

Bad policies have forced more Americans to grow dependent on government. The President wants to, in his own words, remake America. Remake it into what? A Nation where the government is running roughshod over our lives and our liberty? A country where no one is allowed to succeed unless the government gives permission? No thanks. I thought we threw that idea away when we left the regime of King George III.

America doesn't need to be remade into a Third World country totally oppressed by a government that wants America to be another European nanny state where special favoritism is given to government's special friends.

We need to return to what our country was founded on: the pursuit of opportunity or, as Jefferson said it, the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The American Dream—a dream that can come true with individualism and hard work and without a government that punishes ambition, creativity, and success while rewarding failure—all in the name of fairness.

The politics of favoritism, under the guise of "fairness," is not the America we need. Mr. Speaker, the America I know doesn't need to be remade into the politics of favoritism.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIS EDWARDS

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

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a friend and a remarkable individual from Los Angeles, Willis Edwards.

For the past 40 years, Mr. Edwards tirelessly advocated for civil and political rights and worked to ensure that positive images of African Americans were seen by the American public.

Throughout his life, Willis Edwards was known for his strength of conviction and passion for the promotion of the African American community. After working for the Robert Kennedy Presidential campaign in college and earning a Bronze Star in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, Edwards helped to elect the first African American mayor of Los Angeles, Tom Bradley, and served as the youngest-ever city commissioner on his Social Services Commission.

Mr. Edwards continued his career of service as the director of black student services at the University of Southern California, where he helped future generations of students discover their passion.

In 1982, Mr. Edwards was elected president of the Beverly Hills-Hollywood branch of the NAACP. Under his leadership, the branch fought to improve the image and gain more jobs for African Americans in front of and behind the scenes in Hollywood. As president in 1986, he helped to nationally

televisé the NAACP Image Awards, which continues today as a highly regarded entertainment event.

Mr. Edwards never shied away from controversial subjects or issues. After his diagnosis with AIDS, he used his position on the national board of the NAACP to publicly discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS in the African American community, and he organized the NAACP's participation in World AIDS Day. Despite his health challenges, Mr. Edwards continued to support his friends and communities.

Until Rosa Parks's death in 2002, Mr. Edwards was a friend and confidant of the civil rights legend. He helped to promote her legacy by escorting her to the 1998 Oscar ceremony and worked alongside former Congresswoman Julia Carson for Parks to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Upon her death, Edwards arranged for her to lie in state here in the Capitol rotunda.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have called Willis Edwards a friend and a mentor. He has left an indelible mark on Los Angeles, and his dedication to California and national politics will never be forgotten. It is a great honor to recognize his life here on the floor today. His spirit and vision will truly be missed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this people's House return, grant them the generosity to serve You as You deserve; to give of their industry and not count the cost; to fight for their convictions and not heed the political wounds; to toil and not seek for rest; to labor and not ask for reward except for knowing that, in being their best selves, they do Your will.

And, dear God, on this day, we ask Your blessing upon the family of Tim Harroun. Grant them peace and consolation as they mourn the loss of their mother.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

REGULATORY REFORM

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

Ms. FOXX. The President's policies have failed and are making the economy worse.

Since President Obama took office, we've seen a 52 percent increase in completed regulations deemed "economically significant," which means they cost the economy at least \$100 million a year. We can't create a fair system for job creators when the government keeps changing the rules. We can't help the job seeker by punishing the job creator with more government red tape.

How can someone who believes that small business owners didn't even build their own businesses understand the effects of red tape? He can't.

That is why House Republicans passed the Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act—a combination of pro-growth bills aimed at cutting red tape to make it easier for small businesses to create more jobs. In order to grow more jobs for the American people, we need to shrink the amount of red tape coming from Washington.

TAX RATES

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, in exactly 5-months' time, the tax rates for every tax filer in this country will go up in the event of the so-called "fiscal cliff," which most mainstream economists believe would push our country back into a double-dip recession.

There is hope, however.

Last week, the U.S. Senate passed a measure which protects the incomes of every tax filer up to \$250,000 and allows rates for incomes above that point to

return to the Clinton-era rates. This is a plan which will protect 98 percent of the tax filers in this country from any tax increase. It will help balance the budget and will give confidence to the financial markets, which are terrified of the inability of this town to get its business done.

We should act on the Senate's plan. The House Republican leadership has a choice: let's compromise; let's get something done; let's help balance the economy—or let's push this country into brinksmanship, which for the last year and a half has been the trademark of the 112th Congress.

