

the Sixth Congressional District, know that I will always be grateful for the privilege you have given me to serve in this place, and I will always cherish my days in the people's House.

May God bless the United States House of Representatives and all who serve her now and all who will ever serve on this floor. And may God bless the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

MIKE PENCE STAFF ROSTER: 2001–2012

Acornley, Mark—Part-Time Admin Assistant: October 6, 2011–2012

Adams, Susan—Staff Assistant: October 6, 2003–February 29, 2004

Ahearn, Mark—Legislative Director: January 22, 2002–April 2, 2003

Alexander, Jerry—Constituent Services Representative & Director of Community Outreach: July 9, 2001–May 15, 2007

Arnold, Ron—Director of Administration & Deputy Chief of Staff: January 3, 2001–October 31, 2009

Atterholt, Kathleen—Caseworker: January 3, 2001–January 2, 2010

Bauer, Zachary—Staff Assistant & Legislative Correspondent: January 4, 2010–2012

Bennett, Kim—Deputy District Director: January 3, 2001–2012

Berry, Debra—District Representative: August 6, 2001–2012

Breeding, Mary—Paid Intern & Staff Assistant: April 1, 2001–January 18, 2002

Brinkman, Muffet—Staff Assistant: January 8, 2001–March 31, 2001

Brown, Skip—Communications Assistant: January 2, 2004–November 16, 2005

Brown, Will—Staff Assistant & Legislative Correspondent: January 3, 2009–January 2, 2011

Castor, Amy—Staff Assistant: May 16, 2004–March 12, 2006

Collins, Larry Ken—Communications Director: January 3, 2001–March 31, 2001

Craig, Lindsey—Legislative Assistant: January 2, 2009–April 2012

Crouch, Daniel—Legislative Assistant & Senior Legislative Assistant: January 16, 2007–August 7, 2009

Czarniecki, Cary (Lani)—District Director: January 3, 2001–2012

Dilly, Jonathan—Paid Intern: May 21, 2001–August 8, 2001

Evans, Ben—Constituent Services Representative: January 4, 2010–2012

Fisher, Ryan—Legislative Assistant & Legislative Director: January 3, 2001–January 2, 2007

Fortin, Kristin—Paid Intern: May 7, 2001–July 13, 2001

Gaskill, Kily Smith—Executive Assistant: January 13, 2009–2012

Gibbs, LeAnne Holdman—Staff Assistant, Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant & Legislative Director: February 24, 2004–October 21, 2008

Hawkins, Nicole—Community Development Assistant: January 23, 2006–April 6, 2007

Howe, Jeff—Field Representative: January 3, 2003–February 28, 2010

Hughes, Kaitlynn—Press Assistant, Press Secretary: January 2, 2011–2012

Jarmula, Ryan—Staff Assistant, Legislative Assistant and Senior Legislative Assistant: January 22, 2008–2012

Karchner, Derek—Staff Assistant & Press Assistant: January 22, 2002–March 6, 2003

Keller, Aaron—Paid Intern: June 12, 2001–July 31, 2001

Kennedy, Elizabeth—Staff Assistant: February 23, 2004–April 30, 2005

Kiefer, Chris—Legislative Assistant & Senior Legislative Assistant: January 3, 2001–April 30, 2005

Kincaid, Andrew—Legislative Assistant: January 3, 2001–December 31, 2001

Lahr, Matt—Press Assistant: February 1, 2006–January 2, 2007; Press Secretary: May 10, 2010–January 9, 2011

Lavoie, Matt—Staff Assistant: March 13, 2006–April 15, 2007

Likens, Darlene—Caseworker: January 3, 2001–May 31, 2002

Lloyd, Matthew—Communications Director: January 29, 2003–December 31, 2008; Communications Director for GOP Conference: January 1, 2009–December 31, 2010; Communications Director: January 1, 2011–2012

McCarthy, Greg—Staff Director of Foreign Affairs, Middle East and South Asia Subcommittee while Rep. Pence served as Ranking Member: January 1, 2007–January 2, 2009

