of Northwest Indiana traces its roots to a branch office that had been located at 30 East 6th Avenue in Gary. Founded in 1921 with a strong commitment to serve, the organization has become a well-established institution serving the community for ninety years. Currently, the YWCA of Northwest Indiana is governed by an all-female Board of Directors committed to offering programs to young women that foster their talents and serving as professional role models whom these young women may emulate. Under Boni's leadership, this local YWCA has provided programs such as the Yes We Can, a youth program to promote academic achievement among at-risk children. Additionally, the YWCA of Northwest Indiana offers a mentoring program for teen girls in Gary in which students are paired with professional women in order to empower them and set them upon a path of success. Although this is only a brief overview of the extraordinary efforts undertaken by all individuals involved in the day-to-day operations of the YWCA of Northwest Indiana, it is important to note that they illustrate Boni's genuine devotion to its vision: to transform lives by mobilizing our diverse community to provide vibrant opportunities and experiences that strive to diminish racial and gender disparities in health, education, and wealth attainment, while preparing future generations to sustain these endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Boni Fine for her exceptional community service. I know that Boni will continue to touch the lives of numerous people, and for her selfless, lifelong service, she is to be commended.

## HONORING JEFF DAVIS H.S. ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Davis High School in Houston, Texas, for their 85 years of excellence and dedication to improving the education of young adults.

As a Jeff Davis High School graduate I am proud to say that since 1925, Jeff Davis has established a legacy of success in academics as well as in extracurricular programs by providing students with opportunities to ensure that they are equipped with the tools that are necessary to excel. Due to the hard work of the school's faculty and staff, Jefferson Davis has been able to significantly decrease its dropout rate and increase its programs to prepare students for college. In 2009 Jefferson Davis increased its number of students enrolled in dual credit courses in Houston area colleges by 450 percent. Since 1993 the school has sent approximately 100 juniors to participate in the Cornell Summer Program, where students are able to spend a summer at Cornell University to earn college credit while still in high school.

In just the last school year, Jeff Davis was recognized for the dedication to decreasing dropout rates and increasing the number of college-bound students. Jeff Davis has been nominated as a candidate to be featured on the U.S. Department of Education "Doing What Works" website based on its success with dropout prevention. One hundred fifty-two students were able to successfully earn college credit through dual enrollment at the University of Houston Downtown and Houston Community College and over 50 individuals were awarded in numerous UIL competitions in areas such as math, writing, and accounting. In 2009–2010, the graduation rate increased to 80 percent and there was an amazing 250 percent increase in student advanced placement passing scores. In 2008–2009, the school became TEA recognized for the first time in Davis history and received the Gold Performance Acknowledgement for comparable improvement in mathematics. In recognition of this outstanding work, Jeff Davis was recognized as one of the top ten most improved high schools in Harris County and its surrounding counties by Children At Risk.

In 1993, Project GRAD & Gear Up programs were founded by former Tenneco CEO James Ketelsen at Jeff Davis. This program provides scholarships to students as an incentive to complete high school and continue their education after graduation. Last year the program awarded 2.8 million dollars in scholarships to over 700 graduating seniors in HISD.

Jefferson Davis offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, ensuring that students become well rounded and are given a wide range of opportunities to prepare them for our ever-changing society. In 2010, Davis received international recognition in Robotics, as well as significant regional awards in dance, ROTC and Culinary Arts.

I congratulate the past and present administration, faculty, staff, and students of Jefferson Davis High School for all of their hard work and dedication to excellence.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 801, I was not present to vote because I was participating in a public meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the historic flooding that we have experienced along the Missouri River this year.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING DR. RUTH SIMMONS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ruth Simmons for her 11 years of extraordinary service as president of Brown University.

I am proud to say Dr. Simmons is a native of Texas. In 1995 she became president of Smith College, the largest women's college in the United States, where she launched a number of strategic initiatives to strengthen the college's academic programs and inaugurated the first engineering program at a U.S. women's college. Ruth J. Simmons was sworn in as the 18th president of Brown University on July 3, 2001. She has received numerous accolades throughout her career. In 2001, Time magazine named her America's best college president. In 2007, she was named one of U.S. News & World Report's top U.S. leaders and—for the second time.

As one of the Nation's premier scholars, Ruth Simmons has inspired and enlightened so many as an advocate for educational excellence. Throughout Ruth Simmons' tenure as the president of Brown University, she has shown an unwavering commitment to inspiring, educating, and ensuring that the future of young Americans is a bright one. It is educators such as Ruth Simmons that make an immense impact on our children; both teaching them the information to prosper and inspiring them to achieve. Brown University and our country have benefitted immensely from your service, and I hope you will continue to aspire to educate children who are in great need of strong leaders.

I wish to commend Dr. Ruth Simmons and thank her for her service to this great nation. As an academic leader, she has created positive pathways for the future of our students.

## HONORING THE APPRENTICE GRADUATES OF THE SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 20

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, October 21, 2011, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 honored the apprentice graduates from the years 2005 to 2011 at the Sheet Metal Banquet, which was held at Ambassador Banquets in Hobart, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 20 recognized and honored Apprentice graduates from 2005 to 2011. The individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2005 are: Kevin L. Anderson, Michael G. Bowman, Jerry W. Bryan, Jr., Richard W. Call, Paul J. Chulpacek, Percy L. Davis, Jr., Jonathan T. Drake, Eric D. Heckman, Raymond E. Hoover, Matthew D. Hoppe, Michael J. Janickovic, Robert C. Joy, James M. Ligda, and Jeff M. Sako. The 2006 apprentice graduates are: Kenneth J. Bastasich, Jr., Lavert Combs, Greg W. Cwetna, Kevin P. Harder, Adam J. Jackson, Tim L. Krebs, Kevin S. Putchaven, and Kevin L. Watts. Apprentice graduates from 2007 are: Tom H. Feneck, Fred J. Hernandez, Timothy M. Holding, David M. Horbovetz, John R. Kane, Matthew J. Koehler, Joshua J. Neeley, James C. Rossi, Nicholas S. Scott, and William A. Smith. Individuals from the apprentice graduating class of 2008 are: Todd A. Goldie, Kreg R. Homoky, Kevin L. LaPorte, Brad N. Martin, Patrick M. Phegley, and Thomas M. Styborski, Jr. The 2009 apprenticeship graduates are: David H. Ballinger, Chuck B. Flick, Mitchell E. Gutyan, Jon P. Holding, Noah D. Hoppe, Vince J. Macielewicz, Jr., Kyle T. Melnyk, Jeffrey A. Pavey, Cary Allan Schnick, and Leonard J. Stringer. The apprentice graduates from 2010 are: John P. Cantu, Don E. Clinton III, Ronald D. Coleman, Douglas J. Edwards III, Eric F. Gann, Matt S. Koontz, Jeffrey A. Koss, Nathan A. Lovas, Christopher W. Marshall, Johnnie L. Parker, and Douglas J. Sills, and lastly, the individuals who completed their apprentice training in 2011 are: Matthew D. Bishop, Shane W. Crowley, Christopher W. Geruska, Brandon W. Gilbert, Jacob A. Goldie, Andy J. Kadziolka, Angel E. Mercado, Clifton E. Perry, Michael E. Polak, Michael J. Torres, Robert C. Wernersbach, Jr., and Adam J. Wotherspoon.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty among its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

## HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEMASON ELMHURST LODGE 941, A.F. & A.M.

### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, which has served the residents of Elmhurst, Illinois, since 1911.

The Freemasons are a fraternal organization that was established in the late 16th century, with its primary values being hope, faith, and charity. Noteworthy Masons include George Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, and many other influential figures in politics, business, and entertainment.

In the years since its founding, many organizations have benefitted from the charity of the Elmhurst Lodge, including the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in La Grange, American Cancer Society, Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Foundation, ALS Foundation, Elmhurst Children's Assistance Foundation, and more.

Over the past century, Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941 has established an important legacy of service in the Elmhurst community.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Freemason Elmhurst Lodge 941, the Masons of this lodge, and the citizens of Elmhurst in wishing them happiness on this special occasion.

## IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST RICARDO CERROS JR.

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr., 24, of Salinas, California, who died in a firefight on October 8, 2011 in Logar Provence, Afghanistan. His last act of courage was to pull a fellow soldier to safety and shield him from enemy fire. He is a hero to the people of the United States and we express our gratitude for his service to our country. His selfless act is one that will never be forgotten.

Ricardo "Rick" Cerros Jr. was born November 2, 1986 in Fort Ord, California to Ricardo Cerros and Marguerite Quiroz. He spent some time in Indiana before returning to California's Central Coast when he was 8 years old. Rick attended Everett Alvarez High School in Salinas, California. There he followed his interest in service by joining the school's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. His leadership and dedication led him to become the commanding officer of the program. Moreover, I was honored to nominate Rick to the United States Service Academies in 2004.

After high school, Rick attended the University of California, Irvine and was active with the school's Taekwondo club, becoming the first member to achieve a black belt rating. After graduating in 2010, Rick enlisted in the United States Army. He would go on and join our nation's finest as an Army Ranger assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

October 8, 2011 was Rick's first combat mission. During that night raid, an enemy combatant rushed his platoon, wounding Sergeant Moore. Instinctively, Rick ran to the wounded platoon sergeant and pulled him to safety. Then he performed a heroic act by placing himself between the sergeant and the enemy. Sergeant Moore lives today because of Rick's sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire House, I would like to extend the nation's deepest sympathies to Rick's mother Marguerite Quiroz, his father and stepmother Ricardo and Deborah Cerros, and his siblings Nicholas, Theresa and Marko Cerros. Specialist Ricardo Cerros Jr. served his nation honorably, and sacrificed his life to save a fellow comrade. He is an American hero.

## RECOGNIZING FRISCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Frisco Economic Development Corporation. Since their establishment in 1991 the Frisco EDC has recruited over 200 companies to the Frisco area which has resulted in over 24,000 jobs and over $2.8 billion in capital investments. This is creating an environment ripe for opportunity in the Frisco community and the surrounding areas.

The work done by the Frisco EDC has caused the city of Frisco to be one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. The population has grown over 210 percent since 2000. The Frisco EDC is not only helping to bring in quality new jobs of all levels to the community, but they are also raising the standard of living for the residents of Frisco. The Frisco EDC is doing this by cultivating entrepreneurship and creating an innovative atmosphere that makes Frisco an attractive place to live, work, play, and grow. I know that they will continue to bring diverse new businesses and responsible economic development to Frisco in the years to come.

This anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Frisco EDC and its members for all that they have done for the Frisco community and its surrounding areas. I am proud to recognize the Frisco EDC on their 20th anniversary, and I know the Frisco community appreciates their many years of service.

## RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS PREVENTION

### HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to speak about one of the most significant issues facing us today: domestic violence. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is both unacceptable and intolerable.

As a legal domestic violence counselor, I have had the opportunity to offer pro bono

legal services through Vera House in Syracuse, New York to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Vera House provides services for women, children and men, as well as domestic violence prevention programs for the Central New York region. Through my work at Vera House, I have seen how domestic abuse affects people of all ages, races, religions, socio-economic conditions.

Domestic violence is known by many titles: domestic abuse, spousal abuse, family violence, and intimate partner violence. It also takes many forms from physical violence involving such things as hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, or restraining. It can be emotional or verbal abuse which manifests in many types of behavior—controlling, domineering, threatening, or humiliating.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a problem facing every community in America. According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a public health problem affecting over 32 million Americans, or 10 percent of the population. The effects of domestic abuse are staggering. Physical abuse can be bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations. But those are just the external physical wounds. Internal bleeding and chronic health conditions such as arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcers, migraines, and miscarriages can also be linked to physical abuse in abuse victims.

Not only is domestic abuse physically dangerous, it also takes a psychological toll. The damage from this kind of abuse is not limited solely to survivors. It extends to their children, family, and community.

All Americans have a moral obligation to stand up against those who commit violence against women, men, and children. We must be able to both recognize and prevent domestic abuse. We must come together to support survivors of abuse, while providing alternatives to this destructive cycle. As a country, we are equal to the task of fighting domestic abuse and sexual assault if we put our minds and spirits to it.

## RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is unacceptable that today, in this country, three women and one man will die at the hands of an intimate partner. One in four women will experience some sort of domestic violence in her lifetime. Fifteen and a half million children will witness domestic violence this year. In the face of such overwhelming statistics, it is in our moral fabric as a nation that we act to protect victims of domestic violence in our country.

I am very proud of the progress we have made as a country since the Violence Against Women Act was first signed into law in 1994. VAWA was an historic step forward in our nation's response to sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and other forms of violence against women. Thanks to programs established by VAWA to respond to the needs of women who had been or could be victimized by violence, women are safer, perpetrators are held accountable, and society is less tolerant of violence against women. Over 60,000 victims of domestic violence receive services every day.

VAWA-funded programs have unquestionably improved the national response to domestic violence. Since VAWA was first passed in 1994:

More victims are coming forward and receiving lifesaving services to help them move from crisis to stability. There has been as much as a 51% increase in reporting by women and a 37% increase in reporting by men.

The number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34% for women and 57% for men and the rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence against women has decreased 53%.

States have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Staying at a shelter or working with a domestic violence advocate significantly reduces the likelihood that a victim will be abused again and improves the victim's quality of life.

VAWA not only saves lives, it also saves money. In its first six years alone, VAWA saved taxpayers at least $14.8 billion in net averted social costs.

A recent study found that civil protection orders saved one state (Kentucky) on average $85 million in a single year.

We have come so far. But we must keep going. Reauthorizations of VAWA have addressed the unique needs of battered immigrants, sexual assault survivors, victims of dating violence, youth, elders, Indian women, individuals with disabilities, and child witnesses of violence. Now, VAWA needs to be reauthorized and updated again to better respond to the needs of women seeking health care treatment from domestic violence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), intimate partner violence costs the health care system over $8.3 billion annually. Approximately 37% of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there because of injuries inflicted by a current or former spouse or partner.

VAWA has begun to address this issue—in the past two years, over 3,000 providers from 100 clinical sites serving over 175,000 women have received training through VAWA to integrate assessment for abuse into health care settings. However, more can be done.

These routine assessments need to be expanded so that providers no longer discharge a woman with only the presenting injuries being treated, leaving the underlying cause of those injuries unaddressed.

It is also vital that we focus on researching the most effective interventions to prevent domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, and improve the safety and health of individuals who are victimized. We must understand what makes health care interventions effective, what the factors are that increase resiliency for children exposed to violence and individuals who have lifetime exposure to violence and abuse; and which interventions work best within community health centers and adolescent health settings.

When it comes to domestic violence, it is literally an issue of life or death. Thanks to strong action by past sessions of Congress, we have helped reduce the prevalence of domestic violence across the United States. Some may say the progress we have made over the years is "good enough." However, "good enough" is neither "good" nor "enough."

Currently, girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are experiencing the highest rate of intimate partner violence, and one in three teens endure some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships. We cannot let our children and young adults face a life of domestic violence. By strengthening federal laws like VAWA, we can continue to help victims of domestic violence and do all that we can to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence in the United States.

## RECOGNITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH/ WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES INITIATIVE

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 25, 2011*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence happens all too frequently and affects thousands of Texas families in profound ways. As leaders we must take a more active role in providing targeted assistance to victims of domestic abuse to empower them to overcome abusive relationships.

According to a survey by the Texas Council On Family Violence, TCFV, 74 percent of Texans, including 77 percent of Hispanics, reported that either they, a family member and/or a friend have experienced some form of domestic violence. Additionally, TCFV's survey indicates that nearly two out of every five Hispanic females, 39 percent, in Texas reported personal experience with severe abuse. These revealing statistics clearly show that domestic violence is not a rare occurrence, but a widespread, social ill that must be addressed.

Since the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1987, great strides have been made, resulting in a steady decrease in domestic violence in the last few decades, but much work remains to be done. I have personally remained engaged on this topic and have supported the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region which is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

In fact, I am proud to note that I am a strong supporter of YWCA's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" initiative, which asks men in our community to literally walk a mile in red high heels to promote awareness of sexual violence issues and raise funds for local domestic violence shelters. This is an innovative way to express solidarity with domestic violence victims and those who come to their aid. During this month, let us consider the plight of the thousands of victims of domestic violence in our country, and show our support through actions of awareness and advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the organizations across the country that have continued to raise awareness on behalf of domestic violence victims, and I ask for a moment of silence to pay our respects to those victims who are not with us today, as well as pay tribute to the survivors.

# *Daily Digest*

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

The Senate stands in recess until 11 a.m., on Thursday, October 27, 2011.

### *Committee Meetings*

No committee meetings were held.

## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 7 public bills, H.R. 3254–3260; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 447, 449 were introduced. **Page H7068**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H7068–69**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.J. Res. 70, to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–259);

H.R. 2146, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–260); and

H. Res. 448, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2576) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities (H. Rept. 112–261). **Page H7068**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fitzpatrick to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7011**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:12 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7018**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Morris Matthis, Christ United Methodist Church, Sugarland, Texas. **Page H7019**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Fleischmann, wherein he resigned from the Committee on Natural Resources. **Pages H7023–24**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

***Granting the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines:*** H.R. 2447, to grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 422 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 804 and **Pages H7024–30, H7043–44**

***Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011:*** H.R. 2042, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards. **Pages H7034–36**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

***National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act:*** H.R. 2527, amended, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. **Pages H7030–34**

**Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011—Rule for Consideration:** The House agreed to H. Res. 444, the rule that is providing for consideration of H.R. 1904, to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 178 nays, Roll No. 803,

after the previous question was ordered without objection. **Pages H7036–43**

**Committee Election:** The House agreed to H. Res. 447, electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives. **Page H7051**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country, are to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2011—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–67). **Page H7024**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7042–43 and H7043–44. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

# *Committee Meetings*

## MILITARY RETIREMENT REFORM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on military retirement reform. Testimony was heard from Jo Ann Rooney, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Vee Penrod, Deputy Assistance Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy; and public witnesses.

## GOVERNMENT-RUN STUDENT LOANS

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held a hearing on ''Government-Run Student Loans: Ensuring the Direct Loan Program is Accountable to Students and Taxpayers.'' Testimony was heard from James W. Runcie, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Federal Student Aid, Department of Education; and public witnesses.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 1633, the ''Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011.'' Testimony was heard from Rep. Noem; Rep. Hurt; Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency; and public witnesses.

## INTERNET GAMING

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Internet Gaming: Is there a Safe Bet?'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing entitled ''Insurance Oversight: Policy Implications for U.S. Consumers, Businesses and Jobs, Part 2.'' Testimony was heard from Michael McRaith, Director, Federal Insurance Office, Department of the Treasury.

## EUROZONE CRISIS

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled ''The Eurozone Crisis and Implications for the United States.'' Testimony was heard from Charles Collyns, Assistant Secretary for International Finance, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

## DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. FORCES IN CENTRAL AFRICA

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Deployment of U.S. Forces in Central Africa and Implementation of The Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act.'' Testimony was heard from Donald Yamamoto, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Department of State; and Alexander Vershbow, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense.

## POST KATRINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM ACT

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled ''Five Years Later: An Assessment of the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act.'' Testimony was heard from W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3010, the ''Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee began markup of the following: H.R. 822, the ''National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011''; H.R. 420, the ''Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act of 2011''; H.R. 10, the ''Regulations From the Executive in Need of

Scrutiny Act of 2011''; H.R. 2870, the ''Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2011''; H.R. 1254, the ''Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011''; and H.R. 3012, the ''Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act''. H.R. 10 and H.R. 822 were ordered reported, as amended. The markup will continue on Thursday, October 27, at 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on the following: H.R. 41, the ''Beauty Mountain and Agua Tibia Wilderness Act of 2011''; H.R. 113, the ''Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Protection Act''; H.R. 490, to modify the boundaries of Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico, to transfer certain Bureau of Land Management land for inclusion in the Manzano Mountain Wilderness, and for other purposes; H.R. 608, the ''Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act''; H.R. 977, the ''Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act''; H.R. 1126, the ''Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act of 2011''; H.R. 1413, the ''Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2011''; and H.R. 2050, the ''Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act''. Testimony was heard from Rep. Dreier; Rep. Issa; Rep. Huizenga; H.R. Reichert; H.R. Simpson; Rep. Chaffetz; Rep. DeFazio; Rep. Heinrich; Mike Pool, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

## LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs held a hearing on the following: H.R. 2027, to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI–04P, Easton Beach Unit RI–05P, Almy Pond Unit RI–06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI–07 in Rhode Island; H.R. 2154, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit FL–70P; H.R. 2236, the ''Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp Act of 2011''; H.R. 2714, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments, and art produced from Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence purposes; H.R. 2719, the ''Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act of 2011''; H.R. 3009, the ''National Wildlife Refuge Review Act of 2011''; H.R. 3117, the ''Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2011''. Testimony was heard from Rep. Dingell; James W. Kurth, Acting Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, Fish and Wildlife Service; Tim Ragen, Executive Director, Marine Mammal Commission; and public witnesses.

## TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO REPEAL THE IMPOSITION OF 3 PERCENT WITHHOLDING ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS MADE TO VENDORS BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES; AND TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY THE CALCULATION OF MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN HEALTHCARE-RELATED PROGRAMS

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on the following: H.R. 674, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities; and H.R. 2576, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs.

The Committee granted, by record vote of 8 to 2, a closed rule for H.R. 2576. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 2576 and provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in H.R. 2576. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 2576.

The resolution also provides for consideration of H.R. 674 under a closed rule and provides one hour of debate on H.R. 674 equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 674. The rule provides that the amendment to H.R. 674 printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution shall be considered as adopted. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in H.R. 674, as amended. The rule provides that H.R. 674, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 674 with or without instructions.

The resolution directs the Clerk to, in the engrossment of H.R. 674, add the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 674, and to make technical and conforming changes. Finally, the rule provides that upon the addition of the text of H.R. 2576, as passed by the House, to the engrossment of H.R. 674, H.R. 2576 shall be laid on the table.

On H.R. 674 testimony was heard from Rep. Herger and Rep. Levin. On H.R. 2576 testimony was heard from Rep. Black; and Rep. Levin.

## U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a hearing on the U.S.-China economic relationship. Testimony was heard from Lael Brainard, Under Secretary of International Affairs, Department of Treasury; Demetrios Marantis, Ambassador, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

### House

*Committee on Armed Services,* Full Committee, hearing on economic consequences of defense sequestration, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on Army acquisition and modernization, 2:00 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and the Workforce,* Full Committee, markup of H.R. 3094, the ''Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act.'' 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and the Subcommittee on Health, joint hearing entitled ''CLASS Cancelled: An Unsustainable Program and Its Consequences for the Nation's Deficit.'' 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 2940, the ''Access to Capital for Job Creators Act''; H.R. 2167, the ''Private Company Flexibility and Growth Act''; H.R. 1965, to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2930, the ''Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act.'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''The Expanding U.S.-Korea Alliance.'' 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence; and Subcommittee on Oversight Investigations and Management, joint hearing entitled ''Iranian Terror Operations on American Soil.'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight Hearing on the Department of Homeland Security.'' 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing entitled ''The State of Religious Liberty in the United States.'' 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The President's New National Ocean Policy—A Plan for Further Restrictions on Ocean, Coastal and Inland Activities.'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,* Full Committee, hearing entitled ''NASA's Commercial Crew Development Program: Accomplishments and Challenges.'' 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Small Business Administration's Financing Programs.'' 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,* Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''The Economic Importance of Seaports: Is the United States Prepared for 21st Century Trade Realities?'' 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

### Joint Meetings

*Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:* to hold hearings to examine an overview of discretionary outlays, security and non-security, 10 a.m., SH–216.

*Next Meeting of the* SENATE

11 a.m., Thursday, October 27

Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

*Next Meeting of the* HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 26

House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 1904—Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2011 (Subject to a Rule).

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