We can do better as the House of Representatives. Let's pass the Senate measure. Let's provide some confidence for the American people and for the U.S. economy to grow.

THREATENING CONGRESS DOES NOT SOLVE THE ISSUE OF SEQUESTRATION

(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, in a recent opinion piece submitted to Politico, Jeffrey Zients, the Acting Director for the Office of Management and Budget, wrote:

As President Barack Obama has said many times, the sequester wasn't meant to be implemented. It was designed to cut so deep that just threatening them would force Congress to meet and agree on a big, balanced package of deficit reduction.

If the President actually believed the Budget Control Act would destroy jobs and threaten our national security, why did he sign the legislation into law? Additionally, if he believed the proposed cuts would frighten Members of Congress, why has he remained silent on this issue?

House Republicans have acted and passed bipartisan legislation several times replacing the sequester with responsible reforms as well as calling for more government transparency to stop the destruction of 200,000 jobs in Virginia alone.

I urge the President to support this bill in order to promote peace through strength.

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

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIETBAO DAILY NEWS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the achievements of VietBao Daily News. They are celebrating their 20th anniversary in the Vietnamese American community. For 20 years, VietBao Daily News has served its readers with comprehensive

news, current affairs, as well as information from the broader community and from Vietnam.

VietBao Daily News is also a venue for the Vietnamese people to preserve the Vietnamese language and cultural values through the Writing on America Award initiative. This is a writing competition that they hold every year that allows the Vietnamese American community to write short stories about their experiences, whether their experiences are those of coming over from Vietnam or of their experiences here. They judge it. They have winners. Then they make a compilation of these written stories. It's for the archives. It's for the future. It's for their community to understand where they come from. It's also for the broader American community to understand.

So I would like to congratulate all of the winners and the participants of the 2012 Writing on America and Teen Writing awards for submitting so many incredible stories, some of which I have had the opportunity to read. Again, congratulations to your staff and for your dedication towards the community on this 20th anniversary.

PROVIDING A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION FOR MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT RATES

(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, as a physician and now as a legislator, I, frankly, do not understand the way our government continues to treat those who care for America's patients.

Earlier this month, I introduced legislation, H.R. 6142, to provide a 1-year extension for Medicare physician payment rates. This allows patients to continue to have access to their physicians in the next year.

Look, this is no mystery. We all know the last patch is going to expire on December 31. We all know that before December 31 of this year that somehow we'll cobble together and provide another patch. Why not do that now? Why make them wait until the deadline? They can't plan. They can't grow their practices. They can't expand because they don't know what their government is going to do to them.

Further compounding the problem this year is the specter of sequestration that occurs on January 1. No matter how you slice it, it's another 2 percent cut on top of the 27 to 29 percent cut they are already going to get under the SGR.

Let's do the right thing. We could pass this bill under suspension this afternoon. We could provide our Nation's physicians the stability and the certainty that they need to continue to see the patients we've asked them to serve.

□ 1410

SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL MANTA RAY CONCERT BAND

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, here's a story to make us all cheer: 46 high school musicians from America's smallest insular area raise a quarter of a million dollars to go to London and perform during the Olympics where they win a silver medal.

This is the story of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, who played their hearts out at the London Celebration Music Festival this week in Central Hall Westminster. We are all cheering in the Northern Mariana Islands because the Manta Rays represent us all.

We're the only U.S. insular area that did not send athletes to London. We sent our student musicians, and they came away with silver. It took bake sales, rummage sales, garage sales, a bowling tournament, tree plantings, car washes, a radio telethon, lunches, and raffles. It took business, government, civic organizations, and individual donors all chipping in because these kids dared us to dream.

Ten years ago, there was no high school band in our islands. Most families could not afford to buy an instrument. Today, through the faith, effort, and determination of the students, we're all inspired, confirming the belief that there is no better investment than in our children.

Congratulations, Manta Rays.

RUSSIA AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, August 22 is a very important date.

The reason I say that is that August 22 is the date that Russia will become a member of the World Trade Organization. It's a done deal. Both Houses of the Russian Parliament have passed it, and it's been agreed to.

I point to this day because there are many who believe that as we look at a vote on permanent normal trade relations with Russia that will be on the horizon—we're not going to be able to do it this week; I hope we will do it shortly after we come back in September—there are some who believe that we are playing a role in getting Russia into the World Trade Organization. That is not the case.

All we're saying, Mr. Speaker, is that since Russia is already going to be a member as of August 22 of the World Trade Organization, we want to make sure that U.S. workers and U.S. businesses will have the opportunity to have access to the 140 million consumers in Russia.