Meeker, Autumn—Staff Assistant: June 1, 2010–2012

Milazzo, Nathaniel—Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Assistant & Legislative Director: April 25, 2005–January 2, 2011

Miller, Craig—Legislative Assistant: January 3, 2004–June 4, 2005

Miller, Molly Jarmu—Communications Assistant & Legislative Assistant: January 1, 2002–July 28, 2003

Miner, Ryan—Paid Intern: June 1, 2007–July 11, 2007

Myers, Janille—Executive Assistant: January 12, 2009–2012

Neale, Brian—Legislative Assistant & Legislative Director: June 17, 2009–2012

Pardieck, Karrie—Casework Director: January 3, 2001–2012

Pavlik, Jennifer Marsh—Executive Assistant & Staff Director: January 6, 2001–2012

Perdew, Abby—Administrative Assistant & Administrative Director: January 27, 2009–October 31, 2011

Phipps, Andrew—Director of Community Relations: January 3, 2001–October 31, 2001

Piegrass, Stephen—Communications Director: April 23, 2001–August 15, 2002

Pitcock, Joshua—Legislative Assistant, Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel: May 11, 2005–Dec 31, 2008; Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel for GOP Conference: January 1, 2009–June 30, 2011; Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel: January 1, 2011–July 31, 2012; Chief of Staff—August 1, 2012–2012

Radtke, Schrade (Trip)—Legislative Director: March 22, 2003–December 30, 2003

Reger, Ryan—Field Representative: January 3, 2001–December 31, 2007

Shettle, John—Part-Time Caseworker: January 3, 2001–2012

Siktberg, Alan—Staff Assistant/Field Representative: February 1, 2005–February 14, 2008

Slatter, Ian—Legislative Assistant & Communications Director: January 1, 2002–January 31, 2003

Smith, William A.—Chief of Staff: January 3, 2001–July 31, 2012; Senior Advisor: August 1, 2012–2012

Son, Daniel—Communications Assistant & Press Secretary: January 26, 2008–May 31, 2010

Sulc, Kevin—Constituent Services Representative: July 9, 2001–2012

Tronovitch, Ryan—Staff Assistant: April 27, 2007–December 31, 2007

Wilson, Mikah—Constituent Services Representative/Caseworker/Administrator: January 3, 2003–October 31, 2009

Wilson, Duncan—February 23, 2005–February 28, 2005

Wilson, William Patrick—Legislative Director: January 2, 2001–December 31, 2001

CHAIRMAN MIKE PENCE, REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE STAFF ROSTER: 2005–2006

Executive Director—Sheila Cole

Deputy Director—Paul Teller

Policy Director—Russ Vought

Senior Policy Analyst—Derek Baker

Policy Analyst—Joelle Cannon

Research Assistant—Marcus Kelley  
Communications Director—Matt Lloyd  
CHAIRMAN MIKE PENCE, HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE STAFF ROSTER: 2009–2010

