Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—10

Akin
Diaz-Balart
Flores
Jackson (IL)
Mack
Marchant
Meeks
Paul
Rangel
Ruppersberger

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1837

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 137 and 138, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 137 and "aye" on rollcall No. 138.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 112, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–423) on the resolution (H. Res. 597) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3596

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the name of Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania as a cosponsor of H.R. 3596.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained on the following votes:

On rollcall 134, the Crowley amendment, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote 135, the Eshoo amendment, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 136, the Owens amendment, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday evening on business.

On H.R. 2779, rollcall vote No. 127, I would have voted "yea"; H.R. 2682, rollcall vote No. 128, I would have voted "yea"; and rollcall vote No. 129, I would have voted "no."

□ 1840

FALLEN HEROES TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the phenomenal efforts of the Illinois Patriot Guard and Gold Star families who joined together to launch a traveling tribute to honor our State's fallen heroes. I had the opportunity to view the Illinois Patriot Guard Fallen Heroes Traveling Memorial Wall during its stop at the Kendall VFW Post Number 3873 in Naperville, Illinois, this past week.

It was moving beyond words to see the photos of the 272 brave men and women from Illinois who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. To date, this memorial wall has traveled more than 30,000 miles through at least 60 communities throughout the State of Illinois. It paints a powerful portrait of the sacrifices made by our troops.

As our 30th President, Calvin Coolidge, said, "A nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." Our fallen soldiers will be remembered forever. And thanks to the families and veterans who put this traveling memorial together, communities across our State have a very special opportunity to gather together in tribute to these heroes.

PUT NEVADA'S MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES AND SENIORS FIRST

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, Washington Republicans are showing Nevada families exactly who their priority is. Unfortunately, it's not Nevada's middle class families. This week, Republicans are reiterating their support for taxpayer giveaways for Big Oil, despite the fact that gas prices are soaring—and the oil industry made $137 billion in profits last year.

Nevadans are hurting every time they go to the pump. The Republicans' answer to higher gas prices is more government handouts for Big Oil. This is the wrong priority. But, wait, there's more. On Thursday, they'll bring up the new—but not improved—Ryan budget that once again kills Medicare by turning it over to private insurance companies. The plan is bad. Instead of improving care for Nevada's seniors, seniors would be forced to pay thousands more out of pocket for their health care.

Nevada is suffering with the highest unemployment rate and highest foreclosure rate in the Nation. Republicans, get your priorities straight. We must put Nevada's middle class families and seniors first—not Big Oil and profit-hungry insurance companies.

TAKE YOUR CRIMINAL OUTLAWS BACK

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Vietnamese citizen Binh Thai Luc was convicted of armed robbery of a Chinese restaurant in California in 1996. He received 10 years in prison. He was also ordered by an immigration judge to be deported back to Vietnam. But Vietnam has never taken back the lawfully deported criminal. U.S. law does not allow indefinite incarceration, so after an additional 180 days, Luc was released on American streets. Last weekend, Luc struck again. This time, he murdered five people in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, there should be consequences for countries like Vietnam who fail to take back their lawfully deported criminals. There are several thousand criminals ordered deported back to their native lands where their nations just don't ever get around to taking them back. So I have introduced the Deport Foreign Convicted Criminals Act to prohibit the issuance of diplomatic visas to nations who do not take back their outlaws in a timely matter.

The blood of those five murdered victims is not only the fault of Luc, but it's also on the hands of the Vietnamese Government.

And that's just the way it is.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today a number of postmasters from the United States Postal Service were in my office, and they had a very good idea about how important the U.S. Postal Service is, the jobs that it creates, and how we should find solutions.

In my own community, heavily occupied by seniors, they cried out when post offices were closed that were close to their community, where they were able to walk and secure their checks. Some of them like to come directly to handle their business. We are better than closing down post offices in rural and urban America, and we're better than not finding a solution to employ hardworking Americans in an efficient and effective manner.

I look forward to working with our postal family, those hardworking Americans all across America who have been the good Samaritans to determine whether our seniors were in need of bringing medicine to homebound patients, bringing information and helping small businesses.

We can work to solve this problem efficiently and effectively.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

The Chair understands that all time yielded by Mr. DINGELL will be yielded through Mr. LATOURETTE.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the Speaker very much, and I understand that I can't ask unanimous consent to give half to the dean of the House, but we're going to work it out, and since we're talking about the Parliamentarian, hopefully we'll get a favorable ruling from the Parliamentarian on the distribution of time. I'm going to be joined on the Democratic side in this rare burst of bipartisanship by the dean of the House, Mr. DINGELL of Michigan, and a number of Members on both sides of the aisle are going to come talk about what to some of us was kind of a shock, and that is the announced retirement of our Parliamentarian, John Sullivan.

