

rights leaders, providers of child care, after-care, educational programs for our children. They are advocates for entrepreneurs, minority businesses, and economic development opportunities in our communities. They stand strong with their first ladies and congregations for stopping domestic violence against women, for reducing crimes in our neighborhoods.

These powerful leaders are Bishop Jerome Ross, Reverend Dr. Keith Troy, Reverend Fred Lamarr, Reverend Jerry Carter, Reverend Victor Davis, Bishop Donald Washington, Reverend John Little, the Honorable Larry Price, Reverend Dale Snyder, the Honorable Hearchel Craig, and Reverend Joel King, cousin of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lastly, they know all too well what the impact of sequestration will be to our at-risk communities. I salute them because they will carry on their great work despite the sequestration and the unnecessary challenges it will present if imposed. Sequestration is harmful to our district, to our constituents, and to the Nation. The impact of sequestration will affect the Federal Government's ability to provide States with the necessary resources to invest in the future leaders and to protect America's strong business environment.

Our hardworking taxpayers deserve better. Let's not put our economy at risk.

VETERANS JOBS CAUCUS

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative of the Sixth District of Illinois and the son of a Korean war veteran, I'm honored to serve over 34,000 veterans. We have a deep commitment, as we know, to support those who've risked their lives to defend our freedom and help them in their transition back to civilian life. I've been active in a program called Helmets to Hard Hats, and there's a jarring unemployment figure for veterans that we are all sobered by. More than 844,000 veterans currently face unemployment, and veterans aged 18 to 24 face a staggering 31 percent unemployment rate.

There's an opportunity for us to work together, and I'm pleased to have recently joined the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus in an effort to bring Republicans and Democrats together to be like-minded as we seek to serve those who have served us so well. There's a myriad of obstacles that are in place that need to be remedied, and together we can join with the Disabled American Veterans organization, which is here in Washington, D.C. this week to celebrate their success and our obligation to them.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are now 2 days away from failure-triggered, ideologically driven, and irrational budget cuts called "sequester." It is an extraordinarily bad policy that 229 Republicans voted for on July 19, 2011. These cuts could be incredibly harmful to our national defense, our economy, and our national welfare.

General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said:

This will affect the entire country, and it will undermine our readiness for the next several years.

Hundreds of thousands of civilian defense personnel could be furloughed, and thousands of contractors could be forced to lay off critical personnel. Congress should not put our national security or economic recovery at risk. If I were the majority leader, this policy would not happen.

House Republicans should listen to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood when he said:

As a former Republican Member of Congress for 14 years, I urge my former colleagues to address this issue and to work on a long-term, balanced solution to our deficit problem.

With only 2 days left, it is time for us to come together to find a solution that can replace these cuts with a sensible, balanced alternative.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members not to traffic the well when others are speaking.

□ 1210

REMEMBERING THE MENIFEE COUNTY LIVES LOST IN THE MARCH 2, 2012 TORNADO

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor three precious lives lost in the tornado which devastated Menifee County, Kentucky, one year ago this Saturday.

Beverly Bowman was a magnet to children, according to newspaper accounts. Friends called her the backbone of the Tarr Ridge Union Church.

Anita Smith adored animals. Reports said she owned at least four horses, along with goats, dogs, and a mule.

And Vershal Brown was a remarkable man, recalls Menifee County Sheriff Rodney Coffee: "Day or night, if you called him, he could help you. He would be there."

Mr. Speaker, the people of Menifee County have shown amazing faith and determination in rebuilding their lives and their community. This weekend, we will celebrate together how far they have come, and we will join hands and remember.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, the U.S. budget faces a round of indiscriminate and severe cuts that will hurt the middle class, compromise national security, and set back our very fragile economic recovery.

I call on all of our colleagues to take immediate action to avert the sequester to prevent \$1.5 trillion in reckless, unnecessary, across-the-board cuts. If we fail, my families and businesses in Ventura County will pay the price.

Naval Base Ventura County in my district could be forced to furlough 80 percent of its civilian workers. Our seniors and our children could be severely impacted through cuts to Medicare, Head Start programs, and teachers' jobs. We need to stop these arbitrary and reckless cuts now and pass a balanced approach with H.R. 699.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring H.R. 699 to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded on page 752 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentlewoman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

GUN CONTROL

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, we're now some 11 weeks out from the tragedy that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut. And while all the talk today is about the sequester, we still have politicians and pundits all across the country that are purporting to try and solve this epidemic of gun violence with new rules taking away guns from ordinary citizens.

Unfortunately—and this is humbling for many in politics—no law or set of laws can possibly address in a meaningful way all of the challenges that we face today with a violent America. In fact, we face a much deeper, more malignant problem. It's a culture that degrades and cheapens life.

That's why I continue to be disappointed to hear the President propose further gun control. The President's plan isn't so much an attempt to solve a problem as an attempt to fulfill a wish list for gun control advocates. Unfortunately, for the American people, an opportunity for a real national dialogue on the root causes of this type of violence is being missed.

I've heard from hundreds of Kansans on the issue of gun control, and the vast majority of them understand that Washington restricting their Second Amendment rights will do very little