Name	Title	Tenure
Marc Short	Chief of Staff	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Josh Pitcock	Deputy Chief of Staff	Jan. 2009–Feb. 2010
	Deputy Chief of Staff/General Counsel	Mar. 2010–Dec. 2010
Emily Seidel	Director of Operations/Assistant to the Chief of Staff	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Katie Strand	Director of Member Services and Events	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Melanie Looney	Coalitions Director/General Counsel	Jan. 2009–Feb. 2010
Russ Vought	Policy Director	Jan. 2009–Aug. 2010
Daris Meeks	Policy Advisor and Legislative Counsel	June 2009–Aug. 2010
Adam Hepburn	Policy Director	Aug. 2010–Dec. 2010
Chris Jacobs	Policy Advisor	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Andy Koenig	Policy Advisor	Jan. 2009–Jan. 2010
Jonathan Hier	Policy Advisor	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
John Gray	Policy Advisor	July 2010–Dec. 2010
Sarah Makin	Policy Advisor	Apr. 2010–Dec. 2010
	Policy Advisor/Coalitions Liaison	Mar. 2010–Dec. 2010
Brian McManus	Policy Advisor/Coalitions Liaison	Apr. 2010–Dec. 2010
Lisa Tanner	Policy Advisor	June 2009–Aug. 2009
Matt Lloyd	Communications Director	Jan. 2009–Mar. 2010
Mary Vought	Press Secretary	Feb. 2009–Dec. 2010
Andeliz Castillo	Deputy Press Secretary and Director of Specialty Media	Feb. 2009–Dec. 2010
Courtney Kolb	Media Coordinator	Jan. 2009–July 2010
	Deputy Press Secretary	July 2010–Dec. 2010
Rachel Semmel	Press Assistant	Jan. 2009–July 2010
	Radio/TV Booker	July 2010–Dec. 2010
Brian Newell	Deputy Press Secretary/Speechwriter	Jan. 2009–Mar. 2010
Doug Sachtleben	Deputy Press Secretary/Speechwriter	Apr. 2010–Dec. 2010
Katie Hughes	Press Assistant	June 2010–Dec. 2010
Emily Pickett	Press Assistant	June 2010–Dec. 2010
Ben Howard	Staff Assistant	Feb. 2009–Dec. 2010
Scott Neale	Staff Assistant	Jan. 2009–May 2010
Ja'Ron Smith	Staff Assistant	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Ryan Howell	Visual Media	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Bryant Avondoglio	Visual Media	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
David Holley	Visual Media	Jan. 2009–Dec. 2010
Rebecca Propp	Visual Media	June 2009–Dec. 2010
Ericka Anderson	Visual Media (blogger)	Mar. 2009–Dec. 2010

AMERICA'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I am absolutely delighted to stand and say "thank you" to Mr. FLAKE—Senator Flake, it will be—and to Mr. PENCE. It will be Governor Pence. We are delighted that they have served here. And I will have to say that they have been happy warriors as we have many times stood on this floor and have fought against earmarks, have fought against increased spending.

And I dare say, Mr. Speaker, as Mr. FLAKE crosses the rotunda and into the other Chamber, I don't think the Senate will ever go back to earmarks, because I know someone who can filibuster an earmark with the best of them. That talent is coming to that other Chamber.

Indeed, the happy warrior who will be the Governor of Indiana, my concern there, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, is I know some of the reforms that he has in mind for that great State, and I don't want them to become too competitive with my home State of Tennessee. I'm going to be keeping a very close eye on the good work that he is

doing there for the people of Indiana and look forward to what he is going to do.

It is so very true, and we talk about it a lot, but I think we appreciate it here in this Chamber. Our States are the laboratories of democracy in this great Nation. That is where great ideas come from. They bubble up and they get tested. We know that Indiana is going to have quite a few new ideas that they'll be trying, so we're looking forward to seeing what he will do there.

I want to yield at this time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) who has worked so closely with these two gentlemen as we have fought expanded government, fought higher taxes, fought uncontrollable and out-of-control spending. I yield to the gentleman for his comments this evening.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentlelady for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, an hour ago, I had no idea that I would be on the House floor to witness the farewell speeches of two giants who have served in this institution. In many ways, Mr. Speaker, I approach my comments tonight with trepidation because my voice is most inadequate and unprepared for this moment.

The term "happy warrior" was used. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), I have never known him not to have a smile on his face. Mr. Speaker, if there was one individual who summed up the phrase that one man in the right makes a majority, it's the gentleman from Arizona, JEFF FLAKE.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt whatsoever that the other body will never be the same when the gentleman from Arizona steps into that other Chamber—because of his leadership. Many come here and serve. They speak with eloquence. They represent their values. They represent their constituents. But, Mr. Speaker, not all that many leave this institution and can look themselves in the mirror and know they have made a difference. The gentleman from Arizona has made a difference in the people's House and how the people's money has been spent.

Mr. Speaker, it's a challenging time in our Nation's history. There's much turmoil. I know many question Madison's genius—perhaps mad genius—in providing for this thing called divided government. It's sloppy; it's messy; it gets a little noisy; it's not always efficient; but it has produced the greatest, freest, most prosperous Republic in the history of mankind. That divided government is played out in this institution by noble men and women who mean well. Again, I find my voice most inadequate to honor the work of these two great men.

I look at the words above you, Mr. Speaker, "In God we trust." Few have lived that and had it emblazoned on their heart as the gentleman from Indiana, MIKE PENCE.

□ 2130

He knows the words of Jefferson: Can the liberties of a Nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm foundation, and that is a conviction in the hearts of man that these liberties are gifts of God?

I know this man, this great man from the Heartland. I know Karen, Michael, Charlotte and Audrey. What a strong family. I want to thank them for their sacrifice. We, Mr. Speaker, as you know, we serve our country, but we don't sacrifice. But our families do. What a great sacrifice of the Pence family of Indiana to let this great man come and serve with distinction for these years.

MIKE PENCE has brought the values of the Heartland to this institution and taught us all well. He has led by example, and he's done something that, frankly, few Members have done, and that is he has inspired us to greatness.

Again, Mr. Speaker, many serve here as public servants, but some go beyond being a public servant and they embody everything that was good and great about the Founders. We have a special word for those people, it's called "patriot." MIKE PENCE, the gentleman from Indiana, is a patriot. His moral compass always points true north. His humor and compassion have lifted his colleagues in this Chamber in tough and challenging moments.

He embodies that definition of character that he always does what is right even when no one is watching. And because he understands better than most what the true genius of America is, every day he gets up, he praises his Lord, he thanks Him for his family, and he dreams bold dreams because, Mr. Speaker, he is an American.

Mr. Speaker, I've been granted many blessings in life, many blessings in life, few that I will cherish as much as the blessing of fighting for freedom on the floor of the United States House of Representatives at the side of MIKE PENCE. He has taught me that verse in Proverbs that "iron sharpens iron." Mr. Speaker, he has always sharpened my iron. He has taught me about Proverbs 18:24: And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. MIKE PENCE is my friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

I've often thought, What is the highest praise that I can pay to such a friend? Back in Dallas, Texas, I've got a son, Travis; he's 9. Since it's a school night, he, hopefully, is not playing Angry Birds or Plants Versus Zombie or some other electronic game. He and his sister are the apple of my eye and my wife's eye. And I think, Mr. Speaker, what kind of life might my son have? How do I want to raise my son? What do I want to teach him? Who do I want him to emulate? Mr. Speaker, I've said this about very few people I have met in life, but Mr. Speaker, I could never be more proud than if my son, Travis JEB HENSARLING, grew up to be like MIKE PENCE, the Governor-elect of Indiana, my friend, our patriot.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for those kind remarks.

I know that we all share in expressing how much we have enjoyed having these gentlemen with us. We also want to recognize someone. I want to yield to the gentleman from Florida, who has been with us for all too short a period of time. Mr. WEST is here for his last day on this floor. I know that each of us joins in saying thank you to him.

He came to this floor and, Mr. Speaker, he does not back down from the fight. I think that he runs toward that fight when it is a fight for freedom, when it is a fight for getting this government under control and returning us to our constitutional principles, because he is a constitutional conservative.

As we have, this week, stood on this floor and have discussed the issues that are in front of us, the issues that the media have termed the "fiscal cliff," you know, many of us have talked about this, that this day was coming. Indeed, the Republicans in the House have been working on this issue for months. My goodness, we sent bills starting in May over to the Senate. They've been sitting on HARRY REID's desk, some of them—the last one went over September 19—and they have chosen not to take up those bills.

It's important to note that in that lesson of looking at what the Senate chose not to do and what the leader of the Senate chose not to do, we have people in the House that chose to take an action that would prohibit higher taxes on all Americans. It would prohibit the sequestration from taking place on our military, and it would enable us to move toward a pathway of fiscal responsibility and economic growth and renaissance in this Nation.

So at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST).

Mr. WEST. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for allowing me to participate this evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to have this time. But I want to also pay homage to two great men that are going to be departing this House of Representatives.

I think back to 5 years ago, in December of 2007. I had just gotten back from 2½ years of serving in Afghanistan, and I decided that I was going to throw my hat into the ring to run for Congress in 2008. I understood what it meant to be a constitutional conservative. I understood what it meant when you talked about limited government, when you talked about fiscal responsibility, individual sovereignty; when you talked about a free marketplace of ideas, where the American people can prosper, and also a strong national defense. But of course the critical thing was I could go back and I could read Locke and I could read Montesquieu. I could read Hobbes or Rousseau. I could read all of the writings of our Founding Fathers. But I wanted to look at two individuals or several individuals that I could see as role models.

So when you get back and you start to look at C-SPAN and say, Who can I model myself after, I can tell you that the two men that are going to depart this House of Representatives—one to go be Senator-elect from Arizona, another going to be Governor-elect from Indiana—were two individuals that I studied.

When I wanted to know about fiscal responsibility, I heard about this gentleman, Representative JEFF FLAKE from Arizona, who was Mr. Earmark. I, first of all, had to understand, okay, being in the military, what does an earmark mean? Well, I come to understand what it meant, and I come to understand how horrible it is when you look at what is happening with our debt and our deficit and our fiscal irresponsibility.

I came to understand what it meant to have principles and pragmatism and having the courage to stand upon your convictions and continue to push and continue to try to make a difference, even if it seems that you may stand alone. Because that's one of the mottos from a great unit in the 101st Airborne Division, Currahee. We know that from the Band of Brothers what that means, "stands alone."

If there is one person that has always stood alone and will continue to do so for the principles that are right, fiscal responsible principles that are right, it's Senator-elect JEFF FLAKE. Being able to study him and see him and not so much worrying about having a bunch of conversations, but learning by example, helped me to have 2 great years here in the people's House, the people's House where for 22 years in uniform I served to protect, and now I got the opportunity to walk in these great Halls with a great man, who I know will continue to go on to the Senate, where they truly do need some help with fiscal responsibility.

I know that when we look across, just the same as that unit in December of 1944, when they were surrounded, they sent back one simple response, that they were not going to surrender. I think we all know what that one-word response is.

□ 2140

If I could think of one person that will stand on the Senate floor and give that same response, it will be Senator-elect, JEFF FLAKE.

Now, when I think about the other gentleman, the Governor-elect of Indiana, there was a person that contacted me, and if you talked to him, he will say I was supporting ALLEN WEST before it became cool to support ALLEN WEST, and that is absolutely 100 percent right. Because MIKE PENCE understood that it's not about the empty promises of outreach to a community, it's about finding those individuals that really and truthfully do believe in constitutional, conservative principles and supporting them to get them to a position where they can have a voice and they can, in turn, be examples to

our black communities. That's what MIKE PENCE did for me in 2008. He kept encouraging me. And even though we fell short, on that next day, he was the first person to call and say:

I know what type of man you are, and I know what type of fighter you are, and I know you're going to do it again.

Therefore, I ended up being here in 2010. I had the opportunity to be taught, to be coached and to be mentored by a great man, a great constitutional conservative, a man there that will go make a difference for a State, and I think that one day he will make a difference for our great Nation.

So as once upon a time a general said, as he stood there, that old soldiers never die, they just fade away, I'm not going to fade away, because these two men have encouraged me to do something better and do something different, to take off a camouflage uniform and put on a suit and tie but continue to fight for the principles and values that make this country great and that make this country exceptional. I think that's what we see happening right now.

I am so encouraged that we have the right people here in the House, we will have the right people in the Senate and we will have the right people down in our States to make a difference to secure a better future for all of our children and our grandchildren so we do not saddle them with the debt that we're currently looking at, we do not saddle them with the out-of-control spending, and we do not leave them with an insecure America and an unstable world.

