

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RE-
LATING TO DEBT LIMIT IN-
CREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 98 because it is an empty gesture designed to waste time and provide a stage for political posturing.

One hundred and seventy four House Republicans voted for the Budget Control Act in August which raised the federal debt limit and allowed the country to make good on the promises it made to the American people.

Under the Budget Control Act, the debt limit increase that the President is requesting is automatically matched, dollar-for-dollar, by drastic spending cuts that target the poorest among us. Those cuts would hurt the people I represent in California's 37th District, and so I voted against it.

Despite strong opposition from both sides, the Budget Control Act was passed, with a number of useless and unfair provisions, including this disapproval resolution, which lets House Republicans who voted for it in August turn around and withdraw their support.

In this way, they can stand here today and make the same irresponsible arguments that they made last summer. Instead of working together to implement the American Jobs Act which would help create jobs and improve economic growth, they have chosen to squabble over the ability of the President of the United States to do his job.

As ridiculous as it sounds, this is the trick that House Republicans are trying to play. It is entirely symbolic, of course, because if this resolution were to become law, it would result in the first default in U.S. history. A vote for this resolution is a vote against the full faith and credit of the United States and a slap in the face to its citizens.

This kind of behavior is the main reason that Congress has lost the trust of the American people. It creates tremendous uncertainty within the business community and impedes economic growth. It also provides a terrible example to the rest of the world that should be able to look to us for guidance in times of turmoil.

I urge my colleagues to reject this empty legislation and focus on creating a responsible, long-term budget that puts people back to work.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE
NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 1022, the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act, which will allow the Department of the Interior to study the role of Buffalo Soldiers and how they defended our first national parks. This is a key step in preserving the legacy of the Army's first African American infantry and cavalry units and the contributions they made to our Nation.

Although history has often overlooked the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers, all Americans from all walks of life would benefit from learning about this often overlooked chapter in our history. The legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers dates back to post Civil War days. Although African Americans have fought with distinction in all of our country's military engagements, their future in the Army was in doubt after the Civil War. In July 1866, however, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry regiments and four regiments of infantrymen, later merging two, whose composition was made up entirely of black soldiers. The troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries developed into two of the most distinguished fighting units in the Army and who were stationed at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma in the late 1870s. While they constructed key buildings on the post that still stand today, the Buffalo Soldiers' biggest contribution was to preserve the integrity of the land-runs which are such an integral part of Oklahoma, the Sooner state's, history and identity. Their bravery and fierce fighting techniques on the battlefield inspired Native Americans to call them "Buffalo Soldiers."

The Buffalo Soldiers served the United States in the harshest environments and under the most difficult conditions, and preserving their legacy will ensure that the Buffalo Soldiers' service will be appropriately memorialized. The Buffalo Soldiers' story is ultimately about the triumph not just of African American troops over prejudice and injustice, but about the movement of our nation westward, and toward a more tolerant and courageous society.

As such, I support the effort to evaluate the feasibility of a great National Historic Trail along the Buffalo Soldiers' route from their historic military post at the San Francisco Presidio to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Identifying properties that could be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designations as National Historic Landmarks will help keep the Buffalo Soldiers' story alive and bring to light, for future generations, their story of courage while serving their country.

We must all continue to work, together and as individuals, each day to make sure that our country truly is a community of all people and recognize those that came before us to make this nation strong, prosperous and free. We

should never forget the challenges our predecessors faced in the creation and preservation of this great nation.

LT. COL. TRACY N. JOHNSON
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson (retired). A resident of Montrose Colorado, Lt. Col. Johnson recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a host of family and friends at his side. It is my honor to recognize Lt. Col. Johnson's distinguished Marine Corps career. The sacrifices he has made and the commitment he displayed during his time in uniform and since leaving the active ranks of the Marine Corps are truly deserving of special recognition.

Member of our nation's "greatest generation", Lt. Col. Johnson served his country bravely while flying combat missions in three wars. His action in combat, earned him the Distinguished Flying Crosses and Air Medals, testaments to his courage, patriotism and devotion to duty. Marines serving throughout the world today take great pride in carrying on the illustrious legacy of valor, discipline and steadfast fidelity that he helped forge.

From flying Corsairs in Korea to serving as a Presidential Helicopter pilot for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, he provided crucial air support throughout his career and set the standard for Marine aviation. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege of serving with him, and he has been an inspiration for generations of his fellow Marines.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and extend my deepest gratitude to Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson. I rise today in recognition of his dedication to his family, community, and this nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF CONGRESS-
WOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in sending a fond aloha to our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

We have all been deeply touched and inspired by GABBY's courage, spirit, and her pure love for Arizona and our Nation. Her admirers and friends in Hawaii and across the country will continue to pray for her ongoing recovery.

I hope that we in Congress will redouble our efforts to come together and work in the spirit

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