Because I'm going to be here for the full hour along with Mr. DINGELL, I'm going to yield to Members who have other time commitments, but I want to make sure that they have the opportunity to say what it is they feel they need to express about Mr. Sullivan's service to the House.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, every person elected to the House believes that we're here to do important work on behalf of our district. Of course, the House is bigger than any one issue or any one person. Yet, there are a relatively small number of persons who are central to the functioning of this House. Too often, I'm afraid, Members get so wrapped up in what we're trying to do that maybe we take for granted the institution of the House. But it is the institution that is established in the Constitution. It's the institution that provides the continuity of government as political majorities come and go, and it's the institution that provides the legitimacy and the respect for what we do here.

I say all that to make the point that I think, in many ways, the Parliamentarian is the central figure for the institution of the House. Since 1927, there have only been four of them, and in my time here, we have been incredibly privileged to have had two outstanding public servants, Charles Johnson and John Sullivan, serve in that position.

It is with some regret, but even more with respect and gratitude, that we honor the service, but I'd say just as much the character and the intellectual integrity, of John Sullivan as he leaves the House to begin a new chapter in his life.

As one of those who has benefited from John's steady guidance while I was in the chair, I can testify to his even temper. He guides our proceedings with intellect and logic, based on the Constitution, the rules of the House, and our precedent. But at the same time, he is able to factor in the human dimension, taking into account the personality of the person in the chair as well as that of the persons at the microphone. And that means it's as much art as it is science to keep the House running smoothly.

Much of the work he does, of course, is done off the House floor, advising Members and staff as to how they can accomplish their goals within the rules and precedents of the House. I have tremendous respect, though, for John's abilities and for his professionalism. But I have even greater appreciation for his commitment to and his love for this institution, for that portion of his heart that he has given to the House for the past 25 years.

He has elevated each of us who have worked with him, but more importantly, he has elevated the institution of the House of Representatives through which government by the people's representatives is possible. He is among our best and brightest, and all of us here, and the institution, will miss him greatly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the matter of this Special Order, referring very specifically to our dear friend, the Parliamentarian, Mr. Sullivan.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DINGELL. I want to thank the Chair for the kindness that you have shown me, and I want to express my particular thanks and good wishes to my dear friend, Mr. LATOURETTE, before this matter, and now, through the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, I yield to the distinguished minority leader, my friend, Mr. HOYER, the gentleman from Maryland.

□ 1850

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan, but certainly also my friend from Ohio, both of whom have served here for a long period of time and who love this institution and know how critical the functions are of the Parliamentarian. I want to thank them both.

Mr. DINGELL has had the privilege of serving alongside all four of the men who have been the modern Parliamentarians in this House. I've had the privilege of serving with three of them.

When the Framers of the Constitution wrote article I, section 5, clause 2, they probably had little idea of the volume of precedents that would accumulate in the 224 years since the House convened and adopted its first rules.

Today, the job of the Parliamentarian is probably one of the most difficult in Washington. A thorough understanding of the rules of precedents is a prerequisite to be an accomplished Parliamentarian. John Sullivan has that. One must also, however, have the respect of every Member of this House. John Sullivan has that.

That is what John Sullivan achieved over the course of his 17 years in the Parliamentarian's Office. As our Parliamentarian for the last 8 of those years, John has sat beside the Speaker's rostrum through some of the most heated floor debates I've ever seen, indeed perhaps in which I've participated.

Throughout, he preserved the impartiality of and the high regard for his office in the eyes of both Democrats and Republicans—when Democrats were in charge and when Republicans were in charge—and he demonstrated his keen and incisive command of precedent issuing his rulings.

Hearing of John's decision to retire, I was among the many Members who felt that they were losing a respected colleague and friend. Because after his tenure here, John Sullivan has left his mark on the House no less than any of us who were elected to serve here by our constituents. He, no less than ourselves, has served the American people well.

As we wish him the best in retirement, we also welcome as our new Parliamentarian a man who is eminently qualified to succeed him in office. Tom Wickham has been at John's side throughout his tenure in the Parliamentarian's Office, and I know John is leaving us in very capable hands.

Mr. Speaker, I join you and my colleagues and everyone else who has come to the floor this evening celebrating John's service to this House and to our Nation.