Those men that are going to depart here are going to be part of that transformation, that restoration, that reclaiming of a sense of American pride and exceptionalism that when we look at those words up there, "in God we trust," we will truly inculcate that back into who we are as a people.

So as we go forth, we talk about this thing called the fiscal cliff, I know that these men understood what the right type of tax policies are that create economic growth. We are not about wealth redistribution. We are about wealth expansion. We are about that American Dream that can take an inner city kid from Atlanta, Georgia, and allow him to be standing here today speaking to the American people before incredible men that will go and do more incredible things for this great Nation.

I believe that we are standing on the verge of a new dawn for America. But all we have to do is go back and recommit to those principles and value that our Founding Fathers accepted, that our Founding Fathers wrote in the Declaration, that they improved and perfected through the Constitution, and now they're looking at us in this generation to be the ones that carry it on. 236 years. And I believe that we will be around for another 236 years.

The test for us right now is do we believe that America is about a bigger

government? Or do we believe that America is about an indomitable, entrepreneurial spirit? And if we believe the latter instead of the former, then we will have those right tax policies, we will have the right regulatory policies, and we will have the right monetary policies so that we are not printing more money and devaluing our dollar so that we see commodity prices going up.

Will we, once again, have our small businesses grow, which is a reflection of our entrepreneurial spirit? But, most importantly, will we respect the individual, their sovereignty, their rights, and their freedoms, and make sure that we have the strongest, most powerful military that will cause people to say, we will not challenge you, because they know that what we stand for, this that we will defend, is something that we truly do believe in.

So as this may be my last time speaking here on this House floor, I can tell you that the principles and values that we stand for as constitutional conservatives, you don't have to be in the House of Representatives to continue that fight, because it's a fight worth doing, but it's a fight worth doing because I've had some great men and great women to be examples for me as I go forward.

There are many men and women that are standing on freedom's ramparts, our watchmen on the walls, that are trusting and depending on us right now to make sure that their service, their sacrifice, and their commitment shall not be in vain.

So I thank you all. I thank you for your coaching and your mentoring. I thank you for the example that you set. I thank you for allowing me to be here to speak on this night.

May God bless America, and may God keep us all forevermore.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. We thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding back, and we thank him so much for his service to this House.

Mr. Speaker, as we close for the Christmas season, I do want to make just a few comments about what has transpired today. And I think it is so noteworthy that those Members who are departing have stood on this floor tonight and have talked about what it means to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, and how grateful we are that they have chosen that service. And we each have shared a commitment to make certain that we are committed to pushing—pushing—the Federal Government to get its fiscal house in order.

Indeed, Mr. HENSARLING many times has said that that is our primary goal as conservatives because we know that the greatest threat to our Nation's security is our nation's debt. Many of us talk about Admiral Mullen's comments on July 6, 2010, when he said that the greatest threat to our Nation's security is our Nation's debt.

This week, as we have looked at the so-called fiscal cliff, as we have looked

at the expiration of the tax cuts, as we have worked through the growing and just boiling and rolling debt that is sweeping over this government, as we have watched this deficit climb higher every year, we have sought to find a solution to this.

As I mentioned earlier in our remarks, we have stood in this House, and going back to May 10, we passed reconciliation August 1, we passed an extension of all the 2001, 2003 tax reductions—they're called the Bush tax cuts. We passed a sequester bill on the 2nd, and on September 19, we passed a pathway to tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, what is so significant about that is that those pieces of legislation left here, some of them with a bipartisan vote, all with a strong vote from this body, and they traveled across to the Senate. And from May to September, they found their place on HARRY REID's desk. What is so sad about this is that HARRY REID made his choice. The Senate made their choice. And their choice was to not take up those pieces of legislation.

This crisis that we have had, our so-called crisis, the fiscal cliff crisis and Taxmageddon, all of this is a crisis of their making because it is a crisis of inaction. But, Mr. Speaker, many times, that is what happens here. It is inaction, what does not get done, that causes the situation where there is a rush to the last minute.

We have had the American people watching closely, and we have had the comments from the President, the comments from different ones in the Cabinet, and the comments from the Senate. But I remind my colleagues that we took our actions here in the body, we sent that legislation, and we did it because we understand that \$16 trillion worth of debt and annual deficits of \$1 trillion are far too much for our children and grandchildren.

□ 2150

The speakers tonight who have joined me on this floor have talked about how we have hopes and dreams for our children, for our grandchildren, for the futures of our families. You know what? If you're facing \$16 trillion, \$20 trillion, \$25 trillion worth of debt as a nation, it is very difficult to see those hopes and dreams come true.

My concern as I look at my grandchildren is that the decisions—maybe the selfishness even—of people in Washington who want to tax too much and want to spend too much, who are taxing and spending not their money, but my children and grandchildren's money, children of the next generation, leaders maybe even a generation or more away, they are spending their money, because at this point we are borrowing 46 cents of every dollar we spend. It's not sustainable.

That is why we have very thoughtfully, over the last several months, approached this issue, and it's why this week we have worked with our leadership to find a solution to this, to look

at different angles. And the decision came that the best decision for this, the best way to approach it, the best way to make certain we address this is to stand firm on the actions that the House has taken and for the Senate to take up the legislation that they've had the opportunity to take up since September 19. They could take up any bill and amend it. They could vote on it. They could send it back to us. They could go to conference.

You see, as we talk about our children and their future and as we talk about this amount of debt, what we do not want to do is to cap our children's future and trade to the people that hold our debt. If we're not careful, that's exactly what is going to happen.

As we have gone through this process this week, as my colleagues have all watched it and said exactly what has happened, what are the decisions, what are the consequences of the decisions we have made, are we going to resolve it, I do believe that you are going to see a resolution to this. It will happen because the American people are saying to us and they're saying to the President, It is time to get this spending under control. Our children deserve better of us. They have the right to live free lives, to dream big dreams, and to make those dreams come true.

I do want to say a "thank you" to our leadership. I think the way that Speaker BOEHNER has handled these issues this week, the way he has worked with the Members in this body to show respect to them, to show respect for their opinions and respect for their constituents, I think that that has been a true sign of leadership that was willing to listen and then willing to move the way the body wanted to move.

And the decision was made by the body not to move forward on the Plan B. But I think in making that decision, what you will see is our leadership moving forward more committed and with individuals even more prepared to get to work and to get this solved and to do what the American people are expecting us to do, which is to get this spending under control. They have sent the message loud and clear: Washington does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem. It has an out-of-control spending problem and an insatiable appetite for the taxpayers' money.

As we have worked through this week, as we've talked to our constituents—and so many of us in this body have done telephone town halls and we have been on the phone and we have answered emails. And we know that there is no limit to how much money, how much of other people's money government will try to spend. There's no limit to how much of the taxpayers' money. So the American people have sent the message to us and we all have sent it to our leadership, and they have listened and they have responded.

The time to get the spending under control is now. The time to stop kick-

ing the can down the road is now. And we will head away for Christmas and return, I think, with a strength and a resolve and a courage to address the fiscal issues of this Nation. The House, where the spending bills and appropriation process begins, we will tackle this with strength, with resolve, with courage to get the job done so that, just as my colleagues have said here tonight, so that future generations have a brighter future and so that we will continue to stand for the cause of freedom.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. RIVERA (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

#### 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. 2318. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to pay a reward to combat transnational organized crime and for information concerning foreign nationals wanted by international criminal tribunals, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 3202. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; in addition to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the Budget 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.

S. 3630. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office", to the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform.

S. 3662. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6 Nichols Street in Westminister, Massachusetts, as the "Lieutenant Ryan Patrick Jones Post Office Building", to the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform.

S. 3698. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to improve veterans service organizations access to Federal surplus personal property, to the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 2170. An act to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act", to scale back the provision forbidding certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain