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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 11 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

O Lord our God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You have kept us in life, sustained us, and allowed us to reach this moment.

Bless the Members of the people's House that you have gifted to serve our Nation. As the first session of the 112th Congress draws near a close, we ask Your special blessing upon those who have given so much time and talent throughout this year and, in these closing days, the staffers of each congressional office and the various committees. Grant them peace and renewal in the weeks to come.

Grant the Members of this Chamber continued wisdom and charity as the work of this session comes to a close. May they be truly grateful for the awesome privilege which is theirs, to serve the people of our Nation in this august body.

Help us all to be truly grateful for what we have and generous in what we do. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 493, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 16, 2011 at 8:28 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 94.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 4:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.R. 789.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.R. 2422.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.R. 1264.

That the Senate passed S. 1874.

That the Senate passed S. 1710.

That the Senate passed S. 1959.

That the Senate concur in the amendment of The House of Representatives to the bill S. 278.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 11:23 a.m.:

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That the Senate failed passage H. Con. Res. 94.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 3630.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report accompanying the bill H.R. 2055.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 12:56 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3672.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 17, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 17, 2011 at 2:37 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 95.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches per side.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CZECH REPUBLIC FORMER PRESIDENT VACLAV HAVEL

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, the late Czech champion of freedom, Vaclav Havel, once explained the battle between good and evil as ''an eternal, never-ending struggle waged not just by good people against evil people. It takes place inside everyone. It is what makes a person a person, and life, life.

''So anyone who claims that I am a dreamer who expects to transform hell into heaven is wrong. I have few illusions. But I feel a responsibility to work towards the things I consider good and right. I don't know whether I'll be able to change certain things for the better, or not at all. Both outcomes are possible. There is only one thing I will not concede: that it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause.''

Mr. Haval, for your meaningful life's work engaging the affairs of state and of the heart for right and good, thank you and God bless you as your mortal struggle ends and you finally rest in peace amidst the freedom of your beloved Republic.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Another phony crisis, courtesy of the extremist bah-humbug House Republicans.

House Republicans have never met a deal they couldn't find a reason to dislike. Now they've resorted to fighting their colleagues in the other body to avoid doing something positive for our country.

Right now, we could be cutting the payroll tax, we could be extending jobless benefits, and approving a Medicare fix for our doctors. The average American family in Cleveland, Lorain, Sandusky, and Toledo now faces a $1,000 tax hike because of the Republican game of chicken.

American middle class families want the payroll tax cut or their taxes will go up on average about $1,000. Millions of Americans need unemployment benefits, but House Republicans need to pick a fight. And it doesn't matter with whom. If they can't fight with Democrats, who are standing up for the middle class, they will fight with their colleagues in the other body.

Here's what I want for Christmas: I want the Republicans to care half as much about manufacturing jobs in America as they care about manufacturing crises. Now wouldn't that be a holiday present?

REPUBLICANS HAVE SERVED THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday House Republicans successfully passed a bill that protects every American taxpayer and promotes job creation by extending the payroll tax cut, reforming unemployment insurance, and providing Medicare payments to physicians for a year. Over the weekend, liberals in the Senate amended this legislation to provide for only a 2-month fix. In an attempt to tie House Republicans' hands and force the 2-month extension, Senate liberals led adjournment for recess.

The American people deserve much better than this childish behavior when our unemployment rate has consistently remained above 8 percent for 34 months and over 25 million Americans are searching for work.

Our sympathy to the people of the Czech Republic upon the death of former President Vaclav Havel, who was a brave patriot helping liberate Central and Eastern Europe from communism, leading to the establishment of the neighboring Slovak Republic.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GOP AS GRINCH

(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. It's Grinch time in Washington, Mr. Speaker. One is incredulous that the House Republicans would oppose a tax cut for 160 million Americans, but that's just what they're going to do today.

Is this bill perfect? No. There are aspects upon which both sides disagree. But it is the area of agreement that should be the most important: Congress stops playing hostage politics and halts the tax hike on 160 million fellow citizens.

Saturday's Senate vote was 89–10—not just liberals, I say to my friend from South Carolina—with all members of the Senate leadership, Republican and Democrat, voting in favor. If House Republicans vote against this compromise, they will ring in the new year with a tax hike of their own making.

If House Republicans were serious about wanting certainty, as they claim, they would vote for this bill today and guarantee that 160 million Americans won't pay higher taxes on January 1.

Mr. Speaker, rejecting this bill and holding up the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits will be a true example of how the GOP Grinch stole Christmas for 160 million Americans.

SENATE PLAN NOT GOOD FOR PHYSICIANS, PATIENTS, OR AMERICA

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of doctors around the country.

As a physician, and now a legislator, I am personally devastated at the way our government continues to treat those who care for America's patients, particularly those who care for America's seniors.

Physicians have staff to pay, electricity bills, building leases, and numerous other costs associated with running a practice. The 2-month patch that the Senate sent back to us as part of the payroll tax package does not provide doctors and their practices with the stability that they need to do their job—caring for America's seniors.

At a time when American businesses need certainty, Congress gives them a brief, unpredictable, and unreliable timeline. Two months of tax payment relief is just another short-term fix, and it's simply not good enough. Physicians deserve better. Patients deserve better. The American people deserve better.

I will vote ''no'' on the Senate bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. Then let's come back with a policy that will, for heaven's sakes, at least take us through the year ahead.

SENATE PLAN IS IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, the President has said it would be inexcusable not to extend the payroll tax cut for a year. However, the Senate's plan merely extends the plan for just 60 days, instead of a full year extension, creating uncertainty for our job creators at a time when millions of Americans are out of work. It also creates more uncertainty about implementing the plans, as we just learned today from the National Payroll Reporting Consortium.

American families deserve better than tax policy in 2-month increments. Last week, the House passed bipartisan legislation that extends the payroll tax cut for a full year, which would save American households an average of $1,000 a year. It also extends unemployment benefits and ensures senior citizens have access to their doctor by preventing a cut in Medicare reimbursement rates.

The worst part of the Senate plan is it puts new permanent fees on home mortgages to pay for 60 days of spending. This is an irresponsible and outrageous plan.

Our bill is offset by reasonable spending cuts, not new taxes on hardworking middle class home borrowers. A full-year plan with no new taxes is better than a 2-month spending spree which is nothing more than a political sideshow.

I guess the Senators were anxious to leave town and not finish their work. So I think we ought to call the Senate plan ''I'll be home for Christmas.''

PULSE OF TEXAS: HUMBLE RESIDENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each week my neighbors take the time to make their opinions known through emails, phone calls, and letters. Today's Pulse of Texas is from a Federal employee in Humble, Texas, who recently wrote me with these wise observations:

''I am an 11-year Federal Government employee who works hard, and yet I'm on a 2–3 year pay freeze while unemployment benefits are extended over and over again. I live in a house that I purchased because I could afford it, yet my tax dollars go to bail out bad lenders and borrowers. My children go to colleges that they can afford. They all held jobs during college, and the oldest graduated with zero in student loan debt, yet now there is a plan to bail out those who went to schools above their means. Enough is enough.

''Please help break the cycle of entitlement and lack of personal responsibility that the government is fostering in this country.''

Mr. Speaker, America should be the land of freedom and opportunity, not more free stuff and entitlement.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1610

WE NEED A 1-YEAR EXTENSION

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

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, Nevadans tell me time and time again that they want some certainty in their lives. They want their elected leaders to move beyond patchwork agreements every single month.

We passed a 1-year package, fully paid for, that extends unemployment benefits while providing a pathway back to work, keeps an extra $1,000 in the pockets of Nevada's struggling families, while protecting Social Security, and maintains access to health care for seniors and veterans by keeping doctors in Medicare.

Throughout the entire negotiation process, the American people were assured that they would receive an entire year of certainty. Then the Senate pulled the rug out from underneath them. Passing a 2-month extension now will put us right back here in February, when we should be using that time to debate job-creating ideas.

The House will stay here and work on this critical issue until it is resolved. The House agrees with the President and the American people: we need a 1-year extension. Anything else will be judged as a failure to do our job.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled joint resolution was signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 16, 2011:

H.J. Res. 94, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes,

and Saturday, December 17, 2011:

H.J. Res. 95, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

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.

IMPACT OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION FAILURES

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2056) to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 2, line 10, insert ''and'' after the semicolon.

On page 2, line 14, strike the semicolon and all that follows through line 19 and insert a period.

On page 4, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 5, line 5, and insert the following:

(2) LOSSES.—The significance of losses, including—

(A) the number of insured depository institutions that have been placed into receivership or conservatorship due to significant losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans;

(B) the impact of significant losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans, on the ability of insured depository institutions to raise additional capital;

(C) the effect of changes in the application of fair value accounting rules and other accounting standards, including the allowance for loan and lease loss methodology, on insured depository institutions, specifically the degree to which fair value accounting rules and other accounting standards have led to regulatory action against banks, including consent orders and closure of the institution; and

(D) whether field examiners are using appropriate appraisal procedures with respect to losses arising from loans for which all payments of principal, interest, and fees were current, according to the contractual terms of the loans, and whether the application of appraisals leads to immediate write downs on the value of the underlying asset.

On page 9, strike lines 15 through 19, and insert the following:

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.

The Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Comptroller General of the United States shall appear before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, not later than 150 days after the date of publication of the study required under this Act to discuss the outcomes and impact of Federal regulations on bank examinations and failures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

The bill before the House today is one that will provide much needed transparency to the FDIC, the Federal Reserve, and the OCC bank examination and resolution procedures.

First, I'd like to thank Chairman BACHUS and Subcommittee Chairwoman CAPITO, Ranking Member FRANK, and Subcommittee Ranking Member MALONEY for their support of H.R. 2056.

I'd also like to thank Senator CHAMBLISS and his staff for working to pass this bill on the Senate side. We are pleased to have an agreement with the other Chamber, which is highly unusual, and look forward to the outcome of this study.

As I have said many times before, there is no greater threat to our communities than bank failures, especially in my State of Georgia. Since the House last debated this bill in July, more banks in Georgia have been closed by the regulators. Now 73 banks are no longer serving their communities, and 22 banks alone have failed in 2011. Sadly, there are some communities in my district that are no longer served by a community bank.

I have often referenced the so-called ''ten over ten.'' These are the 10 States that have had more than 10 bank failures since 2008. These 10 unlucky States are Georgia, Florida, Illinois, California, Minnesota, Washington, Michigan, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona. In fact, six of the 10 States have had more than 10 percent of their banks fail in the last 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the deeper I dig into the actions of the FDIC, the Fed and the OCC, the more concerned I am that our community banks are being regulated like public utilities rather than the job creators they are. H.R. 2056 is designed to cut through all the information to analyze the underlying fundamentals that continue to cause bank failures across this country.

The bill directs the FDIC Inspector General, in consultation with Treasury and the Federal Reserve IGs, to study the bank regulators' policies and practices with regard to loss share agreements, the fair application of regulatory capital standards, appraisals, the FDIC procedures for loan modifications, and the FDIC's handling of consent orders in cease and desist orders.

Further, the GAO also has a study in the bill to pursue those questions that the FDIC IG is unable to fully explore, such as the causes of the high number of bank failures. The impact of fair market value accounting has been a tremendous impact on our banks. Analysis of this impact of the failures on the community banks is especially needed. The overall effectiveness of loss share agreements for resolving banks is another thing that should be looked at very carefully.

The changes made by the Senate now ensure that the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking Committee will have a hearing on this important study once it is issued.

I know this bill can never bring back the banks that have been lost in this crisis, but this bill and the study will provide Congress and the communities in my district and in other districts the information they need to ensure these failures never happen again.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This was a matter brought to me by the gentleman from Georgia who just spoke, and his Georgia colleague, the gentleman, Mr. SCOTT, who's a member of the Financial Services Committee, because of their understandable concern that the impact bank failures could have in the State they represent. I am very supportive.

I do want to make clear that nothing in the passage of this should be taken as a criticism of the FDIC. I have been very impressed with the leadership that was given to the FDIC by the recently retired chair, Sheila Bair, an appointee of President Bush, who was not only, I think, a first-rate chair at the FDIC, but gave us a great deal of her useful advice as we dealt with financial reform.

Bank failures are an unfortunate fact of life. We don't want them to be done unnecessarily, but neither can they be avoided. And, obviously, in the overwhelming majority of cases, the problem is in the business community. The right to fail, as we must remind ourselves, is part of the right to do business.

Having said that, I agree that what the FDIC does should be very transparent. And there is one aspect of what the FDIC does, not directly affected in this bill, but it's one that I think you have bipartisan agreement on in the committee, namely, and I will mention this because of its impact on our economy.

Understandably, bank examiners felt very sensitive to criticism that during the first part of this century they did not say no to enough loans. Loans were made in the mortgage field that shouldn't have been made, but you cannot retroactively go back and undo that by now being too tough and denying loans that should be made. And we have had a frustration on the part of members of our committee because we hear reports from people in the field in the community banks that bank examiners are being too tough.

No one wants to encourage imprudent lending, and the bank regulators tell us they agree with that; but I want to take every opportunity I can to remind the bank examiners that if they run into a situation in which no bank loan ever defaults, then they have been too tough because perfection is unattainable; and what we want to do is minimize the number of failures, but not move them out all together with a regime that will keep good loans from being made.

Having said that, to go back to this, it is appropriate that we get a full study of what happens when a bank fails; and we would ask the FDIC, when they are dealing with a failed bank, to take into account the needs of that particular community so that the disposition is one that has some sensitivity, and that is what I think is here.

I would just say, with regard to community banks, there was a continued recognition they're important. And I would just note in the financial reform bill signed last year, there were several provisions that were in there at the specific request of the community banks to help them. For example, one of the disadvantages community banks have felt is that people with large amounts to deposit would go to larger institutions because the limitation on deposit insurance would make them a little worried about going to a community bank.

□ 1620

We increase that number from $100,000 to $250,000, which is a significant advantage for community banks over the prior situation.

We also, for the first time in our history, change the way in which assessments are levied on banks for deposit insurance by introducing a risk factor. Before the bill was signed, every deposit was levied the same amount of insurance cost. Now there is a risk factor, which means that, dollar for dollar, the larger institutions which engage in riskier activities will be paying more than the smaller institutions.

We also extended, for a period—I would have liked to make it permanent; we didn't have the votes to do that—the transactional accounts.

So, yes, we are aware of the importance of community banks. And I would just repeat what I said at the first, because I have found, surprisingly, that not everybody listens to everything I say the first time I say it. This is not meant as a criticism of the FDIC. It is a recognition of the importance of this process being open and that people understand it.

So I say to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), they were serving their constituents well by bringing this forward, and I hope the bill passes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the chairwoman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee of Financial Services, the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for his leadership on this topic. He has been very dedicated to finding a solution here. He's worked with both sides of the aisle to find a way to get to the transparency and accountability that we need to have in terms of the examination process with our community banks, and I know he has been a tireless advocate for the communities in his district.

We actually went to Mr. WESTMORELAND's district, to Newnan, Georgia, and had a legislative hearing, and we learned about the bank closures and the financial examination procedures. Regulators were all there. Financial institutions were there. But I think the one thing that struck me more than anything in the course of the conversation was, when a bank fails—and a lot of times a community bank is the only community bank, local bank, local ownership, know the people down the street. When that bank fails, it really guts the community in a way that's hard to describe.

The larger banks are there; branches are there. But, still, losing that community anchor in a community bank can be a devastating thing, not just for individuals and families but also for the shop owner, the car dealer, the individual farmer, the folks that rely on the relationship banking that you get so spectacularly through a community bank. You lose that and, unfortunately, never to come back again in a lot of cases. I think that he's very concerned about that, and the people of Newnan, Georgia, in that district, are very concerned.

This study I think will help us to see what's really going on here, pull the curtain back, look at the practices and the examination procedures. I know that Senator LEVIN made some technical changes in this, and I would like to thank Mr. WESTMORELAND for working with the Senator.

Now, maybe that should be a life lesson for us here in terms of what's going on today, but I think we've reached a good consensus and a good agreement. We will hear the results of this study in our subcommittee and in our full committee to find out if we need to work with the regulators to change the regulations, make it so that what the banking institutions are hearing on the ground from their regulators is actually what is moving forward in their written reports that are sent to Washington, et cetera, et cetera.

One of the things that we are challenged with here in Congress certainly is creating jobs and creating a climate where banks are going to lend and creating a regulatory climate where banks are going to lend and want to lend to small businesses. This issue that Mr. WESTMORELAND has highlighted I think will help us with that and, hopefully, will undo some of the needless shackles that some of our examiners are placing on our smaller institutions or on our community banks to be able to get back lending, and then our small businesses and job creators can then get back to the business of creating jobs so we can grow our economy.

I would like to again thank everybody for their efforts, and I look forward to the passage of this bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all of the Members to vote for this. As the chairlady mentioned, we had a field hearing in my district with my colleague Mr. SCOTT from Georgia, also. I think it was a very good field hearing. We had testimony from bankers and from borrowers about the different regulations that had interfered with their ability to actually do business and the difference in the capital requirements that the FDIC is putting on some of these banks.

We understand that the FDIC has to enforce the rules, but we do think there are some cases, as the ranking member mentioned, that there has been some overbearing on some loans that have been performing and are quality loans. So we think that this study will at least open some people's eyes to this and give us a better idea on maybe some of the things that we need to do to make sure that our community banks stay open.

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, as an elected Representative from one of the states hardest hit by the financial crisis, I strongly support H.R. 2056, introduced by my colleague, Representative LYNN WESTMORELAND, which takes a closer look at how our Nation's small community banks are failing at the hands of overzealous regulators.

H.R. 2056 directs the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Government Accountability Office to study whether certain practices and procedures employed by federal regulators while examining financial institutions has played a role in a record number of community banks failing in recent years. Among these are important issues relating to loss-sharing agreements and examiners' policies relating to appraisals.

Among other things, the FDIC must determine whether financial institutions are being placed into receivership or conservatorship due to significant losses arising from loans for which all payments were made on time and the contractual terms of the loans have been met. With Congressman WESTMORELAND, I believe that a performing loan is exactly that—one that is performing according to the terms of the contract. A regulator should not be able to step in and interject an opinion on why the loan may not perform at some point in the future, and thus penalize a community bank.

The introduction and passage of this bill indicates that there is a real world problem here, one that deserves swift diagnosis and treatment. I have heard from bankers time and again that regulators have shifted away from considering objective evaluations of loan performance, such as borrower payment history, and looked instead to subjective opinions on whether a loan may experience difficulties in the future. No business can thrive in that kind of volatile environment. Community banks are struggling in Florida. To make matters worse, surviving banks are operating in fear of overzealous regulators and as a result, small businesses are finding it almost impossible to obtain the capital they need to expand and hire more workers. Community banks are the lifeblood of our local communities and are best positioned to help our economy recover if they are able to make loans, using reasonable underwriting standards, without being penalized by their examiners.

It has been shown that states with the highest number of bank failures also have the highest unemployment and foreclosure rates in the country. That being said, it will be difficult to realize a full national economic recovery without addressing the issue of why so many small banks are closing their doors and why so many of them are unable to make loans in their community. As Congress continues to work to see that our economy recovers, it is essential that we press regulators for answers to the issues raised in Representative WESTMORELAND's study.

No one wants to see a repeat of what transpired in 2008 and the effects that still linger on today. However, we must remember that small banks did not cause the financial crisis. Their business practices are by nature thorough and cautious. I urge my colleagues to take a serious look at the issues raised by Representative WESTMORELAND and join me in pressing financial regulators for answers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2056.

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. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RISK-BASED SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ACT

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1801) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for expedited security screenings for members of the Armed Forces.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act''.

SEC. 2. SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44903 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(m) SECURITY SCREENING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), in consultation with the Department of Defense, shall develop and implement a plan to provide expedited security screening services for a member of the armed forces, and, to the extent possible, any accompanying family member, if the member of the armed forces, while in uniform, presents documentation indicating official orders for air transportation departing from a primary airport (as defined in section 47102).

''(2) PROTOCOLS.—In developing the plan, the Assistant Secretary shall consider—

''(A) leveraging existing security screening models used to reduce passenger wait times;

''(B) establishing standard guidelines for the screening of military uniform items, including combat boots; and

''(C) incorporating any new screening protocols into an existing trusted passenger program, as established pursuant to section 109(a)(3) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 114 note), or into the development of any new credential or system that incorporates biometric technology and other applicable technologies to verify the identity of individuals traveling in air transportation.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall affect the authority of the Assistant Secretary to require additional screening of a member of the armed forces if intelligence or law enforcement information indicates that additional screening is necessary.

''(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of the plan.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall implement the plan required by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801.

H.R. 1801 represents a bipartisan, bicameral effort in honor of the members of our Armed Forces by transitioning to an expedited, intelligence-driven screening process for all U.S. soldiers at our Nation's airports.

Shortly after the House passed H.R. 1801 by a vote of 404–0, the Senate, with the support and leadership of Ranking Member KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and Chairman JAY ROCKEFELLER, amended and passed H.R. 1801 by voice vote.

I have had time to review the Senate amendment, and, quite frankly, I think it improves the underlying bill. It requires coordination between TSA and the Department of Defense in establishing the expedited screening process and clarifies that the TSA Administrator retains the authority to require additional screening for a member of the Armed Forces should intelligence or law enforcement information raise any concerns.

In addition, the Senate amendment allows TSA to include accompanying military family members in the expedited screening process ''to the extent possible.''

Overall, the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801 improves the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

In closing, I'd like to thank Transportation Security Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member SHEILA JACKSON LEE and Homeland Security Committee Chairman PETER KING and Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON for moving this legislation.

Additionally, I would like to recognize and thank Senators KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and JAY ROCKEFELLER for their leadership in having this measure pass in the Senate.

I would also like to take some time to recognize some of the great staff on the House and Senate Homeland Security Committees, especially Mandy Bowers, Jennifer Arangio, Amanda Parikh, Steven Giaier, Nicole Smith, Jake Vreeburg, and Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District Legislative Director Paul Blocher and his staff for all they have done in this process.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Committee of Homeland Security and as an ardent supporter of the men and women of the armed services, I am pleased to return today as we're on the floor to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801, the Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act.

□ 1630

This legislation requires the Transportation Security Administration to develop a plan for providing expedited screening to our military personnel at airport security checkpoints.

As the gentleman from Minnesota just alluded to, the Senate amendment took a good bill and made it even better by expressly including new safeguards. Last Congress, on a bipartisan basis, an earlier version of this legislation was accepted as an amendment during the consideration of the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, which passed this House by 397–25, which was not acted upon by the Senate.

H.R. 1801 properly recognizes the preciousness of time—nothing more important than time—to the patriotic men and women serving in our armed services, but it does not compromise aviation security. Our troops help keep our country safe. While first ensuring safety, the least we can do is devise methods to help speed up the screening process for our troops who are in uniform and who are traveling on airplanes while on official duty.

Since 2001, there have been more than 2 million troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. As our military presence in Iraq winds down, more servicemembers will, thankfully, be coming home. We owe it to them and to all of our servicemembers to do all we can to smooth their travels so that they can get home and into the arms of their loving families. This legislation establishes adequate parameters that will ensure that our troops and their families, including the 236,963 military personnel in my home State of California, will be given the opportunity to board an aircraft in a security-approved expedited manner. If approved today, this legislation will go directly to the President for his signature.

With the enactment of H.R. 1801, we have the opportunity to show the country, despite all the acrimony that has been punctuated in this 112th Congress, we can accomplish good things for the American people when we focus on areas of common ground and when compromise is embraced. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation with the Senate amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to build upon this current debate of H.R. 1801 and use this opportunity to urge the Republican leadership to bring to the floor additional bipartisan, commonsense homeland security legislation. This is the only bill reported by the Committee on Homeland Security to be considered before the full House. There are a number of other Homeland Security bills on the Union Calendar that warrant consideration by the full House as well.

Among them is H.R. 1447, introduced by Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON.

This legislation seeks to enhance TSA's coordination with private-sector stakeholders on aviation policy. Also on the Union Calendar is H.R. 1165, authored by Representative JACKSON LEE, which would strengthen the TSA Ombudsman office.

With bipartisan support, both of these bills were ordered reported by the Committee on Homeland Security. Despite having received bipartisan support from the committee, these bills have lingered on the Union Calendar for 40-plus days. I urge the Republican leadership to schedule these bills for consideration, as I am confident they will return to this House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

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

Mr. CRAVAACK. I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I think expedited screening for military servicemembers is very important. I am glad that we are taking this bill up on a bipartisan basis, but I think there are some other things happening right now that should also be given our complete attention with regard to what we will be talking about.

With the highest unemployment rate in the Nation, far too many Nevadans are worrying about how they're going to make ends meet. Nevada's middle class families who still have jobs cannot afford a massive tax increase in January, but that's exactly the direction we appear to be heading thanks to the Tea Party extremists in the House of Representatives. They're holding middle-income families hostage; they're holding unemployed people hostage; and they're holding senior citizens hostage.

One would ask, Why? It's to protect their special interest buddies—Wall Street millionaires, Big Oil executives, and corporations that ship American jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. It would be a disaster if the House Republicans refused to stand up to Wall Street today and extend the middle class tax cuts. In Nevada, 1.2 million people would see their taxes rise as much as $1,247 in January if this House of Representatives, led by the Republicans, doesn't do the right thing. With families struggling just to pay rent, put food on their tables, and put gas in their cars, that's not acceptable.

It's time for the Tea Party extremists in the Republican Party to let go and get their priorities straight. Middle class families in Nevada and across the country come first, not Wall Street millionaires. The time for political games is over. The clock is ticking. We have to take care of those who are unemployed through no fault of their own. We have to take care of middle-income families who are struggling just to get by and who need that extra $1,000 this year. Rather than have it taken out of their taxes, we also need to ensure that seniors get the medical care they need.

The time is over for game-playing. On behalf of Nevada's struggling families, I demand that this House not allow a massive middle class tax increase. Let us do our business before we go home and not shame ourselves and the American people by leaving them in the lurch during the holiday season.

I applaud Congresswoman RICHARDSON for putting this legislation on, and I hope that we truly address what's important to millions and millions of Americans across the country by doing the right thing later this evening and by making sure that we pass this middle-income tax cut.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I yield myself the balance of my time.

As you've heard, Mr. Speaker, the measure before us represents discrete, commonsense homeland security legislation. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this motion to suspend the rules and to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801 so that this measure can be presented to the President for his signature.

I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) and the staffs on both sides of the aisle for their work not only in this Congress but for their work in the 111th Congress, which was when this was brought forward in the prior TSA act.

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

Mr. CRAVAACK. In closing, I would like to thank the gentlelady from California for her refocusing of the debate on who deserves this the most—our troops.

With that, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this. This is a very big amendment for our troops; so let's give them a Christmas present that really means something to them. I look forward to bringing home the Minnesota Red Bulls safe and sound.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I am pleased that we are on the floor today to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 1801.

Approval of this measure today will, for the first time this Congress, result in transportation security legislation reaching the President's desk.

In this budgetary climate, we must ensure that the Transportation Security Administration is maximizing its resources and adequately integrating efficient screening process across its checkpoint security programs.

This legislation strives to do that by ensuring that an expedited screening program is established for members of the Armed Forces, which includes over 20,000 men and women in the Houston metro area.

These men and women sacrifice their time and family life to defend our liberty.

Affording them the opportunity to be respectfully screened in an expedited manner will ensure that we continue to honor their service and what their commitment means to the American public.

H.R. 1801 represents common-sense legislation with bipartisan support.

The Senate amendment ensures that there is a strong collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Transportation Security Administration.

Furthermore, H.R. 1801 establishes parameters for expedited screening process for members of the Armed Services without compromising security.

I am happy that I was able to work with Mr. ROGERS and other members of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Full Committee on Homeland Security on this bill.

However, I hope that we do not stop here. This legislation represents only a small slice of the legislative action we must act on to adequately address transportation security.

Transportation security threats are evolving and more work must be done.

I look forward to continuing our work on the Committee on Homeland Security and producing additional bipartisan measures that strive to enhance our Nation's transportation security efforts.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1801.

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. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXTENSION OF REDACTION AUTHORITY CONCERNING SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1059) to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 2, line 6 through 8 strike and insert:

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Marshall'' and inserting ''Marshals'';

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform'' after ''Senate''; and

(3) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''2011'' both places it appears and inserting ''2017''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the motion to concur currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1640

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support H.R. 1059 and thank Mr. CONYERS for sponsoring it. I also thank Mr. COHEN of Tennessee and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia for serving as cosponsors.

H.R. 1059 promotes an important goal, providing security for Federal judges. Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. This requirement increases public confidence in government officials and better enables the public to judge the performance of those officials. However, Congress enacted legislation that allows the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where the release of the information could endanger the filer or their family.

Those who seek to harm or intimidate Federal judges might use a disclosure form to identify where someone's spouse or child works or goes to school on a regular basis. Individuals targeting judges for harassment have also been known to file false claims on property owned by judges and their families. Harassers could use judicial financial disclosure reports to more easily identify such property.

The Judicial Conference delegated to its Committee on Financial Disclosure the responsibility to implement the financial disclosure requirements for judges and judicial employees under the Ethics in Government Act. The committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute.

In consultation with U.S. Marshals Service, the committee also reviews and approves or disapproves any request for redaction or statutorily mandated information where the filer believes the release of the information could endanger the filer and their family. Under the Judicial Conference's regulations, no redaction will be granted without a clear nexus between a security risk and the information for which redaction is sought.

The law has worked well through the years and has been reauthorized twice since 2001; but it expires at the end of this calendar year if we fail to act, an outcome that is unacceptable.

Last year the Marshals Service investigated and analyzed almost 1,400 threats and inappropriate communications to judicial officials, nearly three times as many threats as recorded in 2003. And there were more than 3,900 incidents and arrests at U.S. court facilities in 2010.

Financial disclosures help maintain an open and transparent government, but government transparency should not come at the cost of personal security for government officials. Judges and other judicial employees perform important work that is integral to our democratic system of government. In order to preserve the integrity of our democracy, we must protect the integrity of our courts; and that means ensuring the security of judges and other judicial employees from intimidation and threats.

The Senate made two minor amendments to the bill, which we accept. The first amendment involves an annual report that the administrative Office of the U.S. Courts submits to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. The report summarizes the redactions made in the preceding year and explains why they were made. The first amendment mandates that the report also be sent to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, as well as the Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee. The second amendment sunsets the redaction authority after 6 years, in 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1059, as amended by the Senate, and urge my colleagues to extend the redaction authority.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to commend the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Texas, LAMAR SMITH, for his cooperation in bringing this bill out of committee and through the Congress.

On September 12 of this year, my bill passed the House unanimously. The requirement that judges and judicial branch employees disclose their personal finances promotes openness in the Federal Government. It reduces the risk of corruption, prevents the appearance of impropriety, and also sheds some transparency on what we do in the third branch of government.

Unfortunately, sometimes these required disclosures can include specific information about the filer's residence, a spouse's workplace, a child's workplace, or a vacation home. This information has the potential to place individual judges, employees, and their families at risk. So what we're doing here is allowing a redaction by the Judicial Conference. The bill's redaction authority is critical to ensuring that this information does not get into the wrong hands and the whole idea is to make sure that some of the Federal judges whose lives have been lost and others whose family members have lost their lives by disgruntled litigants will not be made available to them.

The Judicial Conference is very careful in granting redaction authority. And although I would have preferred a permanent redaction authority, I'm perfectly willing to support a 6-year authority with extension possibilities. I look forward to the President signing this bill into law immediately.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1059.

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. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 515) to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 6, line 19, strike ''and'' and insert ''expanded its visa ban list, imposed additional financial sanctions on certain state-owned enterprises, and initiated preparations to freeze the assets of several individuals in Belarus. The''.

On page 10, line 9, strike ''continue to''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days to submit for the RECORD statements and extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 515, the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act. Before I begin my prepared remarks, however, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of former President Vaclav Havel, an inspirational leader and lifelong advocate for the cause of freedom.

Throughout his lifetime, Havel was part of an incredible transformation of Czechoslovakia, from an oppressive, communist Soviet satellite to the free, democratic, independent nation that is the Czech Republic. Many people at that time had given up hope that such a transformation was possible. It was beyond their imagination. But Vaclav Havel never lost faith and believed that people yearning for liberty could come together and affect incredible change.

Even following the liberation of his own country, Mr. Havel continued to champion the cause of the oppressed around the world, adding his voice to those calling for freedom in countries throughout Europe, the Balkans, and even my native homeland of Cuba.

□ 1650

As he eloquently said after the Velvet Revolution that brought liberty to his people: ''None of us know all of the potentialities that slumber in the spirit of the population, or all the ways in which that population can surprise us when there is the right interplay of events.''

It is therefore fitting that we come here today to consider this measure to support the democratic movement in a country relatively near Mr. Havel's homeland, a country called the ''last dictatorship in Europe.''

The brutal Lukashenko regime in Belarus has time and again proven itself to be unrepentant in the oppression of its own people. Despite claims of reform by those in leadership positions, there have been no real changes in Belarus. It seems that's the same script that all communist or communist-style dictators are using these days. It's the same facade the Cuban dictatorship seeks to perpetuate.

Hundreds of political prisoners remain in jail in Belarus, including two former Presidential candidates and a well-respected human rights defender, and credible reports indicate these prisoners are frequently subjected to degrading and inhumane treatment. Even those who have been previously released in attempted overtures to the West frequently are rearrested or face some other type of intimidation and retribution.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the world watched as over 700 pro-democracy protesters were arrested en masse. Their crime? Simply clapping their hands—their hands. This was their peaceful expression of dissent with the regime and fraudulent elections which kept it in power. For clapping their hands.

Today marks the 1-year anniversary of those protests, and how does Belarus' dictator choose to mark this occasion? He has had police summon a key democratic opposition leader and has detained several independent journalists. This clearly shows that the regime is not interested in reform, only in retaining power—power through the muzzling of the opposition, power through the silencing of independent journalists, and power through the repression of its own people.

But as Mr. Havel stated, there is great potential in people who are calling for their own liberty. The people of Belarus are actively calling for their liberty, and this measure before us today provides them with the assistance and the resources they need to continue their valiant struggles.

I urge my colleagues to join us in showing their support for the people of Belarus by passing this important bill today.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this legislation. One year ago today, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko staged a fraudulent election.

After tens of thousands of ordinary Belarusians gathered to protest the conduct and results of that election, he arrested hundreds of them, including opposition candidates who dared to run against him. Last May, most were convicted and handed heavy sentences of up to 6 years in prison.

Since then, the Lukashenko regime has continued to harass members of opposition political parties, human rights activists and civil society, and to suppress Belarusians' access to free press and information.

This summer, when citizens of Belarus gathered over several weeks to protest peacefully against Lukashenko and his regime and the deteriorating economic situation there, he had them arrested for simply clapping their hands.

Just last month, the government tightened restrictions on the ability of civil society groups to receive foreign grants and placed even greater restrictions on peaceful protests.

The Obama administration, to its credit, has led the strong international reaction to the fraudulent elections, postelection crackdown and further deterioration of the human rights situation in Belarus. On February 2, the United States significantly expanded the list of Belarusian officials subject to travel restrictions and to having their assets blocked, and restored full U.S. sanctions against Belarus' largest state-owned oil and gas concern and all of its subsidiaries.

On July 2, Secretary of State Clinton met with activists from Belarus during her visit to Lithuania for a meeting of the Community of Democracies. She repeated her demand that Belarus release political prisoners and embark on the path of democratic reform. Just last night, Secretary Clinton and EU High Representative Catherine Ashton released a joint statement highlighting American and European concerns about continued human rights abuses in Belarus on the 1-year anniversary of the December 19, 2010, political crackdown.

In coordination with the European Union, the Obama administration has significantly expanded democracy assistance to the private sector in Belarus this year. These new resources will support the kind of assistance called for in the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011 which we consider here today. By passing this legislation, Mr. Speaker, we are doing our part to encourage the free exchange of ideas in Belarus and helping to ensure a brighter future for the people of that tortured nation, people who, like people everywhere, have the right to free expression and self-government.

I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, a strong advocate for freedom everywhere and the author of the bill before us.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the distinguished chairwoman for yielding and join her first in mourning the passing of Vaclav Havel, the great President and human rights crusader, one of the founders of Charter 77, a magnificent human rights manifesto, that took the Helsinki final act and turned it into a very durable and tangible program of action for the people of Czechoslovakia. Charter 77 has been replicated all over the world, including in Belarus—it's called Charter 97 there—as well as in places like Vietnam, where it's Bloc 8406.

I would note parenthetically that, back in the 1980s, I and some members of the Helsinki Commission, including STENY HOYER, sought to meet with members of Charter 77. All but one, Father Valclav Maly—now Bishop Maly—got through to our meeting. The rest were detained by the secret police, including Vaclav Havel.

It's interesting and very important to point out that Vaclav Havel, before he passed away, tragically, sent a strong letter to the people of Belarus encouraging them to hold firm and expressing his overwhelming solidarity with the people of Belarus as they seek their universally recognized human rights. Again, this man never ceased in his promotion of human rights anywhere—from Burma to Belarus—including to his dying day, sending this

very important letter to the Belarusian people.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in strong support and urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 515 again. We passed it last July, but it came back from the Senate with a couple of additions which are very much appreciated.

I especially want to thank Chairman JOHN KERRY and Senator LUGAR for their cooperation in helping to bring this legislation back to the House; and I want to thank the distinguished gentlelady for her leadership, and HOWARD BERMAN, as well as the Speaker and ERIC CANTOR, for bringing this legislation to the floor.

This is a very timely piece of legislation. As was noted, it is exactly 1 year ago today since the bloody December 19, 2010, election-night crackdown in Belarus which swept up more than 700 opposition supporters, many of whom I know personally, who dared to challenge the rule of Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko.

On this day of remembrance, we are here in the House to pass legislation that we know President Obama will sign—he supports it—that demonstrates our country's support for the human rights of the Belarusian people for democracy and the rule of law in Belarus through sanctions targeted against the dictator Lukashenko and his senior officials.

□ 1700

This legislation tracks legislation that I authored in 2004 and '06, which is current policy, called the Belarus Democracy Act, and it builds on that framework of trying to target those who are actually inflicting the abuse. It's timely and necessary. As I said, those jailed—and remember, there are many who have been jailed and more that are being jailed as we meet—have been subjected to degrading and humiliating treatment, and some have been tortured. More than 40 were convicted, and about a dozen, including several presidential candidates, remain imprisoned to this day. At a Helsinki Commission hearing that I chaired only last month, we heard shocking, heartbreaking testimony from one of the presidential candidates who had endured torture during his 2-month stay at a KGB prison—and, yes, Mr. Speaker, in Belarus, it is still called the KGB, reminding one how little Belarus has strayed from its dark, Soviet roots. In addition to the arrested, the families, the lawyers, the independent journalists and the democratic activists who are not yet in prison continue to be harassed and intimidated and their homes watched by the KGB. This has been the worst political crackdown in Europe in well over a decade.

The postelection crackdown has followed the pattern, however, of repression that has characterized Lukashenko's nearly 17-year rule. Through a series of rigged elections, large-scale intimidation, and the suppression of independent media and civil society, the dictator has long consolidated his control over virtually all national institutions. His dictatorship has the worst record for human rights by far of any government in Europe.

Specifically, and significantly, the sanctions outlined in the bill are aimed at the senior leadership of the dictatorship that displays utter contempt for the dignity and the rights of the Belarusan people. With these sanctions we stand with the Belarusan people and against their oppressors.

H.R. 515 requires the State Department to issue a new report to Congress on the sale, delivery, or provision of weapons or weapons-related technologies or training; Lukashenko's personal wealth and assets; and cooperation by the Belarusan Government with any foreign government or organizations related to censorship or surveillance of the Internet.

H.R. 515 states a U.S. Government policy of strong support for the Belarusan people in their struggle against Lukashenko to live in a free, independent country where their human rights are respected. The bill encourages those struggling despite overwhelming pressures from an anti-democratic regime. It calls for a full accounting of the 1999 to 2000 disappearances. This morning I was with a woman whose husband disappeared, presumed to be dead by this regime, and she continues to this day struggling for human rights on behalf of her people now in exile.

It calls for and supports radio, television, and Internet broadcasting to Belarus, specifically Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, Voice of America, European Radio for Belarus, and the satellite television station BelSat.

It calls for a release of all of the political prisoners. We can't say that enough. We can't say it one day and forget it the next. We need to redouble our efforts, beginning today, to promote a free Belarus where all can live in peace, freedom and prosperity without that knock in the middle of the night by the KGB.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulate my friend from New Jersey. He has been a passionate advocate for human rights across the board. He and I may not always agree on all issues, but his passion and his commitment to human rights universally cannot be questioned and has made a great contribution to this institution, and I thank him.

I believe that the yearning for human rights is a basic human yearning. It is not limited to the American culture or the Western culture, as we have seen in the outpouring of support during the Arab Spring for the basic human freedoms: the right to organize, the right to express politically, the right to practice one's religion freely, the right to organize political parties and to involve themselves in political dissent. These are universal yearnings, as our Founders understood, in their genius, in the writing of the Declaration of Independence. And it is absolutely a fundamental American value that we proclaim those freedoms, and we assist those who seek actively in that yearning to implement those freedoms.

Again, I congratulate the distinguished chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and our colleague from New Jersey for their leadership.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I have no further requests for time. I just wanted to thank my friend from Virginia for his statements, and I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his leadership on all things related to human rights, freedom, and liberty.

What an interesting weekend that we saw, not just the death of Mr. Havel but, at the same time, the death of Kim Jong Il. What an incredible juxtaposition to see a wonderful human rights leader like Mr. Havel and then at the same time a terrible despot like Kim Jong Il who was responsible for actually starving his people as well as having them hunger for freedom and justice.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 515.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING FOR PLACEMENT OF STATUE OR BUST OF WINSTON CHURCHILL IN CAPITOL

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 497) to provide for the placement of a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 497

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 through 1945 and from 1951 through 1955;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom led the Allied Powers during World War Two;

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill formed a

bond that united freedom-loving people throughout the world to defeat tyranny in Europe and Asia;

Whereas, on December 26, 1941, Sir Winston Churchill addressed a Joint Session of Congress;

Whereas during that speech, Sir Winston Churchill said, ''Sure I am that this day—now we are the masters of our fate; that the task which has been set us is not above our strength; that its pangs and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable willpower, salvation will not be denied us. In the words of the Psalmist, 'He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.' Not all the tidings will be evil.'';

Whereas December 26, 2011, is the 70th anniversary of this speech to a joint session of Congress;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill was made an Honorary Citizen of the United States by an act of Congress in 1963;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1969;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill's persistence, determination and resolve remains an inspiration to freedom-fighters all over the world;

Whereas the United Kingdom remains and will forever be an important and irreplaceable ally to the United States; and

Whereas the United States Capitol does not currently appropriately recognize the contributions of Sir Winston Churchill or that of the United Kingdom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Architect of the Capitol place an appropriate statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol at a location directed by the House Fine Arts Board in consultation with the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 497 and the placement of a statue or bust of Winston Churchill here in the United States Capitol. Winston Churchill was unique. An inspiration to millions around the world during World War II, Winston Churchill's eloquence and courage brought hope to those bound under the weight of tyranny and war.

His prose and his voice were direct and succinct. Churchill believed in calling things by their rightful names. When he secretly met with President Roosevelt in August of 1941 and signed the Atlantic Charter, Churchill made sure that it referred specifically to ''Nazi tyranny.'' Always a straight shooter, Churchill called it like it was. In retrospect, many people think that it's easy for that kind of nomenclature to be used, but at the time, it was unique. During the 1930s, when voice after voice cautioned against taking too strong a stance against Nazi Germany, Winston Churchill refused to ignore the gathering storm.

In 1982, Mr. Speaker, I was a young, second-term Member of this House. But I, like millions of Americans, was inspired that year by the actions and words of our 40th President, who traveled across the Atlantic in June of that year to address Parliament. He did so out of an appreciation of the common liberty-loving and natural rights-affirming heritage Great Britain and the United States had shared, and which he thought must be protected at all costs.

And as he should have, President Reagan quoted frequently from Churchill that day, for there was no other statesman in the 20th century who had thought, who had contemplated, who had written, and who had taught us about war, about the motives of man, and about the causes of and necessities present for civilization to survive. That is why Churchill's hatred of tyranny burned so deep, and why his warnings about oppression before and after the war were so prescient.

□ 1710

Mr. Speaker, during the long dark night of war in 1940 and 1941, before the United States was there to aid its ally, Britain suffered the horrors of attack after attack, as all others on the continent had fallen and it was left alone, separated only by the channel from utter destruction.

During Nazi bombing attacks on London, the great and majestic St. Paul's Cathedral was badly damaged. It looked like it would crumble in flames, but it did not. One of the most inspired images of the war is of St. Paul's with smoke billowing all around it, standing tall, refusing to fall, and reminding us of the things for which Britain was fighting. And like that image, Winston Churchill's example does the same, and so much more.

Almost 70 years ago to the day, Prime Minister Churchill risked his life in a U-boat attack in a secret voyage across the Atlantic. On December 26, 1941, in an address to a joint session of Congress, he said: ''I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American peoples will, for their own safety and for the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice, and in peace.'' This is a charge to which I hope this Congress will still aspire.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Winston Churchill, who was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955, is one of the foremost world figures of the 20th century. He was renowned for leading his nation through most of World War II. And in addition to his well-known oratory skills, Churchill was a talented writer and painter. And he's the only British Prime Minister to receive the Nobel Prize in literature for his numerous works, including the six-volume set ''The Second World War.''

Churchill served in the British House of Commons and as a Cabinet Minister in several posts before being selected as Prime Minister in 1940. A great ally to the United States during World War II, Churchill was the architect of the Grand Alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union. He forged a strong relationship with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the two had numerous historic meetings shaping the direction of the war and what came after it. One such meeting resulted in the creation of the Atlantic Charter, which later led to the creation of the United Nations.

As with other historical figures, Mr. Speaker, Churchill's life was fraught with complexity and contradictions. He held antediluvian views with respect to race, for example, which was long a point of contention with respect to the peoples of India and his relationship specifically with Gandhi.

During World War I, he was First Lord of the Admiralty; and it was he who set in motion the failed assault at Gallipoli in a futile effort to capture the Ottoman capital of Constantinople in hopes of securing a sea route to Russia. That failure forced him out of the government, and it was years before he would return warning of the threat Hitler presented in Germany.

That ability to define injustice and pursue actions with clarity of purpose in the absolute face of evil no matter what the consequences is one of the traits that helped him transcend his human flaws and foibles and enter the ranks of the great statesmen of the 20th century.

He stood alone in the 1930s, issuing jeremiad after jeremiad about the Nazi threat; and his peers were heedless, tragically heedless, of his warning. His years in the political wilderness then showed consummate courage and resolve. He never lost the clarity of recognition of evil, and in fact that extended into a decade later when he warned in a Missouri speech about Stalin's Iron Curtain.

In recognition of his contributions to our Nation and our international alliances, Churchill was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the United States. And it is fitting that we now recognize the 70th anniversary of his address before a joint session of Congress, mentioned by Mr. LUNGREN of California, by requesting to have a statue of him displayed here in the Capitol.

If would not be the first time Churchill's life work has been honored in this

Capitol. A bronze statuette of Churchill presented to the Joint Committee on the Library was in fact placed in Statuary Hall from 1985 to 1986, and it has since been on display in the Ways and Means Committee of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution honoring a great American ally, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the author of this resolution and distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

As they've pointed out, next week, December 26, marks the 70th anniversary of Winston Churchill's address to a joint meeting of the Congress.

Less than 3 weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill arrived in Washington to begin coordinating military strategy with the President and leaders of Congress. During his address, he warned the Congress of the difficult path that lay ahead. He spoke of the many disappointments and unpleasant surprises that were going to await us.

Regarding the Japanese aggressors, he asked, ''What kind of a people do they think we are? Is it possible that they do not realize that we shall never cease to persevere against them until they've been taught a lesson which they and the world will never forget?''

Churchill's joint address became known as the ''Masters of Our Fate'' speech. In it he said, ''Now we are the masters of our fate. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable willpower, salvation will not be denied us.''

In declaring war against the Axis powers, Churchill said, ''the United States—united as never before—have drawn the sword for freedom and cast away the scabbard.''

This resolution will honor the former British Prime Minister by placing a bust of him in the United States Capitol. The British, similarly, have a statue of Abraham Lincoln in the park across from their Parliament.

Winston Churchill was the best friend America ever had. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his legacy of persistence, determination, and resolve.

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

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Elections for the Committee on House Administration.

Mr. HARPER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 497, providing for the placement of a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said and written about Winston Churchill. Most prominently, he served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 through 1945 and again from 1951 through 1955. But he was so much more.

During the 20th century's darkest hour, Winston Churchill warned of the approaching evil, stood tall when it arrived, and inspired his citizens and ours, and liberty-loving people around the world, to fight, to persevere, and to never surrender before victory was assured.

He knew that the long road of our humanity-affirming progress could not end and was not going to end in defeat to tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, we are, in fact, one week away, as has been said, from the 70th anniversary of Churchill's address to a joint session of Congress. On December 26, 1941, with our Nation still in shock after the attack on Pearl Harbor and simultaneous defeats and setbacks across the Pacific, and more than 2 long years since the invasion of Poland, Prime Minister Churchill, as this resolution reminds us, said: ''Sure I am that this day—now we are the masters of our fate, that the task which has been set us is not above our strength, that its pains and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable willpower, salvation will not be denied us.''

Mr. Speaker, World War II was a cataclysmic conflict which engulfed the world in 6 long and bloody years and took approximately 60 million lives.

□ 1720

Whole continents were engulfed in flames. Europe as we knew it was overrun. Poland, Belgium, France, Italy, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Greece, and many others all were conquered by the Nazi inferno, until only Britain stood alone. And in those days, Churchill, his people, the heroic Royal Air Force, and the courage summoned from the depths of their character rose to meet the evil face to face.

Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill was made an Honorary Citizen of the United States by an act of Congress in 1963. He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1969. His strength, fortitude, and resolve have stood, and will forever stand, the test off time; and his life and example will be one of those guiding lights to which we always look in troublesome days, whenever they should appear.

It is more than appropriate to have a statue or bust of Sir Winston Churchill in our great Capitol, and I support H. Res. 497.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a distinguished member of the Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill, born to a British father and an American mother. Winston Churchill, to me, is the person of the 20th century that is an example of a leader that motivated the free world in its defeat of the tyrants of tyranny.

His importance to us here today is not only because he served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 when our two nations battled together to save civilization from the grips of the Nazis and the Japanese, but also because of his steadfast unwillingness to ever surrender. He still serves as a guiding light to America and to free peoples throughout the world.

In World War II, during the Battle of Britain, London endured systematic bombing by the Luftwaffe for 76 consecutive nights, which destroyed or damaged over a million London homes and killed more than 40,000 British citizens. To bolster resolve among the British people, Winston Churchill gave the following speech:

''Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous states have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all of the apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.

''We shall go on to the end; we shall fight in France; we shall fight on the seas and the oceans; we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be.

''We shall fight on the beaches; we shall fight on the landing grounds; we shall fight in the fields and in the streets; we shall fight in the hills.

''We shall never surrender.''

Mr. Speaker, history shows Britain never did surrender. And along with the United States and the rest of the Allies, they defeated tyranny and the zeal of the Nazi to enslave peoples in the East and the West.

Today our country faces many daunting problems. The world is still a very dangerous place, and there are those who would snuff out the flame of freedom. We can learn from the resolve of Winston Churchill. Our Nation will get through tough times, both home and abroad, just as the Allies did in World War II.

Americans need to be strong and courageous, not timid and weak; work together and remember, as Churchill so eloquently encouraged the British people in 1940, that some things are worth fighting for. And, Mr. Speaker, America is one of those noble ideals.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman and the Speaker and the chairman for their kindness and recognition for 2 minutes today.

Coming in from Houston, I had the privilege of being with Reservists that

visited one of my hospitals that serves military families and, of course, the soldiers and veterans. They serve them on the issue of posttraumatic stress disorder.

I say that because it was a feeling of warmth and family, first acknowledging, as I wear this yellow ribbon, of those who have come home and those who have done their duty.

I believe that the acknowledgment of Sir Winston Churchill is an appropriate action for this Congress, but really on behalf of the American people. And I read quickly this quote in brief of his words: ''Sure I am that this day, now, we are the masters of our fate; that the task which has been set us is not above our strength.''

Although this was in the context of World War II, I plead with my colleagues who are all arriving back by train, bus, airplane, and car, that this is a time that is within our strength to not, in any way, yield to the tasks and not accomplish on behalf of the American people. We are masters of our fate.

We have before us the Senate conference on the payroll tax and employment extension. Vote on it. Vote together in a bipartisan manner. Realize that there are differences, but that we have another day, as was devised by the Senate, by February, to be able to debate this issue.

The American people thought this was settled.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. People who are hungry for payroll tax relief, $1,000; people who are looking for the unemployment extension; those who are getting $1,000, those who would be beneficiaries of the 400,000 jobs, and those who will be beneficiaries of the unemployment extension that will help them pay their mortgage or help them pay their rent or food or the necessities of life, putting those monies into the economy, the American people thought we were finished, thought we had compromised, thought we had risen to our higher angels.

And so, if our soldiers and those who are returning can do their job, I'm pleading, in a bipartisan manner, let us vote for the Senate bill. Let us move this forward, and let us realize that we are the masters of our fate.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Returning to the subject at hand, we have the great portrait of General Lafayette here in the House Chamber, one of seven honorary citizens of the United States, Winston Churchill being another.

Winston Churchill was, as is evident, one of the great men of the last century, one for whom inspiration was a way of life, and one who, as the Speaker said just a few moments ago, was the best ally that the United States has ever had.

As a young boy, having been born somewhat after World War II, I remember with fascination seeing this figure on television. He seemed to remind me of every newborn baby I've ever seen. They all look like Winston Churchill without the cigar. You wondered what was it that made this man great. And you began to read history. You began to talk with your father who had served in World War II about what this man was, and you realized this was someone who, in his youth, was involved in cavalry charges, and in his oldest age, was leader of a country at the beginning of the thermonuclear world.

Talk about the span of time and the span of greatness and the ability to perceive, through all of that time, despite his mistakes, being a fallible man, perceive the greatness of the individual and the opportunity that democracy gives to individuals as no other form of government does.

□ 1730

At the time when he criticized Nazi Germany, it was not something that all then said. The late Christopher Hitchens, in an April 2002 article in ''The Atlantic,'' said this:

> But alone among his contemporaries, Churchill did not denounce the Nazi empire merely as a threat, actual or potential, to the British one. Nor did he speak of it as a depraved but possibly useful ally. He excoriated it as a wicked and nihilistic thing. That appears facile now, but was exceedingly uncommon then. In what was perhaps his best ever speech, delivered to the Commons 5 days after the Munich agreement on October 5, 1938, Churchill gave voice to the idea that even a ''peace-loving'' coexistence with Hitler had something rotten about it. ''What I find unendurable is the sense of our country falling into the power, into the orbit and influence of Nazi Germany, and of our existence becoming dependent upon their good will or pleasure.''

That was an uncommon statement at the time. That was a courageous statement at the time. That was a visionary statement at the time.

It is to honor that vision, it is to honor that ally, it is to honor that person who was dedicated to the best of Western civilization, who was one who stood with very few at a time when that civilization was threatened as never before.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be on the floor to offer this resolution to allow for, to authorize, a statue or bust of Winston Churchill here in the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 497.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2302

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 501, SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ANY FINAL MEASURE TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–335) on the resolution (H. Res. 502) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 4 of rule XVI, I move that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family medical issue.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and for the balance of the week.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1710. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 1959. An act to require a report on the designation of the Haqqani Network as a foreign terrorist organization and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 789. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the ''Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office''.

H.R. 1264. An act to designate the property between the United States Federal Courthouse and the Ed Jones Building located at 109 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the ''M.D. Anderson Plaza'' and to authorize the placement of a historical/identification marker on the grounds recognizing the achievements and philanthropy of M.D. Anderson.

H.R. 1892. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2422. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the ''Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office''.

H.R. 2845. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2867. An act to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3421. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

H.R. 3672. An act making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 94. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 278. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4327. A letter from the Acting Deputy Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Quality Control Error Tolerance Threshold [FNS-2011-0060] (RIN: 0584-AE24) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4328. A letter from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas in California [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0074] received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4329. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4330. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Resolution Plans Required (RIN: 3064-AD77) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4331. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Repeal of Regulations (RIN: 2590-AA52) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4332. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Voluntary Mergers of Federal Home Loan Banks (RIN: 2590-AA37) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4333. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report for the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act; to the Committee on the Budget.

4334. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Bidding by Affiliates in Open Seasons for Pipeline Capacity [Docket No.: RM11-15-000; Order No. 894] received December 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4335. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: MAGNASTOR System, Revision 2 [NRC-2011-0008] (RIN: 3150-AI91) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4336. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 17-11 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding Among Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and New Zealand; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4337. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, and continued by the President each year, most recently on November 9, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4338. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4339. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4340. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period ending September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4341. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery Of Art, transmitting the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4342. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4343. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a separate management report for the period April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4344. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Norton Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4345. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Proposed Method of Accounting for OID on a Pool of Credit Card Receivables [Notice 2011-99] received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4346. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of Rev. Proc. 2009-20 on Theft Loss Deductions for Fraudulent Investment Arrangements (Rev. Proc. 2011-58) received November 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3029. A bill to reduce the size of the Federal workforce through attrition, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–334). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 502. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 501) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to medicare beneficiaries; and for other purposes (Rept. 112–335). 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 Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 3727. A bill to allow for innovations and alternative technologies that meet or exceed desired energy efficiency goals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 3728. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make members of health care sharing ministries eligible to establish health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 3729. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 3730. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide notice to individuals whose sensitive personal information is involved in a data breach, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3731. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to tax bona fide residents of the District of Columbia in the same manner as bona fide residents of possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3732. A bill to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3733. A bill to reduce the interest rates on mortgages owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

H.R. 3734. A bill to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 3735. A bill to provide for enhanced penalties to combat Medicare and Medicaid fraud, a Medicare data-mining system and biometric technology pilot 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 Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself and Mr. BOSWELL):

H.R. 3736. A bill to provide $50,000,000,000 in new transportation infrastructure funding through bonding to empower States and local governments to complete significant infrastructure projects across all modes of transportation, including roads, bridges, rail and transit systems, ports, and inland waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

H. Res. 501. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding any final measure to extend the payroll tax holiday, extend Federally funded unemployment insurance benefits, or prevent decreases in reimbursement for physicians who provide care to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, House Administration, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.

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 Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 3727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—The Commerce Clause and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 3728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 3729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana:

H.R. 3730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 12, 13, and 14 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, US Constitution:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. HEINRICH:

H.R. 3734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 3735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 3736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, that grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 12: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 32: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 145: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 178: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 708: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 835: Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 860: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 890: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 905: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 959: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1054: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1063: Mr. DOYLE and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1148: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1166: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1294: Mr. KUCINICH and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1295: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1370: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1385: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1513: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1519: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1580: Mr. BOREN, Ms. BUERKLE, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 1614: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1648: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1700: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 1718: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1738: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DENT, Ms. CHU, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1744: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1815: Mr. BONNER, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MICA, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. PETRI, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. HALL, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BOEHNER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. COLE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BERG, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1842: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1897: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 1964: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 1968: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1978: Ms. MOORE and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2070: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 2077: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2104: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2139: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2159: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 2182: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2232: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 2248: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2288: Mr. FILNER and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2404: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2446: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2453: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 2492: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2528: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2569: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 2679: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2705: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2746: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 2866: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 2925: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2948: Ms. SUTTON and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2962: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 2966: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 2970: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2981: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3000: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3367: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3422: Mr. CANSECO.
H.R. 3425: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3432: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3461: Mr. AKIN, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3521: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 3542: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3578: Mr. ROKITA and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3582: Mr. REED and Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 3589: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3601: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3626: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3638: Mr. NADLER and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3643: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 3676: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 3704: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 3717: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 3720: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 85: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. HIRONO.
H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Res. 137: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H. Res. 295: Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 460: Mr. NADLER and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 489: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. HALL.
H. Res. 490: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.