

the free because America continues to be the home of the brave. I think it most appropriate that this House take up legislation today that will include the Hiring Heroes Act.

This legislation is exceedingly important because our brave heroes, our troops, go to distant places, and they risk their limbs and their lives to protect great and noble American ideals. They do not ask why. When the clarion call comes, they respond by going to their various assignments and doing their jobs.

When they leave home, they many times will leave home a wife that is with child. Many of their children are born while they are in distant places protecting our great and noble American ideals. They will leave behind them children who are about to take their first steps. They never get to see the first step or hear the first words spoken.

When a troop goes to war, that troop has that family with him or her. A family goes to war, not directly, but always indirectly, with the troop that goes to war.

And they do their jobs. They have done their jobs in Afghanistan. They have done their jobs in Iraq. And they will continue to do their jobs.

But it is sad to note that of those veterans who have done their jobs in Iraq and Afghanistan, 12.1 percent of them are unemployed. This is not a partisan issue. This issue transcends the lines that generally separate us. If they can go to distant places and risk their limbs and their lives for us to do their jobs for us, we have to provide jobs for them when they come home.

This is about doing the right thing for people who answer the clarion call to serve without reservation or equivocation. They merit jobs when they come home. This is why I'm proud that this House will take up legislation that will accord tax credits to businesses that hire our veterans.

□ 1100

If a business hires a veteran who has been unemployed for 4 weeks, there is a \$2,400 tax credit available. If that veteran has been unemployed for 6 months, there is a \$5,600 tax credit that's available. If the unemployed veteran has been unemployed for 6 months and has a service-connected disability, there is a \$9,600 tax credit available to the business.

This is the business of America: putting our veterans to work.

This piece of legislation merits our consideration for other reasons as well. The legislation will allow approximately 100,000 veterans of wars of other eras to be helped with job training and other programs. This piece of legislation is the least a grateful nation can do for those who answer the clarion call to serve in distant places.

I am honored to say I will vote for the legislation. I believe in our country. I believe in the American service people—the troops that go to distant

places. I want to make sure that they have every opportunity to recapture what they lost when they left their homes, left their jobs for years on end. If they can leave their jobs here and make sacrifices for us, we've got to make sacrifices here so that they can have jobs when they return home. America will continue to be the land of the free as long as we continue to make sure that we have jobs for those who are brave enough to serve us in distant places.

God bless America and God bless our troops.

JUDGE RUSTY LADD

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the Honorable Judge Rusty Ladd—a great man, a tireless public servant, and an advocate for the homeless.

Larry Brown "Rusty" Ladd passed away Friday, September 30, 2011, and he will be missed by all who knew him. I was privileged to know Judge Ladd, and I know the legacy he leaves behind will not soon be forgotten by his family, his friends, or his community, and especially Irene and the children.

Rusty was born in Breckenridge, Texas, on August 8, 1952, as the oldest son of a cotton ginner. He graduated from Lubbock Christian College in 1975 with a degree in Biblical Studies, and joined the police force in 1977. In 1988, he graduated from Texas Tech Law School and started his own practice as a defense attorney in Dallas. He then moved back to West Texas as a prosecutor in Amarillo and Plainview. In 1996, he continued his practice in Lubbock as assistant and then deputy district attorney at the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office. In 1999, Rusty assumed the judge's bench of the Lubbock County Court-at-Law No. 1.

When he took the bench, he said, "I'm a new judge, and in taking the bench, I'm going to be able to fulfill my oath to defend the laws of the State in an absolutely fair and impartial way." He was true to his word—serving fairly and impartially, compassionate when possible and firm when necessary.

Rusty showed kindness not only in the courtroom but also on the streets of Lubbock. He opened his heart to the homeless in the Lubbock community, serving on the homeless committee of the Lubbock City Council since 2010 and volunteering through Carpenter's Church. Rusty dedicated his time and effort to serving the poor and the marginalized.

"The thing a homeless person misses the most is not food or shelter," Ladd said. "It's a genuine relationship with somebody that's got a stable life going on." His Christ-like attitude toward the poor is inspiring, and I hope and pray that we can continue the selfless acts that he initiated.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks to Judge

Rusty Ladd for leaving this world a better place than he found it. I am truly honored to recognize his accomplishments. He will certainly be missed, but he will never be forgotten by those who knew him and were touched by his life.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2011.

This legislation will extend unemployment insurance one additional year, preventing 6 million people across our Nation, as well as thousands of Nevadans, from losing their unemployment benefits.

This is especially important in my home State of Nevada, which continues to struggle with the highest unemployment rate in the Nation. Nevada's unemployed need good-paying jobs that can't be shipped overseas. That's why I'm focused like a laser on creating clean energy jobs and cracking down on the Chinese Government's unfair trade practices that are cheating Nevadans out of thousands of good-paying jobs.

But Nevadans also need relief in their job search. What they don't need is name-calling. Unfortunately, that's what they're getting in Washington. In fact, one of our Representatives had the nerve to suggest that unemployment insurance is creating a Nation of hobos. Hobos? Mr. Speaker, no one wants to be unemployed. No one wants to be out of work. No one wants to be called a hobo.

No one has ever come up to me and said, SHELLEY, Congresswoman, I love being unemployed. Life on unemployment is such a picnic.

No, they're not saying that. They say, SHELLEY, Congresswoman, I want a job. Find me a job. I want to work so I can take care of my family.

Mr. Speaker, Nevada's unemployed are not hobos. They're unemployed through no fault of their own, and they're desperate—desperate—to find a job. They can't afford not to work, and they can't afford the kind of elitist and insulting attitude representing them in Congress. They need all of us in the House and the Senate working day and night to fix our economy and to put people back to work. They don't have time for ideological battles about killing Medicare by turning it over to private insurance companies. They don't have time for vote after vote protecting taxpayer giveaways to big oil companies.

It's time to get serious about creating jobs, and it's time we get serious about extending critical unemployment insurance for families in Nevada

and across our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this much-needed bill.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

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

Mr. WOLF. "General Electric, the Nation's largest corporation, had a very good year in 2010."

These were the opening words of a March 24 New York Times article. The article continued to explain that GE paid zero taxes in the U.S. in 2010. Meanwhile, the Congressional Research Service found that the October 2008 issue of China Taxation magazine published top corporate taxpayers in the commercial services sector. The Beijing subsidiary of GE was No. 32.

While we don't yet have the data regarding GE's tax payments in China for 2010, it is noteworthy that GE, an American company, paid no Federal taxes in its home country last year while being honored for being a significant source of tax revenue to China—China with its horrific human rights abuses, persecution of people of faith, censorship of the press, cyberespionage, support of rogue regimes—like President Bashir of Sudan, where there is genocide taking place—and its increasingly aggressive military posture.

This should give the Congress pause.

It is particularly alarming in the midst of economic troubles at home, but my concern does not end there.

U.S. companies like GE are increasingly sending American jobs to China. General Electric's health care unit recently announced it was moving the headquarters of its 115-year-old x-ray business from Wisconsin to Beijing. Ironically, the head of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness is GE chairman Jeffrey Immelt. Meanwhile, half of GE's workforce is overseas. He is creating jobs, but he is creating jobs in China.

In addition to national security ramifications, GE's posture toward China has economic implications here at home.

□ 1110

This week I wrote Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, urging him to conduct a national security review of the recently announced joint venture between General Electric, GE, and the Chinese firm AVIC to develop avionics systems for jets. This partnership is troubling for a number of reasons, including the rapid advances in Chinese aeronautics and space programs and the unprecedented Chinese threat from cyberattacks and espionage. Yet according to an August Washington Post article, GE has dismissed concerns about providing the People's Liberation Army with advanced avionics technology. Lorraine Bolsinger, chief executive of GE Aviation Systems, said, "We are all in, and we don't want it back."

Wow. Is this true? They don't want it back? They want to give technology to the People's Liberation Army? Statements like this fail to acknowledge reality.

According to a November 4 article from The Washington Post, the administration's Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive has issued a warning that, "Chinese actors are the world's most active and persistent perpetrators of economic espionage."

Proliferating Chinese espionage is having a real and corrosive effect on job creation. Given the breadth and scope of this espionage, which is well documented by the U.S. intelligence community, GE's public assertion that they will be able to fully protect sensitive technology lacks credibility. Should the GE-AVIC joint venture proceed, there is no question that the sensitive technology involved will be completely compromised by the People's Liberation Army.

GE has a proud tradition as an American company, and it's past time for companies like GE to bring the jobs back to America. To date, there have been no plans from this administration to do just that; but when the House takes up the mini-bus appropriations bill later this week, that will change. I've worked to include provisions to help bring back manufacturing jobs to the U.S. from China and other countries. This can help State and local governments better compete for these jobs.

American workers are among the most skilled in the world. American ingenuity is our greatest strength. We can and must compete. It is time to bring the jobs home.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Our debt burden in this country is so heavy, it is no longer simply a financial issue; it is a moral issue. We have spent and spent, racking up astronomical debt that will dampen the American Dream for our children and grandchildren. If we continue on this path, we will guarantee that future generations will have unsustainable tax burdens, monstrous inefficient bureaucracies, and a lifestyle so diminished that it will no longer resemble the America that we all know and love.

That is not what our Founding Fathers had in mind when they formed this great Nation. In fact, in 1798, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to our Constitution. I mean an additional article taking from the Federal Government the power of borrowing." Thomas Jefferson could never in his wildest dreams have imagined that our debt would one day top \$14 trillion, threatening our very way of

life. And unfortunately, this is a problem that only gets worse—every year that we produce a budget, our spending grows.

Ronald Reagan had it right when he said, "No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. A government program is the nearest thing on Earth we'll ever see to eternal life." And that was back in the 1980s when our debt was a fraction of what it is now.

Our debt has grown so out of control that it not only saddles future generations with our irresponsibility, but it poses a national security threat to our country today. Former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, recently stated that our increasing debt is the biggest threat we have to our national security. We are playing with fire. And it is time to stop, and it is time to do the right thing.

Not only do 49 States have balanced budget amendments, but Americans all across the country have to balance their household budgets. It is time for Congress to do the same and balance America's checkbook.

Some of our friends on the other side of the aisle agree. In a recent letter to House Members, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) asked his colleagues to buck their leadership and vote for the balanced budget amendment. He said, going against it is a "strategic mistake," and I agree. His party's leadership evidently disagrees. And a recent headline in USA Today says it all: "House Dems will Block Balanced Budget Amendment." Unfortunately, they will be on the wrong side of history.

It is time for us to take a stand and do the right thing. Let's stand on the side of our children and our grandchildren and on the side of Jefferson and Reagan and with those who believe that the safety and security of our country should come before our short-term, insatiable appetite for ever-increasing government spending. The time is now. Let's support the balanced budget amendment and put an end to the fiscal insanity that threatens this great country.

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 15 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 pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: