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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 o'clock and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARPER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 3, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREGG HARPER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

EXTENDING THE SPECIAL IMMIGRATION VISA PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the floor of this House has been the scene of many heated exchanges of late—the shutdown controversy around the Affordable Care Act and budget differences—but in the midst of some real tension and frustration, there was a bright spot last evening.

I was pleased that there was a unanimous consent agreement to approve H.R. 3233 that I introduced with Representative ADAM KINZINGER that kept the Special Immigrant Visa program alive for Iraqi nationals who helped the United States during the war effort at great peril to themselves and their families. These are the interpreters, the guides and drivers, people who performed a myriad of functions that were essential for American operations both militarily and diplomatically and for our development efforts.

Since I introduced the first legislation on these refugees 6 years ago, I have watched impatiently as the flawed Special Immigrant Visa program has sputtered, leaving Iraqis and Afghans twisting in the wind trying to escape those countries, away from people with long memories who seek to do them harm.

Then, Monday night, it died. September 30, the visa program for the Iraqis expired. After 72 hours of furious activity, last night, the United States sent a signal that we were not going to leave them behind. Last night, Congress came together—the House and the Senate, Republican and Democrat—to make it possible to uphold our end of the bargain. But, unfortunately, the program still is horribly flawed, disastrously slow, and in dire need of reform. But we can take heart that the bipartisan leadership displayed on this issue might make it possible for us to actually make it work.

I would thank my colleagues, ADAM KINZINGER, TULSI GABBARD, CHRIS GIBSON, STEVE STIVERS, and STENY HOYER and others who stepped in during this tumultuous time to make sure the project continued.

Despite what was going on behind the scenes, there were many staff without whose tireless dedication to doing the right thing this would never have happened. I would like to thank Robert Karem in Leader CANTOR's office; Mariah Sixkiller in STENY HOYER's office, Dimple Shah in Chairman GOODLATTE's office, and Chad Kreikemeier in Senator SHAHEEN's office. The Senator helped spearhead that effort on the other side of the Capitol.

And off the Hill there were veterans, veterans like Matt Zeller, who was not going to let the person whom he depended on in Iraq suffer that fate. Organizations off the Hill, like the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project and their staff, Katie Reisner and Becca Heller, were invaluable in keeping the progress going.

It was kind that Chairman GOODLATTE, the Judiciary Committee chair, introduced the unanimous consent request. There was lots of scrambling and many items at loose ends, but somehow we were able to follow through with this small but critical step to keep the program alive. Now the challenge is to finally make it work for these desperate Iraqis and Afghans.

Kirk Johnson's book, ''To Be a Friend Is Fatal: The Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind,'' is a call to action. It details what we need to do to meet our obligations.

In the midst of all the controversy and frustration here on Capitol Hill, we were able to come together for a brief moment this evening. Let's not let the shutdown overshadow the myriad of details that are important—even life and death—for people at home and abroad. Those who risked their lives for the American mission in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve our best efforts. Last night we saw a glimpse of it. I hope we are able to follow through.

PASS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPENDING BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent Redstone Arsenal, one of America's premier military bases and home to the

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Army Materiel Command, Aviation and Missile Command, Security Assistance Command, Contracting Command, Expeditionary Contracting Command, Space and Missile Defense Command, and numerous other program executive offices, agencies, and centers.

According to the Department of Defense, ''of the Department's 800,000 civilian workers, about half will be furloughed.'' That means President Obama, our Commander in Chief, in his sole discretion, publicly declared that roughly 400,000 DOD civilian employees are not ''essential'' to America's national security.

While I disagree and question why any Commander in Chief would, in his sole discretion, slight 400,000 defense workers by declaring them superfluous to America's national security, that is not why I address the House of Representatives today. What I want to know is: Why do President Obama, Democrat Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, and their allies pointlessly insist on shutting down the DOD?

Let me elaborate.

On June 14, 2013, almost 4 months ago, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act, on a 315–108 bipartisan vote; 103 House Democrats, a Democrat majority, joined 212 Republicans to pass the National Defense Authorization Act.

On July 24, 2013, almost 3 months ago, the House passed H.R. 2397, the Defense appropriations bill on a 315–109 bipartisan vote; 95 House Democrats joined 220 Republicans in passing the Defense appropriations bill.

I publicly thank the House Democrats who supported the programs and funding that help America's warfighters protect American lives. Collectively, these defense bills restore funding lost because of sequestration and fully fund America's military and national defense. If these defense bills become law, then national defense is exempt from President Obama's shutdown orders.

Unfortunately, there is an unhappy ending to the House's bipartisan support for national defense. Democrat Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID needlessly obstructs votes on both bills, thus causing them to languish 3 and 4 months in the United States Senate.

Senate intransigence means the Department of Defense is subject to President Obama's shutdown orders and 400,000 defense workers are, as of today, barred from helping our warfighters who risk their lives for America both here and abroad. Each day these 400,000 defense workers do not work is another day America's warfighters are without their help, is another delay that denies our warfighters the cutting edge in high-tech weaponry needed to defeat America's enemies with minimal loss of life.

Mr. Speaker, Democrat Senator HARRY REID should stop his obstructionism and allow a vote—just a vote—on the defense bills that have passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. If he does, both bills will pass and become law and national defense will be fully funded and exempt from President Obama's shutdown orders.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate, White House, and Congress agree on close to 99 percent of our appropriations bills. The White House and Senate must stop using a Federal Government shutdown and the loss of 400,000 national defense jobs to coerce the House of Representatives into spending money America does not have on a socialized medicine program that does not work and that a majority of Americans do not want. The responsible thing to do is to fund the 99 percent, end the Federal Government shutdown, and then debate and negotiate the 1 percent that we legitimately disagree on.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Democrat Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID to join our bipartisan House effort to compromise—yes, compromise—and pass the National Defense Authorization Act and Defense appropriations bill, thereby securing America's national security while at the same time restoring 400,000 jobs America's economy sorely needs.

WE NEED LEADERSHIP, NOT THE BLAME GAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, day No. 3—day No. 3—of a government shutdown that doesn't need to happen.

Mr. Speaker, we need leadership, we don't need the blame game, and yet that is what we are seeing. Republicans blaming Democrats, Democrats blaming Republicans, the House blaming the Senate, the Senate blaming the House, and the House blaming the President.

That isn't getting us anywhere. And to the American people, they're not saying: Oh, it's the Democrats' fault or it's the Republicans' fault. They're looking at Congress and saying: Why can't you do your job? Why can't you come together as Democrats and Republicans, bring your best ideas forward and compromise and negotiate?

What this House is doing, what Congress is doing, is reckless. It's irresponsible. We need to start putting the American people's interests first because they're the ones that we work for. That's who sent us here.

We're not asking anyone to give up their convictions. We all have our convictions, and we all have our districts and the people back home. What we're asking for, the Members in this body, the Republicans and the Democrats, is to think about the country. Now is the time for us to put the American people first. That means we've got to be able to come forward and understand and learn how to listen. It's hurting real people.

I'm a doctor by training, and I look at this from the perspective of being a doctor and the American patients. As reported in my hometown newspaper, the Sacramento Bee, at my hometown hospital where I'm still a clinical professor, UC Davis Medical Center, here is what they said:

> For cancer patients, government help—in the form of clinical trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute—can be a matter of life and death. And the NCI, a Federal agency, has closed its doors for the duration.

One of my colleagues, Dr. David Gandara, a UC Davis Cancer Center lung cancer specialist, said this:

> We have California patients from our center who have been going through clinical trials there and have been told to go home. The program has been shut down.

Now, I know yesterday you brought a bill to the floor, a resolution that restored partial funding to the NIH for 3 months, through December. But as a doctor, cancer patients are not looking at 3 months. They need some certainty. We need some certainty in the practice of medicine when we're sitting with our patients. So I implore this body to come together as Democrats and Republicans to think about those patients and to think about those Americans who are being hurt by our inability to do our job.

Now, as a Democrat, I'm going to continue talking to my Republican colleagues and looking at ways that we can move forward, but inflammatory rhetoric and the blame game is not going to get us anywhere. We've got to learn how to listen to one another, we've got to learn how to speak to one another, and we've got to learn how to put the American people ahead of political parties. That's who we work for.

The oath I took as a doctor is borne on a foundation of two solid principles: benevolence, to do good; nonmalfeasance, to do no harm.

Mr. Speaker, Congress' inability to get the job done is doing irreparable harm to Americans and to American patients, and we certainly are not doing any good by not getting a budget put together and getting America back on track. Let's do our job. Let's do what the American people sent us here to do. Let's work together as Republicans and Democrats and learn how to listen to one another again and do the work of the American public.

Mr. Speaker, the public is watching.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS OFFENDED WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am pleased to hear the gentleman from California from the other side of the aisle who just spoke and his willingness to work together. I think that's the kind of cooperation that the American people are looking for and that Congress needs to adhere to in coming together and resolving this.

No one wants a shutdown. No one wants to see vital and essential government programs eliminated or withheld from the public. Sometimes in these situations that are most difficult, you actually become concerned about basic common sense or, again, the attempts of certain people to try to embarrass each side.

I think one of the worst things I've seen in my service was the closedown of some of our memorials. This probably won't show up for my colleagues very well, but this is the Martin Luther King Memorial. You just walk up and look at it. But to deploy Interior and park personnel to put out barriers to constrain the public from even walking is an absolutely senseless and mindless bureaucratic move.

Many people saw also the construction. And this, again, is not a very good photo, but this is Park personnel that were deployed putting fences up in front of the Lincoln Memorial and then, most offensively, to put barriers to block, in an open-air park memorial, our World War II veterans' memorial. This is senseless.

I have talked to Mr. ISSA and the Oversight subcommittee that I chair—Mr. ISSA chairs the whole Oversight Committee of Congress. I know Mr. HASTINGS is going to look into this, his Natural Resources Committee. But this is a senseless offense to the American people and particularly our veterans and others, there is no reason for this. So some common sense has to prevail in all of this.

We will get beyond this. People will be made whole. It is unfortunate that sometimes government, whether it was back in Washington's days or throughout our history, does work on a brinksmanship basis and does not get to a resolution, particularly when you come to difficult times.

My colleagues, we are at one of the most difficult times in history. Within the next 2 weeks, the United States of America will be at our debt limit. We'll be $17 trillion in debt. They're going to come and ask for another trillion dollars for a year to keep us from being a deadbeat Nation.

How did we get here? That's part of the question that has to be resolved here. You had an era of unprecedented spending, 4 years in which the other side—and these are facts—took control. They spent $1.5 trillion more than they took in the first year in office—1.4 trillion, 1.3 trillion, and so on and so on, until we've gone from $9 trillion in debt to 17, reaching 18, almost double in 5 or 6 years. That's unsustainable. So that's what this is about.

It's also about a health care program. I come from a family that at times didn't have health care. And many Americans need health care, and we should be able to provide them, but people didn't ask for a bureaucracy. People didn't ask for thousands of bureaucrats here to manage a government program. They didn't ask for IRS enforcers. They didn't ask for many of the mandates that are in this bill that can and need to be revised.

The President has already revised the law. The President said he didn't need the Congress, as you will recall, some time ago, and obviously he hasn't. He changed some of the terms, given exemptions to employers, put that off for a year, which was part of the law. We've asked—and, again, some of us wanted it repealed. Some of us didn't like it, but we now have it. We need to revise it, and we need to make certain that Americans have good health care and access to affordable care, but not with bureaucracy.

We've offered at least three alternatives and some changes, the last one pretty simple, to delay for a while the individual mandate, like we've done for others. So we can do this and we must do this. We must succeed for the American people.

BUDGET CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, we are now on our third day of the Republican shutdown of the Federal Government. My constituents and people all across this country are disgusted with what they're seeing, the absence of an agreement on a simple idea: the American people have a right to a government that is open to serve them, but our government is closed. Eight hundred thousand men and women across the country have been placed on furlough because Speaker BOEHNER and the House Republican leadership will not bring up a clean continuing resolution to fund the government and keep the government open.

Now, I would like to talk a little bit about what that means for my constituents, and first to say that I have extended office hours in my district office from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to make sure that my constituents have whatever help I can provide during this government shutdown to help navigate through the Federal Government, and that is staffed by my employees who have no guaranty they will even be paid.

But I want to talk this morning about how we got here, not to assign blame to one side or the other but to suggest how we move forward, because we've heard from the Speaker these last few days and from many of the Republican leaders they just want to compromise; if the Democrats would just be willing to compromise and go to a conference committee, this would all work out, and that Republicans are interested in delaying health care reform and cutting spending and the Democrats refuse to negotiate on these issues.

Well, this is actually completely false. In fact, look at this chart. We began with spending in the President's budget of $1.2 trillion. You can see how far there has already been compromise from the Democrats down from the enacted spending to the Ryan budget to the Senate budget and finally to the continuing resolution, which is very close to the Ryan budget—not a budget amount that we agree with but some people would be willing to compromise on.

In fact, there was a budget that was passed by the House, a budget passed by the Senate, and we passed No Budget, No Pay, which I was a cosponsor of, to make sure this budget process proceeded; but the Speaker has refused, since that happened, to appoint conferees to a Budget Committee. That's the next step. That's how we get a budget, to appoint conferees who then have the responsibility of working out compromises.

We wrote to the Speaker back in April, April 17. Here's a copy of the letter. Ranking Member CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and I wrote to the Speaker urging him to appoint conferees so we could continue the budget process, but he's refused to do that.

Then, just moments before the shutdown happened, Republicans said: Oh, let's go to conference on the funding bill, the continuing resolution, not on the budget. That, of course, was a vote to shut down the government, because that wasn't going to happen in 45 minutes. And so the government shut down, and this is now day three.

You have to wonder: Why is it that the Republicans have refused to pass a clean funding bill that we are calling for? Well, one member of the House Republican caucus said:

> Now that we've jumped off the cliff and lit ourselves on fire, we've entered the valley of the shadow of death. We've got to keep running and hold together.

Mr. Speaker, our country is facing very serious challenges today. Men and women in cities and towns all across our country don't know where to find work, don't know if they're going to be able to go to work. Seniors are nervous about whether they can rely on Social Security and Medicare, and young people are worried about whether they can afford to go to college. These issues are far too important for Republicans to refuse to negotiate simply as a matter of pride. Every Member of this House needs to put aside political posturing and act in the best interests of the people who sent us here.

Rather than coming together to support commonsense solutions and policies that would strengthen our country, Speaker BOEHNER and the Republicans have decided to shut down the Federal Government until they're able to undermine the Affordable Care Act. For them, it has become an obsession.

Earlier this week, one House Republican called the Affordable Care Act ''the most insidious law known to man.'' House Republicans compared this debate to the terrorist attacks of September 11. And when he held the floor for 21 hours, Senator TED CRUZ invoked the horrors of World War II and

the Nazi regime when talking about health care reform.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of hyperbole and this kind of plainly inflammatory rhetoric has no place in a serious discussion about the future of our country. For weeks, we've heard that the Republicans would refuse to fund the government until it dismantled or defunded the Affordable Care Act. This became their party's mantra until 2 days ago, because 2 days ago the Republicans stopped trying to defund ObamaCare for the first time and started to try to carve out programs to fund one by one. The very reason they brought this government to a screeching halt and closed it down was all of a sudden gone.

So I ask my colleagues today: What's the problem now? What's the hold up on passing a clean funding bill to reopen government and then go to conference to work out all of the differences on many important policy issues?

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my Republican colleagues, my friends on the other side of the aisle, to do what's right for our country and demand that the Speaker bring a funding bill to the floor to open government and pass this resolution today.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIANS WANT FAIRNESS FOR ALL AND NO SPECIAL DEALS IN WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, it's day three of Senator REID's government shutdown. The American people are frustrated, western Pennsylvanians are frustrated, and I am frustrated.

Make no mistake: there is a choice here. The House's solution embraces fairness for all. The Senate's spending bill protects special deals for Washington, D.C.

The House passed four reasonable compromises to keep the government open. Our latest solution ends the special deal that President Obama cut for Senators and Representatives. It also gives individuals and families the same break from the health care law that President Obama gave to Big Business.

Senator REID could reopen the government today. Unfortunately, he refuses to compromise. In fact, he said yesterday that he is ''locked in tight.'' Senator REID is ''locked in tight'' on those special breaks for Big Business, Senators, and Representatives. This is an outrage.

Mr. Speaker, as I answer the phones in my office, I hear from constituents who tell me that there should be no special deals; there should be fairness for all. The American people deserve better from their Senators. It is time for the Senate to end special deals, embrace fairness for all, and reopen this government.

□ 1030

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, this is day three of a completely unnecessary government shutdown. About 800,000 people don't know if they'll have a paycheck at the end of the week. Basic government services are being denied, hundreds of millions of dollars wasted. Moms who count on WIC to feed their kids are being hurt. Head Start providers are closing. Families trying to buy a home are turned away. Small businesses needing loans are told to wait.

This could all end in about 20 minutes if we could just vote on the compromise that already passed the Senate. Is it perfect? No. It funds the government at levels below the budget passed by Democrats in the Senate and proposed by Democrats in the House. It keeps in place the across-the-board cuts triggered by sequestration, which I didn't vote for and do not support. But I am willing to support this bill, this compromise, this so-called clean continuing resolution because we are damaging the country by this shutdown, and we need to reopen the government.

And why is the government shut down? People don't understand this. Well, because some of my colleagues want to defund, delay, and deny the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we took an oath here. When we were sworn into the office, we took an oath to support the Constitution. And according to the Constitution, when a bill passes both Chambers and is signed into law by the President, it becomes a law. We learned that in basic civics. The Affordable Care Act is a duly-passed, signed by the President, and upheld by the Supreme Court law.

So if you don't like a law, how do you change it? Again, think back to civics. Through the legislative process. Draft legislation, have hearings, mark it up, put it up for a vote. That's how this body ought to function.

How not to change laws? By shutting down the Federal Government. Who on Earth could be proud of what we are doing here? Who could look at this and be proud? I tell you, the American people, in fact people around the world, are watching. They have seen bitterness and rancor, they have heard oversimplification, and a lot of misinformation.

It is time to stop governing by cynicism and crisis. It's time to realize that what is happening here is beneath the dignity of this Chamber and this body. It's time to restore democracy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the American people do not deserve this shutdown. There are enough Members of the Republican and Democratic caucuses to open this government right now.

Mr. Speaker, let us vote. Let's pass the Senate amendment to the continuing resolution, let's reopen the government of this United States of America, and let's do it now.

REAL WORLD PEOPLE AND OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLORES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about what real world people in Texas District 17 are saying about ObamaCare. Leonard from Waco writes:

> Government is too big. No one knows how to lead. Government needs to get out of our lives. Repeal ObamaCare. Whatever the cost, it will be less than the negative effect it will have here on this country and on all Americans.

Lance and Tamara of Thorndale write:

> We would like to express our disdain for the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare. Although we have health insurance that meets the standard of care, we also know that this health care program will adversely affect many young people who are just now starting out in life and may not have adequate care that meets the standard.
>
> While we do not believe that taxpayers or health care providers should fund the bill for those who do not have health care, the ACA is clearly not the solution. Any program that federally mandates health care and involves punitive sanctions by way of the IRS on tax returns should be considered a crime. It will neither help the poor nor the wealthy that will suffer the negative impact of this plan, but rather the young, working, and taxpaying family that earns just enough to survive.
>
> We believe that a bad plan is worse than no plan, and Congress should continue to oppose and repeal the ACA, even if it means a continuation of the government shutdown. We received a letter from President Obama in which he clearly blamed the U.S. House for the shutdown, and where he accepted no responsibility. We cannot abide by this President, and do not support him or his self-serving ideologies.

John from College Station writes:

> No to ObamaCare.

Mike from Hewitt writes:

> Please hold the line against the Affordable Care Act. Do not give in.

Barry from Pflugerville writes:

> As you know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was passed in the middle of the night, and without the support of the American people. I am calling on you, as one of your constituents, to stop this legislation by defunding its implementation until the law can be repealed and replaced with legislation that benefits the citizens of the United States of America.
>
> You were elected into office to represent the values and needs of those of us who live in your State and your district. The passage of this legislation was an abdication of the oath the lawmakers took when sworn into office, and I hope that you will do the right thing now and stop the law from being fully implemented, and will work to enact real reform for our health care system based on free market principles, not government interference. Americans enjoy the best health care system in the world, and this legislation harms the very people it is intended to help.

Marilyn from College Station writes:

I urge you to stand firm and do all that you can to repeal/defund this law that is a disaster to employers, employees, and our health care system.

Jack from Woodway writes:

Mr. FLORES, please do all in your power to help fund the government, and please do not fund ObamaCare. As seniors, we cannot afford the increased premiums for our insurance coverage.

Tonya from Waco writes:

I am a small business owner in Waco. I built my business from nothing, and I see the horrible ramifications of ObamaCare on small business. Please stand strong and fight to defund ObamaCare.

Debra from Bryan writes:

The President's health care must be defunded before it destroys our economy, our workforce, our health care system, and our way of life. My insurance will increase 42 percent in 2014, and who knows where it goes from there. As a citizen of the United States, I do not want my tax dollars to fund a train wreck. We simply cannot afford it. Please convince your fellow Representatives they are destroying the working class. There is no way this is good for all of us.

A young man from Brazos County writes:

My current premium for a family plan with a $5,000 deductible costs $360 per month. This was canceled due to ObamaCare.

When trying to apply for ObamaCare, he got two new quotes. The first was one with a $12,700 deductible and cost $691 per month. When he tried to find a lower deductible, he found an option with a $4,500 deductible at a cost of $854 per month. Again, essentially the same coverage for almost 2½ times what he was paying before.

Mr. Speaker, since September 20 the House has approved, on a bipartisan basis, eight bills to fund all or part of the Federal Government, but all but one of these have been blocked by HARRY REID in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, during this process my colleagues and I have been called arsonists, anarchists, extremists, extortionists, and terrorists. In addition, we have been told that we have bombs strapped to our chests. When I was growing up, I was taught that if you were calling people names then that meant you had nothing meaningful to say.

This fight is about fairness, Mr. Speaker. First, the Americans believe that if a delay for business that gave them $14 billion worth of benefit was good enough for business, it ought to be good for everybody by delaying the individual mandate for a year.

Secondly, if ObamaCare is good enough for the American people, it is good enough for the President, the Vice President, and all Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Americans pray for our country during these difficult times.

CONSTITUTIONAL BUT UNCONSCIONABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what we are doing here in Congress may not be unconstitutional, but it is unconscionable. It is unconscionable for us to have a wholesale shutdown of the government and a piecemeal start up. It is unconscionable to pit needy Americans against needy Americans. It is unconscionable.

It may be lawful to single out some and say, you are among the fortunate that we will bless today, but it's unconscionable. It's wrong. It may be lawful, but it's not right.

It is wrong to decide that persons who happen to be poor, who need WIC, who need the very sustenance that people acquire to exist, food, clothing and shelter, it's wrong to say you are not blessed today. Your time will come, but not today. It may be constitutional, but it's unconscionable.

It is unconscionable for us, in the richest country in the world, to conclude that a mother who has a child, making $15,080 a year, working full-time and living below the poverty line, it's unconscionable for us to push a system that will cause her to work full-time and not have insurance. ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, by any name you call it, will allow that mother to get insurance for herself and her child. It may not be unconstitutional to adhere to a principle that would cause a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It is unconscionable, however, to do so in such a way as to prevent this mother from having insurance for her child.

I came to Congress to represent everybody, and this includes those who make $7.25 an hour. I came to Congress to represent those who wait tables and make $2.13 an hour plus tips. It's unconscionable to have people working at $2.13 an hour in the richest country in the world who cannot get health insurance. That's what the Affordable Care Act does. It allows them to get health insurance.

And I must remind us all today, my dear friends, whom I love—I love every person who sits on that side of the aisle; I love every one of them—but I want to tell you this: mark my words, Dr. King was right. Life is an inescapable network of mutuality. It's tied to a single garment of destiny. What impacts one directly impacts all indirectly. And while you can sit at home in comfort, assuming that it does not impact you, I assure you, the way the arc of the moral universe has been developed, it will impact you sooner or later.

You are not worried about Wall Street right now. But when Wall Street takes a hit, it's going to eventually trickle down to every one of us. Worry about Home Street. I do. Worry about Main Street. That's okay. But I am not going to put Wall Street above Home Street, where people live.

And it's time for us to quit pushing a piecemeal startup for a wholesale shutdown. This is the richest country in the world. We shouldn't carry on like this. It's time for us to move forward and end the shutdown.

Let's have free and fair and open negotiations. Let's not do it with the threat of the demise of the government at stake. Let's do it with everybody's intent in mind. Let's not pick and choose. Let's not say one is blessed today and another will be blessed tomorrow. Let's share the blessings of this Nation with all of the people that we represent.

And finally, Dr. King reminded us that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. I say to my veteran friends, whom I support, you should not feel good knowing that somebody has decided to bless you at the expense of somebody else.

FRUSTRATION OVER THE STALEMATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my frustration and the frustration of my constituents over the stalemate here in Washington.

It didn't have to come to this. The House has put forth four proposals to the Senate, each one offering a compromise to the other side. Time after time Senator REID stonewalled our efforts to forge a compromise and prevent a shutdown. When House Republicans passed legislation that simply asked Senate Democrats to just simply come to the table to negotiate, Senator REID said no.

Everyone knows that Republicans and Democrats don't see eye to eye on every spending issue. However, there is a lot that we do agree on, like funding critical care for cancer research, the national parks, veterans services, National Guardsmen and Reservists. And when we have drafted stand-alone bills funding these efforts, we saw support from some Senate Democrats. But again, Mr. REID said no.

So first we couldn't get Mr. REID to negotiate over what we disagree on, and today we can't get him to even consider what we do agree on.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many more olive branches we have left on the tree, but today we are going to offer more. We have already worked to ensure that young boys and girls who need cancer treatments from the National Institutes of Health receive the lifesaving medicine they deserve.

Today, we will work to protect our Nation's military men and women who have served so honorably in combat, only to have their hard-earned benefits denied to them by partisan bickering.

Finally, and most importantly, we will work to end this shutdown, not just for some Americans, but for all Americans, because, Mr. Speaker, this has always been an issue of fairness.

So our message to President Obama is, you are willing to sit down with Big Business and insurance companies to negotiate delays and exemptions and exceptions from the health care law. Why will you now refuse to negotiate with us and give the same reprieve to regular Americans?

Our message to the Majority Leader REID is, you worked swiftly to pass a stand-alone funding bill for Active Duty soldiers. Why now not work with us to pass similar bills for veterans, our National Guardsmen and Reservists, cancer research, or national parks?

The people deserve better, Mr. Speaker, than President Obama and Majority Leader REID's refusal to work toward bipartisan compromise. Enough is enough. Pass these noncontroversial spending bills. Come to the negotiating table. Let's talk. Let's demonstrate fairness to the American people. Let's work together, and let's end this shutdown.

SQUANDER IS THE WORD OF THE DAY

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, the word of the day is squander, defined broadly as the majority party having the votes to pass solutions that fit what America needs and wants, but instead moves forward with an approach to appease an angry faction of their party, and in doing so advances nothing but its own political shortsightedness while making a mockery out of public policy. Squander.

In the House, we have had political theater of a piecemeal approach, where parks and cures for life-threatening diseases are used as rhetorical props. But this approach has done nothing to address the real danger to our national security and how this shutdown hinders our ability to keep Americans safe from terrorists.

The government shutdown has furloughed 70 percent of the intelligence community, 70 percent of the civilians in the intelligence community. The Director of National Intelligence called the government shutdown a, quote, ''dreamland,'' unquote, for enemies that want to steal our Nation's secrets, and said it ''seriously damages our ability to protect the security and safety of this Nation and its citizens.'' And with each passing day, he thinks the damage becomes more insidious.

Well, here we are talking about parks, talking about our venerable veterans. We haven't said a word, really, about our intelligence community. We have basically, and I say this to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you have put out the welcome mat for every terrorist around this world to know that right now we are vulnerable.

Maybe it was a clever concept behind closed doors several weeks ago. Delay the individual mandate of the Affordable Health Care Act for 1 year in trade for the House GOP approval of a government funding bill. Ignore the fact that the Affordable Care Act is law, and that attempts to repeal it over 50 times have failed. Ignore the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled it is constitutional. Ignore the fact that 72 percent of the American people do not want to have the government shut down over the Affordable Care Act.

Ignore JOHN MCCAIN, who said ObamaCare will not be repealed, and it is irrational to think so. Ignore the fact that on the same day that my friends on the other side of the aisle were patting themselves on the back for shutting down the government, the health care marketplaces around this country were overloaded. More than 10 million people were on that Web site and calling that telephone number because they want health insurance.

My friends, to ignore is to be ignorant in this case. But take note: the real pain has started with the shuttering of many government services, the furloughing of 800,000 workers, and the real threat that people who depend on partial government assistance will get nothing.

My colleagues, we are squandering this moment to lead. Those on the other side of the aisle that are the majority are squandering their majority and replacing their principled views of government with fruitless extremist objectives.

Mr. Speaker, the last time I looked, Senator CRUZ was not a Member of the House of Representatives. But somehow it appears that he is running the show over here.

The shutdown is keeping people from seeing their families. In San Francisco, Dave Donohue planned to take his wife and his 11-day-old child to meet the grandmother in Mexico. Baby Milo doesn't have a passport. And the passport office is closed. So they are going to have to forego that trip.

Danny Aiello, a retired beat cop from Philadelphia, brought to Washington, D.C., by his daughter and son-in-law because he had just lost his wife to cancer, was here to see the Washington monuments, except now he is seeing them all from the outside. Never going to go in to see the Air and Space Museum.

What do we tell Victoria Thomas, 26, who has a 4-year-old daughter, who cannot find child care now because there have been nine Head Start programs that have been closed? ''I can't afford child care with my limited resources,'' she said, as a single mom who is studying for a master's degree in business, and she worries that her daughter will fall behind. ''She is learning so much,'' she says. ''The program is preparing her for kindergarten next year.''

Mr. Speaker, the word is squander, and it's time for us to reopen the government.

HISTORY AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, we have heard much debate over the last week, arguments and accusations being made from both sides. I have heard references to being terrorists, to jihad, and to having bombs strapped to our chests.

Mr. Speaker, I spent 1 year, 2005–2006, perhaps the bloodiest time of the war, as an Army combat surgeon in Iraq. In this Chamber I have seen no terrorists, no jihad, nor any bombs strapped to chests. And if you have been to war, you would not use such rhetoric here.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, we have engaged in so much debate concerning the Affordable Care Act. We have addressed it from every angle, the affordability, the methods of implementation, those that may benefit and those that will not. I have contended that as a Nation we should have focused on who is uncared for in our Nation and how we provide care. Addressing the uninsured would certainly fall under this framework. And I have contended that a form, a mere piece of paper that says you have insurance or a plan, does not mean that you have access to care, nor does it mean that you have coverage for treatment.

Many from one side of the aisle have said, ''You lost the election, get over it.'' Indeed, the Republicans lost the Presidential election. And I am over it. However, all of us in this body won elections. Each of us was elected to serve the American people as well. And while the President has a seat at the head of the table, he does not have the only seat at the table. And we all need to take our seats at the table.

I look forward, not backward, except to learn from history. I am over the Presidential election. What I am not over is what we are becoming. What we are becoming is of great concern to me, as much concern to me as the Affordable Care Act itself. I have a concern about who we are, and what we consider to be right, and what we think is wrong. And I hope that everyone has taken the opportunity to look at our past. Our glorious history is all around us.

As you look around and you review our great history, you see the legacies left from previous generations. What is our legacy? What will this generation, this Congress leave behind? Will it be that we have a disregard for the law, a disregard for laws that we voted on and signed? Waivers, exemptions, special subsidies, all of which show a disregard for applying laws equally, as well as a disregard for the rule of law.

Applying laws equally, the rule of law, the very ideals that Americans have proudly touted for over two centuries. Are we deciding to abandon these core values? Is this the way we want to carve out our chapter in American history? The history of a great

Nation? A Nation that was formed to be of the people, by the people, and for the people. This concept and the freedom that comes with it requires a level of responsibility in order to sustain it.

Pope John Paul II, when visiting America in 1995, spoke of the freedom that we enjoy and the responsibility that comes with it. And he summed it up by saying, ''Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.'' I pray that the rule of law, and equality for all Americans, our fundamental principles that are etched in all of our hearts, with the foundation of these principles and the civility that accompanies such, we are obligated to come together to find common ground and to talk to one another. And, Lord willing, we will.

SHUTDOWN CONSEQUENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in the run-up to the government shutdown, and now into day three, I have sensed a gamut of emotions coursing through the veins of this institution, including emotional fatigue, and frustration, and outrage.

You can tell there is outrage because of the elevated decibel level. And for some of us as well is the emotion of sadness. I don't know how you can help but feel otherwise if you keep in mind what the consequences of our inaction are having beyond the doors of this Chamber. They are affecting real people, and they are having real consequences.

I have the unbelievable privilege to represent Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State, and the tens of thousands of servicemembers and civilian employees who support them there. The civilian employees already experienced furlough days. Just a few weeks ago I spoke to one of those individuals. As a consequence of the furlough, she lost her car. I am not sure what the consequence of government shutdown will be on her life.

You know, we tend to think of those people, I suspect here, often as what we would call GS–10s or –12s or –14s, but that's not the case. The preponderance of them are GS–2s and –3s and –4s. And a protracted shutdown will materially alter their lives. Real people, real consequences.

Yesterday, we received an email from a woman who is the WIC, Women, Infant, Children, provider in our area. She has already had 16 phone calls from moms who are scared they are not going to be able to feed their children. Women, infants, children. Real people, real consequences.

And as well, the wheels of commerce are grinding. We have been in contact with a commercial real estate person who is helping another person start up a propane distribution business in one of the communities in my district. He has one step left to go, that's a successful SBA application, which appears likely, except for he needs one more data point to submit. One more, from the Internal Revenue Service, which is not available to him now. He cannot submit. He cannot start his business. He cannot grow the economy. Real people, real consequences.

So I am sad. I am sad because I know this does not have to be. I know, Mr. Speaker, that sitting up on that desk is a bill passed by the Senate last Friday, a clean, comprehensive bill which would reopen the Federal Government. And you know what else I know, and every single Member of this Chamber knows as well? It has the votes to pass if we would but bring it up for a vote.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we could reopen the Federal Government and we could take into account the real people and the real consequences of our inaction. We could put out the ''Open for Business'' sign on the Federal Government and help those that we were sent here to help.

□ 1100

REOPENING GOVERNMENT FAIRLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we all remember hearing the promise ''if you like your health care, you can keep it.'' We also remember hearing that ObamaCare would reduce insurance costs for families by about $2,500 a year. That is not what we are hearing now.

Ronald, one of my constituents from Advance, North Carolina, just received a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield informing him because of ObamaCare his month monthly premiums are tripling from $400 per month to $1,200 per month. His deductible also skyrocketed to $11,000.

William in Rural Hall, North Carolina, tells me the same story. His premiums are also tripling from $400 to more than $1,200. Dianne, one of my constituents from Clemmons, tells me that her health care premiums are slated to rise from $193 per month to $553 per month beginning on January 1, 2014, again due to ObamaCare. William from Winston-Salem recently informed me that his son's 2014 renewal rate came in. His premiums are rising from $314 to $821.96.

Mr. Speaker, until now we have been forced to debate ObamaCare in the abstract, using economic predictions and common sense to explain why this ill-conceived law is going to be, as one of its key proponents in the Senate predicted, a train wreck. But now the verdict is in. Families from across my district are receiving letters from insurers explaining that the so-called Affordable Care Act is driving their premiums sky high.

My constituents don't want to be forced to change their health care plans or risk losing access to doctors they trust. Again, they were promised that if they liked their doctor, they could keep their doctor and if they liked their health care plan, they could keep it. Those promises were broken. These aren't abstractions or predictions; these are real people whose health and livelihoods are being threatened by this law.

Mr. Speaker, the proponents of this disastrous scheme keep reminding us that it is ''the law of the land.'' They implore us to simply give up and move on. We will not give up on our constituents. We will not move on when they need us to seek fairness on their behalf.

The other side acts as if this bill which they hastily cobbled together and passed on a party-line vote against massive popular opposition is so firmly entrenched in American law that it can never be amended or repealed. This is nonsense and they know it.

ObamaCare is the law. But what do we do in Congress every day? We work to change bad laws, and we certainly work to make sure laws treat all Americans fairly. And as Rich Lowry recently pointed out:

> If this were consistent principle rather than opportunistic advice, Democrats would have been content to leave a number of policies they vigorously fought in place out of deference to duly constituted policy and law.

Mr. Speaker, this is about basic fairness. The President has given special treatment to Big Business, Congress and his well-connected political allies; but he refuses to offer the same relief to working families. That is wrong. That is not fair. Ordinary Americans deserve the same exemption that the President has given businesses.

Let's reopen this government. Let's reopen it fairly.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE IMPACT ON THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday was a bittersweet day. It was an unfortunate day because of the government shutdown, but it was a good day because of the millions of Americans who live in the States and Washington D.C., who finally had the opportunity to leave the ranks of the uninsured when they logged in or called the toll-free number and enrolled in affordable quality health care coverage through the health insurance marketplaces.

However, October 1 was bittersweet for other reasons for me, and I rise today as a Congresswoman from the United States Virgin Islands because on October 1 my constituents, who are also Americans, were largely left out in the cold on this key part of the law.

As a member of the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, I was at the table and an active participant in the drafting, negotiation, and

amending of the Affordable Care Act, and I am proud that I was. But it was and remains sadly clear that one of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the other territories' biggest public health and health care challenges when it comes to Federal policies is benign neglect. Despite our efforts, still too many people, well intentioned, just don't acknowledge that, for example, across nearly every health indicator, from HIV/AIDS, cancer, heart disease and obesity prevalence, to rates of uninsurance and health care provider shortages, the U.S. Virgin Islands often are worse off than the national average.

So I, working in close collaboration with leadership and my territorial colleagues, the Black, Hispanic, Asian and Progressive Caucuses, worked tirelessly to ensure that the more than 4 million Americans who live in U.S. territories, as well as our collective health care systems, would enjoy the positive benefits of health care reform.

The great news is that we were in very large part successful. Today, Virgin Islanders and other persons in the territories are included in the consumer protections that make it illegal for a health plan to deny health coverage because of a preexisting disease or to rescind or deny coverage when someone gets sick and to impose lifetime dollar limits on essential benefits.

Today, U.S. Virgin Islanders can keep their children on their health plans until the child is 26 years of age. Because of The Affordable Care Act, today seniors in the U.S. Virgin Islands receive free annual wellness visits and free preventive care. They receive Medicare prescription drug rebate checks and meaningful help covering the cost of their prescription drugs. In the U.S. Virgin Islands because of the Affordable Care Act, our community health centers and community health workers are strengthened and better equipped to serve as medical homes.

But the devil is in the details. You see, the sad reality is that just because U.S. Virgin Islanders are included in the law and eligible for these great benefits does not mean that the law has been implemented in a manner that allows them all benefits or to fully experience the positive impact the Affordable Care Act was intended to have on every American.

The law gave the Governor in the U.S. Virgin Islands a choice between two options, and all the territories: one, to establish a health insurance exchange, either separately or in partnership with a State that was also setting up a State-based exchange; or, two, to use the funds that would have gone towards the exchange to expand our Medicaid program.

The Governor, based on advice of a task force and consultants, opted for option number two. And so amid all of the information that is being promulgated about the opening up of enrollment for the exchanges, wonderful news for many Americans, my constituents and those in the other territories feel very much left out and unfairly treated. To add insult to injury, there are no individual policies being written and the industry is blaming it, I think unfairly and not rightly, on the Affordable Care Act.

It is important to remember that because of the Affordable Care Act there is a very significant increase, though in the hundreds of millions of dollars, in funding for the Medicaid program and the Governor can establish a local poverty level that could significantly increase Medicaid eligibility. The robust increase in funding for Medicaid can allow for thousands of Virgin Islanders to be newly eligible for meaningful health insurance coverage under that program. Unfortunately, although the House passed a provision that would have changed the match, it did not make it through the Senate, so the match is set so high that it is difficult for us and the other territories to fully utilize the increased funding.

As a physician who practiced for more than 20 years before coming to Congress, I know what happens to someone's health and wellness, as well as personal finances, when they do not have health insurance coverage. It is catastrophic. That is why I requested meetings with Secretary Sebelius to explore how and whether the moneys that could have been used to establish a health insurance exchange can instead be used for making health care reform a reality for those who are uninsured but make too much to qualify for Medicaid.

So there is a small but distinct window of opportunity to work with the Secretary and our Governor to think outside the box, to identify meaningful and thoughtful solutions to the unique health care challenges facing the Americans in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some will require legislation, and I ask for the support of my colleagues on that; but also please let us pass a clean CR to keep our government open and provide services to Americans wherever we live in this great country.

REOPENING OUR NATION'S MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I have been a runner all my life. I ran in high school and college, and it has always been my way of sort of clearing my head. Sometimes I clearly haven't run enough.

Over the years, during my roughly 20 years in and out of Washington, I have made it a tradition of running down the Mall, down to the Lincoln Memorial. I have been down at the Lincoln Memorial on those runs in the dead of night when there was not a soul down there. I have been down there at sunrise when there was nobody there. I have been there on a summer afternoon when it seemed like every tourist from this country and every tourist from around this world was gathered there.

But yesterday I went for an evening run after votes, and I saw something I have never seen before, because as I ran down the Mall, I got to the World War II Memorial and it was chained up. Mind you, this is an open-air rock memorial dedicated to the sacrifice of so many soldiers there in World War II, an open-air rock memorial.

But I continued only with my run, and I got down to the Lincoln Memorial, and to my amazement that thing was chained up too. I was so agitated in seeing this that I turned to a tourist and I said, You got to be kidding me. Would you take a picture of that? And it was actually a family from Shanghai, China, here halfway around the world. They took the picture, and they emailed it to me last night and it is an amazing shot.

As you can see there, the Lincoln Memorial, two guards. Now, mind you, I have been there many times when nobody was there, no security guard, nobody. And yet in this instance you have chains around it, two police cars, simply to keep people out of one of the great memorials to freedom in our country.

It just strikes me that that is a picture of political gamesmanship and hostage taking, and I would say respectfully, Mr. President, you have gone too far on this one. At the time of the sequester, you ended school tours to the White House. Now, mind you, not since Jefferson's time and war has the people's House, the White House, been shut down for public tours. But you used that as a political tool to somehow gain advantage in the sequester that still exists so kids from 8th grade may take their one trip to Washington, D.C., and can't go to the White House because you think it will gain political favor. And I see the same thing going on with this.

So let's agree that we disagree. We agree that we as Republicans think we ought to be spending less. You and HARRY REID think we ought to be spending more. I think the Congressional Budget numbers are on our side. They say that in just 12 years we are only going to have enough money to pay for interest and entitlements and nothing else, and in that regard this is just a sneak preview of much more damaging things to come if we don't get our financial house in order.

But I would say it is okay to have disagreements, but it is not okay to hold, I guess, citizens hostage and try to maximize and inflict pain in their ability to do normal things, particularly when the House has offered four different bites at the apple in keeping the government open and particularly when just last night bills were sent to HARRY REID that would have kept government open, would have kept the Park Service open, would have kept groups like NIH open.

I think this is really important. Reagan once said there at the Brandenburg Gate to Mr. Gorbachev, tear down

this wall; and I would say to you Mr. President, take down the chains. Take down the walls to these open-air memorials to freedom. This is not the National Archives where things could be taken or stolen. These are open-air memorials. This is ridiculous political gamesmanship. I was Governor for eight years. I have been an executive. I know that you can do this, and I would ask that you do so.

I am going to go for my evening run, 5:30, 6 o'clock. I would invite every one of you all up there in the gallery to come join me at the Lincoln Memorial. I would ask listeners out there to join me at the Lincoln Memorial. I will talk to Representative PALAZZO from Mississippi and MICHELE BACHMANN and others who gathered there at the World War II Memorial. This has gotten out of control with regard to this degree of political gamesmanship by HARRY REID and by the President.

So I would just ask that you take another look at that picture, think about what it means, think about the sacrifice that has been made that is ultimately about what these memorials are founded on, and why can't we do something about it, Mr. President. I would ask you to do so.

I would invite folks for a 5:30 or 6 o'clock run down at the Lincoln Memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members that they are to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING GEORGE ZENOVICH AND PETE MEHAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we have seen a great deal of political posturing and speeches over the last several days. I think it is time that we get our priorities straight and pass a clean budget that reopens this government. I think the American public is, frankly, sick and tired of the blame game.

I also believe that many of my Republican friends are distracted with issues that are important, but are not central to the question of funding government. We can debate the issue of the Affordable Health Care Act, as we should, but it is not central to reopening government.

Today, I would like to talk to you about two public servants from my neck of the woods, the San Joaquin Valley, who put their community first and delivered results. Sadly, in the last week these two individuals have passed away and we say good-bye to them. But I want to use their examples as role models because I think their commitment to public service, to the people of the San Joaquin Valley in California and our Nation, is a good example. One was a Democrat and one was a Republican. Both were widely respected; and they never, ever let partisanship or ideology get in the way of solutions.

George Zenovich and Pete Mehas were the best our Valley had to offer, especially on how they conducted their lives. Pete Mehas, from a Greek immigrant family, was a pillar of our education community in the Valley for almost 50 years. From the time he entered the classroom in 1963, he was bound for leadership and changed the lives of countless individuals. He realized the special challenges of students in our Valley and those throughout the State and he made their voices heard.

His passion was recognized by Governor George Deukmejian, who appointed him as his chief adviser relating to all matters involving education. Pete served also under Governor Pete Wilson and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and, ultimately, President George Bush when he was appointed to the advisory commission on educational excellence for all Americans.

Knowing that strong schools require strong communities, Pete wanted to see Fresno prosper and develop into a thriving business hub. From cofounding Leadership Fresno, to sitting on the Valley Business Conference Executive Board, to serving as the president of the Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame where he was enshrined, Pete invested his time in the community and the city he loved. For 16 years he served as the superintendent of Fresno County Schools where he represented 34 school districts, 325 schools, and almost 200,000 students.

He was a loving husband, a proud father, and a distinguished alum of Fresno State. He was part of the 1961 Mercy Bowl team that was a national champion. So it is with a heavy heart that we say good-bye to this man who dedicated his life to making the future of others brighter.

Another individual whom he worked with and whom I worked with was also a pillar of our community and that was George Zenovich. George was a man who lived his life with purpose and a dedication to public service. Born in 1922 of a Slavic family, he was a product of our Valley. He served in the United States Army Air Force. He was student body president at Fresno State.

Later on he enrolled in law school after he married the love of his life, Kika. Upon completion of his degree, he quickly built a strong professional reputation and served in the California Assembly beginning in 1962. Later on he became the majority leader, before taking a seat in the California State Senate.

His impact as a senator was far-reaching, from creating the California Arts Council, to the California Housing Authority Finance Agency, to authoring the first law in the United States that gave farm workers a chance at collective bargaining through the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. He was an advocate for those voices who sometimes got lost in the political banter.

In 1979, George was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to be on the court of appeals. In 2008, Fresno's new Fifth District Court of Appeals building was named after him, the George Zenovich Court of Appeals Building, for his lifetime practice of fair and sound jurisprudence. George was a shining example of what a public servant should be and never lost sight of those in the community he served.

Both of these people put their community first. I worked with both George and Pete for years, and they were not only my friends, but they were friends of the Valley they loved and the State they called home, California.

My colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for all of us in this body to live up to the memory of these two shining examples, people who we have all worked with throughout our lives, and I think in the true tradition of public service these are the kind of individuals we ought to have as role models when fixing our Nation's budget and putting government back to work.

OPEN AMERICA'S PARKS AND MEMORIALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed and sent to the Senate a bipartisan bill to keep our national parks open. Twenty-three Democrats joined the House Republicans to end the closure of these national treasures. They joined us to unlock the gates and to open the doors of these treasures, from Acadia to Zion. They joined with us to tear down the barriers that were erected to block access to our open D.C. memorials that my colleague from South Carolina just alluded to a moment ago. These memorials are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. So the Senate should act today to pass this bill and to send it to the President for his signature.

But it is disappointing to see statements from Senate Democrat leaders dismissing and even ridiculing these commonsense steps as ''piecemeal.'' It is even more disappointing that the President has threatened a veto of this bill to keep the parks open.

Mr. Speaker, let's not forget that one week ago today the Senate Democrats, led by HARRY REID, and the entire Senate, unanimously approved a bill to keep the Federal Helium Reserve open and operating, and last night the President finally signed this bill to prevent a helium shutdown into law. Now, make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Senate unanimously passed it, and I am glad the President signed the law. It is important for our economy.

But the reason I bring this up is that the helium program is part of the Department of the Interior, the Department of the Interior that is responsible for our national parks. So one has to ask, why will the Senate pass and the President sign into law a bill to specifically prevent the closure of our Federal

helium program, but then refuse to act on a bill that would end the closure of over 400 national parks that are visited by millions of Americans every year? The contradictions in their words and actions are glaring. Such political posturing is not only illogical and hypocritical, but the result of that posturing punishes the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this does not need to happen, and it should not happen. So I urge the Senate Democrats and the President to stop going out of their way to make the government shutdown as painful as possible, and I urge the Senate Democrats and the President to come to the table and negotiate an end to this shutdown and to act today to take the reasonable and responsible step of passing a bill to open our parks and memorials to America's veterans, families, and all U.S. citizens.

TRIBUTE TO RAPHAEL BELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to express condolences to the family, friends, and parishioners of Bishop Raphael Bell, who passed away this past Sunday while preaching a sermon in his pulpit. As a matter of fact, his wife had suggested that he not go to church, but he indicated that he would go because he thought it might make him feel better.

He was 90 years old. He grew up the son of a sharecropper in Mississippi, moved to Illinois, founded several schools and colleges, became the senior bishop of a diocese, well-loved, well-respected, a tremendous personality. I came to know his family when I taught his nephew 40 years ago and have observed him ever since.

I just wanted to say to his family, friends, and parishioners that they have been graced by the presence of a tremendously great individual who died doing what he liked to do, and that is preach the Gospel.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS KILLING THE ECONOMIC ENGINE OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, every day now for the past 3 years, I have heard from the good people of Georgia's Third Congressional District about how expensive their health insurance costs have become and will become as a result of ObamaCare. On Tuesday, their fears of just how unaffordable this Affordable Care Act is became a truly bleak reality to them.

If this train wreck of a law is truly affordable, then why have Georgians seen their premiums increase as much as 300 percent on the exchanges? If it is affordable, then why do 57 percent of Americans oppose ObamaCare? If this law is affordable, then why is Ruth from LaGrange opting to pay the penalty and forgo insurance because she and her husband can no longer afford to pay their family's premiums under this Affordable Health Care Act? I guess even if Ruth likes her plan, she really can't keep it. She was lied to.

One thing supporters of ObamaCare always tout is that it will help those who are very sick or have preexisting conditions get access to affordable care. Well, let me tell you about Cindy from Newnan who is fighting a brave battle with cancer. Much to her surprise, she has been told by her doctor that under the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, some of the treatments in medicine that make a difference in her being sick just a few days instead of a few weeks will no longer be covered. What about someone who does not have a few weeks? What are they supposed to do? And how do we explain that to Cindy's children?

You know it is a sad day when employers like IBM are left with no choice but to kick retirees off their health care plans. What a reward to those like David of Griffin who have given so many years contributing to their company's success.

And it is not just hurting American families. It is killing small businesses, the economic engine of our country. I just got a letter from Dale in LaGrange, who is one of four owners of a heating and air conditioning company which self-insures their employees.

In an effort to comply with ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act, in 2011, the heating and air conditioning company saw their health care costs go up $38,000 compared to 2010. The same thing happened in 2012. Their costs went up almost $40,000 from 2011. This means they went from spending $115,000 on health care for their employees in 2010 to almost $195,000 just 2 years later.

What is just as concerning is employers who have been forced by ObamaCare to increase their employees' premiums and no longer offer health insurance for spouses or children.

□ 1130

This change has been a financial disaster for Melanie of Hamilton whose husband will no longer be covered by her employer, TSYS, a great company in my district and a stable source of jobs.

For 3 years, we have seen the disastrous consequences of this supposedly Affordable Care Act, and in just 3 days since the exchanges have gone live, we have heard hundreds of stories similar to the ones I just told. Imagine how much worse things can become in 3 months.

But listen, it's not just the lies we have been told, but it's the lies we're still being told—such as California reporting they had 5 million hits. Finally today, they confessed, they only had 655,000.

As I have said time and time again, the easy solution is for the President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join House Republicans and agree to a 1-year delay and defund, just like he has done delay for Big Business and his buddies. Why don't we do it for the American people? Why don't we put all of us in the same class rather than trying to divide this country? Why don't we do the delay? Give them time, if they can, to straighten out this mess and put everybody, small businesses, Americans, everybody, employed and unemployed, in the same class.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting and listening to some of the previous speakers, and I heard more than one, but one in particular, make the point really forcefully that nobody wants this government shutdown, that universally we oppose, as Members of Congress, keeping our government closed. I just wish that were true.

I have been doing a lot of reading on this and looked back at some of the reports from months ago. There was a really interesting story in a magazine recently that described a strategy to not adopt the budget and to force an argument over the continuing resolution and to force the debate over the Affordable Care Act into the debate about the continuing resolution with the idea that if we don't, here in Congress, capitulate on a previously enacted law that the House and the Senate agreed to, that the President signed and the Supreme Court upheld, if we don't capitulate, that there will be a shutdown of the government. So I only wish it were true that not everybody in this body wanted to avoid this shutdown that is crippling our economy and hurting the American people.

There is something that we can do, however, to get out of this, and it would be simply to allow for a dose of democracy in the House of Representatives; because we know, and I have talked to many Members on both sides of the aisle, particularly Members on the other side, and it is not just the 17 that have already declared their willingness to buck the Tea Party leadership—and essentially the leader of the group in the House is the Senator from Texas. More than 17 are willing to vote for a clean bill to reopen government so that we can get back to the business of legislating. I think it is a big number. I suspect it might even be a majority of the other side. The Senate would approve it. It already has. The President said he would sign it, and a majority of this House, probably a majority of both parties, would approve a clean resolution to reopen government so that we can get on with the fights on things that we don't agree on. That's the way this democracy was designed.

I'm new here. I've only been here 9 months, but I've been following government, been a part of it for a long, long time. I'm a citizen who understands how our democracy is supposed to work; and I always believed that if a majority of both bodies agree on a particular position and the President agrees, that we can put a law through, sign it, and get on with the business.

The other side talks a lot about negotiating, having a conference committee. It is so interesting to me that back in April after both bodies, the House and the Senate, had adopted budget resolutions, that it was the Republican leadership that not only failed to, but refused to negotiate a budget resolution that could have avoided this whole thing in the first place. I had to wonder then—I was scratching my head—Why?

The charade of the last week or so has made it clear to me why: This was the intent all along, to shut down government and use that—the kindest term I can use, I suppose, is ''leverage''; I've heard others use other terms—but to use that leverage to try to extract from the government that which the other side couldn't win legislatively, couldn't win at the ballot box, but will use every tool, including the closing of the Federal Government and now the threat to default on our Federal obligations, and wreck the economy in doing so.

The President agrees, the Senate agrees, a majority of the House agrees we should continue to operate government. We should adopt the continuing resolution at the number that the Republican leadership has supported all along and get back to providing the services that our country needs and provide stability back into our economy.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I was frankly disappointed and really perplexed yesterday when the President of the United States called a meeting in the White House and asked the Speaker of the House to come and meet. He asked the leader of the Democrats in the House to come and meet. He asked the majority leader in the Senate to meet. And at the same time, his pressman, Jay Carney, was on TV saying: We're not going to negotiate. When they ended the meeting, Senator REID and Ms. PELOSI said: We're not going to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that this bill has been 50 years in the making. The Democrats have wanted to nationalize health care for 50 years. They found their political timing to do it when they controlled the House and the Senate, when President Obama was President, and with a total partisan vote, they got what they wanted—even without even reading the bill. As Ms. PELOSI said: We're going to pass it and then we're going to read it. Yet Mr. Obama has said that House Republicans are on an ideological crusade, Mr. Speaker. His staff has referred to us as suicide bombers. Really?

You know, Mr. Speaker, we were all elected to serve our constituents. The President was, and so was I. So was the Speaker of the House. We don't have a monarch in this country, Mr. Speaker, we have a representative government, and our role is to listen and to respond to our constituents. They are writing us, they're emailing us constantly telling us their concerns. Let's hear about one from Cornelius, North Carolina:

> Just received my new monthly premium from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North Carolina for 2014. With ObamaCare, my monthly cost now has tripled with more limited coverage. But what the heck, now I can get pregnant at 58 years old since I now have my mandatory maternity coverage. Please continue to push to stop this horrible mandate.

Here is another constituent from Huntersville, North Carolina:

> We are currently paying $270 per month for our high deductible health insurance policy through Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Today, we received our new rate for our family for 2014. A comparable plan now with Blue Cross/Blue Shield is $1,037.02.

Mr. Speaker, this is deplorable. She goes on to write:

> It was my understanding that under ObamaCare, premiums would go down. It was my understanding that this would be good for everyone. If ObamaCare is not good enough for government employees, like Members of Congress and the White House, why is it being delayed for certain corporations and labor unions who are asking for an exemption, and why can't I get out of this program?

She goes on to write:

> I'm asking you to stand up for freedom, for choice, for the citizens of this country, to delay ObamaCare for at least a year, at the very minimum, or even better, to repeal the law in its entirety.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an ideological crusade; this is about meeting the needs of our constituents. There are other concerns out there with jobs. Companies aren't hiring full-time people. They are hiring part-time so they can stay under that threshold. The cost of this health care plan has gone up dramatically. The Congressional Budget Office says it is unsustainable. Why should we allow for corporations—there's 1,100 of them today, friends of the President—to receive a delay in ObamaCare, and yet ordinary Americans cannot do that?

That's why we proposed an amendment for an individual mandate deferment, that they would not be obligated at this time. We also said that Members of Congress should not receive the subsidy, nor should the White House staff, the President, and his Cabinet Secretaries. Why should we get something special that ordinary American people don't get? And yet these bills are lying on the desk of HARRY REID because he tabled them.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring sound reasoning to this process. Let's meet and negotiate, Mr. President and Senator REID.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the American people are frustrated and angry that politicians in Washington can't even work together to keep the government open and operating. They're hearing a lot of rhetoric from the White House and Congress about who is to blame, but instead of trading accusations about who is to blame, the President and Congress should face the realities of divided government. The only way forward in divided government when there is a difference of opinion, when there's an impasse, is negotiation and compromise.

I come from the same congressional district that was once represented by Henry Clay, a great statesman and Speaker of the House. Clay, who was known as the ''Great Compromiser,'' knew that in divided government, the only way forward is through negotiation and compromise. Unfortunately, the President and the Senate majority leader continue to reject the model of Henry Clay. They continue to say that they will refuse to negotiate, refuse to compromise, refuse to work in a bipartisan way to achieve a middle ground and end this government shutdown.

Last night, the President hosted congressional leaders at the White House; but rather than offer to negotiate about how to reopen the government and fix some of the harmful effects of ObamaCare, the President reiterated his stubborn refusal to negotiate. Regrettably, the meeting was more political theater than a genuine effort to resolve this impasse.

In contrast, this House has offered to negotiate. The House has offered multiple compromises. Since September 20, the House has voted no less than 14 times to fund the government, to fund critical parts of the government, to fund the District of Columbia, to fund the National Institutes of Health, to fund our national parks, to fund our troops, to fund our veterans, and to end this government shutdown.

But instead of working with House Republicans to reopen the government, this administration directed barricades to be placed at the World War II Memorial, inconveniencing our Honor Flight veterans visiting our Nation's Capital. Instead of working with House Republicans to end the interruption of life-saving clinical trials for cancer patients through the NIH, the Senate majority leader asked: Why would we want to do that?

Our friends on the other side of the aisle say they want to vote on a so-called clean CR. They insist that we ignore the voices of millions of our constituents who are flooding our offices

with calls asking for protection from ObamaCare. But the truth is this: The House has compromised over and over and over again, and the only demand that this House is making to the President and this Senate is that if you insist on ObamaCare, if you refuse to delay this law or fix its harmful features, then at least do away with your special deal. At least give up your special exemption and your special perk under this law. At least join with House Republicans in requiring all politicians in Washington, the President, members of the Cabinet, Members of Congress and their staff, to live under the same health care law that they have imposed on the American people. At least live by the laws you write.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by asking my colleagues on the other side of the aisle a simple question: If ObamaCare is such a great program for the American people, if it is so worth defending that you're willing to shut down the government to defend it, then why won't you participate in it? Think about it. If ObamaCare's exchanges are such a perfect solution to the problems of health care in our Nation, then why are Democrats in the White House and in Congress so intent on keeping their special exemption from them?

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong for politicians in Washington to shut down the government and vote against every bill to reopen the government just to keep their special deal that no other American gets under ObamaCare. So I call on the President and the Senate to end their stubborn refusal to negotiate, end their suborn refusal to compromise, end their stubborn refusal to open this government just so that they can keep their special exemption under ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, I say that, if ObamaCare is such a great law for the American people, then it should be good enough for President Obama and Members of Congress.

MARKET IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN AND DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is important to look at the impact of the shutdown and a looming government default on our financial markets.

On the shutdown, if the SEC uses all of its rainy-day money, it will be forced to close some key market oversight functions. There would be little to no oversight of exchanges. And if there were more trading glitches like the one that closed NASDAQ last month, the SEC wouldn't be able to respond quickly and problems could quickly spiral out of control. This could irreparably damage confidence in the safety and integrity of U.S. financial markets, and I've always said that markets run more on confidence than on capital.

On the debt ceiling, defaulting on Treasury bonds could be truly catastrophic. The assumption that Treasury bonds are risk free is the most fundamental assumption in the financial markets. It underpins the entire world's bond market. If Congress doesn't lift the debt ceiling and we default, Treasury bonds would, for the first time in our history, no longer be risk free. The value of bonds around the world would instantly fall, and billions of dollars of wealth would be destroyed in the blink of an eye. The dollar could even lose its status as the world's reserve currency.

We need to end the shutdown and lift the debt ceiling today. Jobs, growth, and the financial security of our country depend on it.

BRING CLEAN BUDGET TO THE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) for 2 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. We beseech the Speaker of this House, JOHN BOEHNER, to bring a clean budget to the floor. That is the responsible thing to do. It is the democratic thing to do. Unfortunately, in a cynical power play that only serves to further inflame the wrath of the American people, the Speaker has erected a wall of obstructionism, a wall that, in truth, is separating the American people from their democracy.

So we say today to the Speaker: Mr. Speaker, open these gates of democracy. Mr. BOEHNER, tear down this wall. Tear down this wall of obstructionism. Tear down this wall, this wall that has been constructed on a foundation of reckless ideology. Tear down this wall of shame upon which the most extreme members of your caucus have so proudly, almost gleefully, inscribed their names in mockery of the will of the American people. Tear down this wall of obstructionism. Show that democracy can indeed flourish in this Chamber. Bring a clean budget to the floor. Today, bring it to the floor. It will pass, and we can put our government back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 3233. An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We give You thanks that You have given to us the goals of justice and the designs of freedom, and that these are our heritage, as Americans.

Bless the Members of the people's House with the understanding that it is their work to develop the strategies and the plans for achieving those goals, and the trust to know that Your Spirit is with them in their work.

Grace this assembly with the resolve to be faithful in its tasks, responsible in its actions, and fervent in its desire to serve a Nation which, so many hope, will live beyond the current difficulties into an ever-greater realization of both justice and freedom.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOYLE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS WILL NOT BE BULLIED

(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, the President's failure to negotiate is unprecedented. Yesterday, he finally invited congressional leaders to meet at the White House, but no progress was made. The President, instead, issued an ultimatum, telling Congress that he is not willing to negotiate.

Our Nation is quickly approaching a deadline where we will no longer be able to pay our bills. This morning, I received a six-page memo from the Treasury Department outlining the disastrous impacts of defaulting.

Every American family knows the consequences of exceeding the maximum on our credit cards. Responsible Americans do not send white papers warning of a crisis; we find ways to reduce spending so we can spend within our means.

It's time for the President to take his responsibilities seriously. The only way to make progress is to sit down with congressional Republicans and find a commonsense solution.

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

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO DO ITS JOB AND GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today's on behalf of the many unemployed Americans who are looking for work, people who need a fair shot at entering the workforce so they can earn a living for themselves and their family.

It's a travesty that the same partisan gridlock that shut down the government on the American people has also kept us from passing a bipartisan jobs bill this Congress.

Government shouldn't be closed for business. Hardworking Americans deserve a government that works overtime to create jobs and promote a strong economy. The families I represent deserve better, and the American people deserve better.

This Friday, I'm hosting a job fair at South Suburban College in my district. Over 50 employers will be on hand to offer jobs to individuals looking for work. I know they'll be impressed by the talented men and women we have in Illinois' Second Congressional District.

Enough with the distractions. Americans want jobs. Businesses want to create jobs. And it's time that Congress did its job and passed legislation to get Americans back to work.

BE FAIR TO HOOSIERS

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3232, the Support Our Armed Forces Act.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I'm pleased to introduce this bill today with Congressman COOK of California. This commonsense piece of legislation makes sure that all employees of the Department of Defense work and get paid during the government shutdown.

Specifically, the Support Our Armed Forces Act extends pay to the National Guard, Reservists, dual service technicians, and all civilian Department of Defense employees and contractors during this period of time.

Indiana's Second District is home to Grissom Air Reserve Base in Miami County. Since October 1, reports state that over 600 full-time civilian employees and Air Force Reservists have been furloughed at Grissom Air Reserve Base.

I think it's unfair and unsafe for Congress to jeopardize employment for these very individuals who devote their lives to fight for the continued security of this country.

This bill provides essential support for hundreds of hardworking Hoosiers and Guardsmen in Miami County to guarantee the readiness of that base.

Congress has an obligation to protect this Nation, to support the men and women who wear the uniform bravely and work behind the scenes to provide equipment, training and essential support for the armed services.

STOP PLAYING GAMES AND PASS A CLEAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, here we are, Day 4 of the government shutdown, all because the Republican majority didn't get their way on a bill 3 years ago.

They're so obsessed, in fact, with eliminating the Affordable Care Act that they're willing to risk the functions of the United States Government, just to prove a point. It's really amazing and, yet, so sad.

And now that they've seen the polls and realize the American people don't support what they're doing, their response is to pass a few bills to only reopen a few agencies within the government. Again, amazing.

We need to open the whole government. And yet, congressional Republicans don't care about the consequences of a shutdown, even though they're significant.

Thousands of people are furloughed. Critical programs and services across the country have been shuttered, and all because congressional Republicans are in denial of the Affordable Care Act. It is the law of land and has been for 3 years, and has survived 42 legislative attempts to repeal it.

It's time to move on. This is not a serious, responsible way to run the United States of America, and you know it. Stop playing games and pass a clean continuing resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair would ask that all Members use the proper form in asking to be recognized for 1 minute speeches.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, they say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I'm going to show you some pictures today.

This is a picture of the World War II Veterans Memorial being shut down. I want to find out who ordered these signs because these were up the very next morning. And plus, you know, what may be a Chicago sign painter that got this order, who gave him the order, and where did we get all the barricades.

Here's another one. This is a park in Washington, D.C. You can see the kids and stuff playing. It's got a sign that it's shut down.

So these things are normally open-air. They're open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. But yet, now they're closed.

I wonder if the golf courses on our Federal property and our military bases are closed?

It doesn't look like they are right now, but we'll see if we can't get them some barricades.

LISTEN TO THE FAMILIES ACROSS THIS COUNTRY

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, despite the GOP's best efforts, health care exchanges across this country opened. In the first 24 hours, healthcare.gov was visited by 4.7 million visitors. In Massachusetts, where we've had an exchange for years, thousands began the process of signing up for expanded care.

Yesterday, in one of the local papers in my district, the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune, a reader wrote about the benefits that people are already enjoying under the Affordable Care Act.

This grateful parent stated:

> I have been happy with ObamaCare. For the past 2 years, my two recent college grads have been on my insurance. We have saved over $4,000. Originally, one was kicked off our plan at age 22. Republicans say young and healthy kids do not need insurance. They are wrong. One of our children was hit by a car walking, and the other had gallbladder surgery. The hospital bills were over $50,000.

It is evident that families all over this country are grateful that their loved ones will have access to affordable health coverage. To my colleagues across the aisle, please listen to them.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today I'm here to say enough is enough. The President and this administration are manipulating the shutdown to intentionally hurt as many American families as possible, and that is simply wrong.

My home State of Arizona has many national parks and beautiful scenic views, most importantly, the Grand Canyon, the gem of the National Park Service. It should not be forgotten that these belong to the people.

Though the House passed H.J. Res. 70, Open Our National Parks and Museum Act by a large bipartisan margin, the Senate is refusing to act on it, which is why, in true Arizona fashion, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission offered to the National Park Service their own solution, which is to include their own game and fish resources to keep open our national parks, including Lees Ferry, the gateway to the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon, and the very symbol of Arizona.

On behalf of the people of Arizona, I urge the National Park Service to get out of the way. Let residents, let Americans, let everyone back into their parks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President. While a Member may engage in criticisms of policies of the President, remarks may not include those personalities.

STOP TRYING TO BURN DOWN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, we've heard from our Republican colleagues that Democrats don't want to compromise, that the President doesn't want to negotiate.

I read something on the Internet this morning that sort of describes the type of negotiation the Republicans want to have with us. It goes something like this:

Can I burn down your house?

No.

How about just the second floor?

No.

How about the garage?

No.

Well, let's talk about what I can burn down.

No.

You're not compromising.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we've been going through. You want a budget for 6 weeks? Defund ObamaCare. Delay ObamaCare. Take away the individual mandate from ObamaCare. Or please, just sit down with us and tell us what we can take away from 20 million Americans who need health care, and then we'll reopen the government.

Let me say to my colleagues, if you would just stop trying to burn down the house, we can talk.

PAY OUR MILITARY ACT

(Mr. BROOKS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this week the Pay Our Military Act became law. It states, in part, and I quote:

> There are hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2014 such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to: Members of the armed services, civilian personnel of the Department of Defense who are providing support to members of the armed services, and contractors of the Department of Defense whom are providing support to members of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, every single DOD civilian worker and contractor supports the armed services. Hence, as a matter of law, there should be no furloughs of any DOD civilian personnel and no payment delays to any DOD contractors.

Yet, a DOD memo states, ''Of the Department's 800,000 civilian workers, about half will be furloughed.''

Mr. Speaker, that violates the Pay Our Military Act, and the Obama administration must immediately return all 400,000 furloughed DOD employees to work and pay all DOD contractors on time. It's the law.

□ 1215

ACA EXCHANGE OPENING

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, despite Republicans' conviction to defund, dismantle, and shut the Federal Government down because they want to deny health care to millions of Americans, exchanges have opened across the country with overwhelming response. In fact, in my home State of California, Covered California, which is California's exchange, reported 5 million page views to their Web site by 3 o'clock in the afternoon, exceeding expectations.

Women can no longer be charged more for just being a woman. Victims of domestic violence can no longer be denied coverage for having a preexisting condition, and insurance companies can no longer increase premiums to increase profits while delivering less health care to consumers.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of this. Hostage-taking is a deplorable tactic. Shutting down the government in exchange for denying health care for millions is morally wrong.

Let's reopen the government. We should do it now. The American people deserve us to do our job to keep government functioning. That's our patriotic duty.

FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. The American people deserve better than a Federal Government that is largely shut down—services curtailed, employees furloughed. They deserve better than a President who says he will not negotiate and a Senate that apparently cannot negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, the House has sent multiple continuing resolutions to the Senate to fund government operations through mid-December. The Senate dismissed each one, including our request to establish a House-Senate conference committee to engage in dialogue to discuss our differences and, yes, to work toward solutions. After all, compromise should not be a four-letter word here in Washington. But the President won't negotiate and the Senate won't talk.

To paraphrase a recent military leader: Tell me how this ends.

Until they come around, we must all remain committed to ending this government shutdown and for fighting for fairness in the President's new health care law.

PRAY FOR WISDOM

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, in the short time that I have been here, I have had the honor of meeting many of my colleagues on the Republican side, and I have found them to be very honorable people. In fact, I have had the solemn opportunity to pray with them. They love their families, they love their country, they love their community, just like we do. And I would hope that we could both stand back on this issue, reopen the government, and find a way to get to a compromise. I think that reasonable people can get there.

So I pray that we are granted wisdom on both sides to step back, to take a look at what we're doing, and to see how many people are being hurt in our communities and around the country. This is not the way I think that we should be acting. I think we are better than that.

Again, I pray for wisdom.

OMB MEMORANDUM ON OPERATIONS DURING A POTENTIAL LAPSE IN FUNDING

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would wholeheartedly concur with the preceding speaker that we need wisdom,

we need guidance. We don't want to shut this government down, and certainly we don't want to play politics—at least many of us—with our constituents' services.

Sadly, we've seen too many pictures of that in recent days with the memorials and monuments being chained off. That's wrong.

This morning, my staff and I came across a document from the executive office of the President's Office of Management and Budget with a Q&A dealing with planning for agency operations during a potential lapse of appropriations:

> Question: What if the cost of shutting down a Web site exceeds the cost of maintaining services?
>
> Answer: The determination of which services continue during an appropriations lapse is not affected by whether the costs of shutdown exceed the costs of maintaining services.

Mr. Speaker, that gives me concern. Indeed, the sites that we've checked on like the National Park Service, NASA, E-Verify, and the Department of Agriculture have been shut down for political purposes. That needs to stop.

PUT POLITICS ASIDE

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, 43,000 El Pasoans are Federal employees. This is the fifth highest concentration of Federal employees in the Nation. Many of them work at Fort Bliss. Others are Border Patrol agents or customs officers at the busiest ports of entry in the country. All of them are facing uncertainty because they're being furloughed or working without pay.

I have spoken to many of them over the past week, including Army officers who are worried about what this shutdown is doing to the morale of the soldiers they command and veterans employed at William Beaumont Army Medical Center who cannot go to work to care for our wounded warriors.

A woman whose husband must go to work, but doesn't know when he will get paid provided this advice to us:

> Do your job, just as my husband has to do his.

Mr. Speaker, the solution to this crisis is right before us. Bring the Senate-passed government funding bill to the floor. It will pass this House, and the government will be open tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, please put politics aside and do what is right.

REMOVE THE EXEMPTION FOR CONGRESS

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I've been wondering exactly why on Tuesday morning the Senate and the President let the government shut down, started barricading monuments from our World War II veterans, and stopped the treatment of children of cancer at the NIH, all because they rejected our offer to fund the government and end the special congressional exemption under ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, late yesterday afternoon, I got the answer. We all got an email about the President's decision on how this exemption is going to work.

Mr. Speaker, we all have to go and get the gold policy. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Not the bronze, not the silver, but the gold policy from the exchange. That's the only one we can get. You see, bronze and silver is only good enough for everyone else in the country. For Members of Congress and Members of the Senate and their staff, it's gold or nothing. That's why this fight has been for a clean CR. No one wants to remove that exemption.

Mr. Speaker, remove the exemption for Congress and their staff.

VOTE ON THE CLEAN CR

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, you win. You shut down the Federal Government. But now what? Do you know why you did it? You started with defunding ObamaCare. Then it went to delaying funding for a year and conscience clause added in, and then you went to repealing the medical device tax, and then it went to delaying the individual mandate for a year and making sure government does not contribute to our staffs' medical insurance. By the way, you did that twice. Now there's no mention of ObamaCare and its cherry-picking what parts of government will open.

I ask you again, why did you do this? I am confused, Mr. Speaker. But what about the people whose lives you have been playing with? You can't tell them why you're doing this.

End this brinksmanship and show leadership. Allow the House to vote on the clean CR.

PROTECTING RIGHTS OF AMERICANS

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the real issue here today is about the rights of the American people. Individual American citizens should have the same rights to the same exemptions as powerful corporations have been given, and Members of Congress should comply with the same laws as everyone else, whether it be ObamaCare or any other law of this country. And that, Mr. Speaker, is all that we've asked for.

If the President would simply agree to give the people of this country the same relief that he has given powerful corporations, we wouldn't be shut down right now.

House Republicans will continue our efforts to pass bills that reflect the American people's priorities and their rights, and keep the government running. We hope that President Obama and HARRY REID will negotiate in good faith and join Republicans in our efforts to keep the government funded and protect the rights of the American citizens.

REMEMBERING DR. MACK KING CARTER

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy because of the death of one of my dearest friends in Florida, Dr. Mack King Carter, the pastor emeritus of Mount Olive Baptist Church. He was an extraordinary theologian, teacher, missionary, and an exemplary servant of God. His wife, Pat, and the family know that heaven has been ''deliciously'' improved.

Mack was a preacher's preacher. I mourn with his many relatives and friends and the Mount Olive family.

One of his favorite words was ''delicious.'' Our lives have been deliciously enhanced because of the profound Christian teachings of a son of Ocala, Florida, Dr. Mack King Carter. We talked politics a lot, and he would remind me always of the admonitions of Leviticus and Ecclesiastics.

I would remind this ''shutdown'' place that we have a responsibility to the least of us in this society.

COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE

(Mr. HURT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that the House has acted once again to fund critical operations of the Federal Government.

Last night, we adopted legislation that would provide funding for the National Institutes of Health and for reopening monuments like our World War II Memorial. The NIH provides critical funding for work ranging from the treatment of traumatic brain injuries suffered by our soldiers to cancer therapy for our children. NIH is the largest source of Federal research funding for the important work in these areas at the University of Virginia, located in Virginia's Fifth District.

This critical funding should not lapse because the Senate majority leader refuses to come to the conference table to work out a reasonable spending agreement for the Federal Government.

This critical funding should not lapse because the Senate majority leader insists on protecting health care waivers for Washington special interests while leaving Virginia families in the cold.

The critical funding should not lapse because the Senate majority leader insists on protecting special health care

subsidies for Members of Congress while leaving Virginia families to pay the price.

I urge the Senate to come to the conference table today. Let's get this done.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE LOSING

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say to my Republican friends, the issue is not whether you are winning or losing this debate. The American people are losing.

This is day three. We ask you again to be reasonable. Let's reopen the government and then get our leadership from both parties and both Chambers into a room and not come out until they have a bipartisan agreement to fund the government in a responsible manner.

Remember, Democrats, for the purpose of opening this government, have agreed to the Republican level of discretionary spending of $986 billion. That's the Republican proposal; and Democrats, including the President, have agreed to this level of funding through November 15.

The votes are on this floor right now to pass the $986 billion CR right now. Prove that I'm wrong.

Speaker BOEHNER, leadership requires that you say ''no'' to those who want to obstruct and shut down the government. You must say ''no'' to them and let us vote, up or down, a clean continuing resolution.

REASONS TO GET RID OF OBAMACARE

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, at 12:01 a.m. this past Tuesday morning, I attempted to sign up for ObamaCare.

It's now been 60 hours, and I have still not been able to successfully navigate the online marketplace. Error message after error message, failed security standards, and 60 hours on Web site hold for just this one Kansan, and it is clear ObamaCare is failing—and embarrassingly so—particularly for the former Kansas Governor who is now in charge of ObamaCare but, of course, refuses to live under it herself.

My office recently spoke with one of the insurers in Kansas who told us that not one of the 365,000 uninsured Kansans successfully signed up for insurance under the ObamaCare exchanges the first day.

Although Senator HARRY REID and all the Senate Democrats, Kathleen Sebelius, and the President himself refuse to live under ObamaCare, the rest of America doesn't have that privilege.

This is yet another example of why we need to get rid of ObamaCare. It's unpopular, unaffordable, and unworkable.

□ 1230

OPPOSING THE CR THAT DELAYS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, at the time that President Obama was first inaugurated, it was clear to most Americans that we had a crisis in the health care system: the cost of premiums was skyrocketing every year, millions of American families did not have health insurance, and many of the health insurance plans that existed were inadequate, providing coverage that was essentially useless when someone had a serious health problem or a preexisting condition. Our seniors enrolled in Medicare were, in many instances, paying hundreds of dollars each month for drugs.

Now the Affordable Care Act in immediate effect addresses this crisis. Already, the Affordable Care Act has permitted millions of Americans to visit a primary care physician without copayments, prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against people with preexisting conditions, and now parents are keeping their children on their health insurance plans until they're 26 years of age.

As of Tuesday, across our great Nation, people without health insurance at long last have the ability to enroll in health care exchanges. The Affordable Care Act, it's the law of the land.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, we are granted the power of the purse strings here in Congress, so we are right and reasonable by using that power.

Yesterday, the House led and acted responsibly by providing yet another plan to get parts of this government back open again:

We provided funding to the NIH, which provides essential lifesaving treatments and research to families who have received the worst news possible—that their family member, their child, may have pediatric cancer that needs a cure. And I urge the Senate and the majority leader, HARRY REID, to bring this up for a vote in the Senate immediately.

We provided funding to the District of Columbia, which is part of our stewardship.

Today, we will once again vote to keep the promises to our veterans, and we will vote for the funding for National Guard and Reservists. These are all issues that we all agree on, depending on where you are sitting, Republican or Democrat.

The right thing in this situation is to provide funding and reopen the government. It's time for us to act.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, because some in Washington insist on putting ideology ahead of common sense, we are in the midst of a government shutdown that will hurt real people in my State of New Hampshire. Shutting down our government hurts our economy; it hurts job creation; it hurts our veterans; it hurts small businesses; and it hurts middle class families.

We owe our constituents much, much better than this, like Joe, who called my office this morning from Afghanistan. The line was a bit crackly, but this is Joe's message to me today:

> Support access to affordable health care for all Americans and open our government.

Joe said to me this morning:

> I am over here working hard for my family and my country. Please, I'm asking you to do the same.

So Joe, today we owe it to you. Let's gather together and pass a responsible bill that will fund the government and then refocus our attention on the needs of our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

PASS THE NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR FORCE RESERVE FUNDING BILL

(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, on September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Rolando Aguilar was already in the cockpit of his F–16 at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas. He was a member of the Texas Air National Guard.

He was in his cockpit when he heard the sound of scrambling horns alerting him to fly a mission. He and his wingman took off and they headed east, and they intercepted Air Force 1 over the Gulf of Mexico and protected the former guardsmen from their unit from any possible attack. They stayed guarding him and flying next to Air Force 1 until they were relieved. Yes, it was President Bush.

According to them, the Texas Air National Guard was the first to be in the air on September 11. The members of the Guard and Air Force Reserve—and, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the Reserve at the same time President Bush was a guardsman, at the same base at Ellington Field—kept them flying, have served and are serving our Nation

honorably since their existence. They are on watch today in places around the world. That's why we need to fully fund the Air Force Reserve and National Guard like we do the regular military.

There should be no shutdown for these volunteers that protect American. Pass the National Guard and Air Force Reserve funding bill and keep Lieutenant Colonel Aguilar flying.

And that's just the way it is.

POLITICAL PROCESS

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot from our Republican friends about funding for NIH and these pediatric research programs where dozens of children can get cancer treatment, and they make a big deal about it. On our side, we want to make sure every child in the United States has access to health care in case they get cancer.

We hear from the other side: We want to open the World War II Memorial so that veterans can have access to the memorial. But if that veteran's spouse or that veteran's child may have cancer or not have health care, we're saying, as Americans, that we should cover every American. Isn't that what they fought and died for, justice for all, and health care justice for all? And we hear from the other side: They're shutting down the government.

I was against the Iraq war. The Iraq war was unaffordable. The Iraq war was unpopular. Fifty-eight percent of the American people were against the Iraq war. Democrats didn't shut down the government.

Use the political process—which we did, and won the House back in '06, won the Presidency in '08, and wound down the Iraqi war. That's how you govern in democracy.

Two hundred-plus years we have been governing in this country through a political process. You wrap yourselves in the flag, and then you don't use the democratic process.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acquaint you and my colleagues with Mr. Butch Matthews, a 61-year-old former small businessman from Little Rock, Arkansas, who used to wake up every morning at 4 a.m. to deliver canned beverages to retailers before retiring in 2010.

A lifelong Republican, he was heavily skeptical of the Affordable Care Act when it first passed. ''I did not think ObamaCare was going to be a good plan; I did not think it would help me at all'' is what he said. But after a little research, he has now found out that he can get a better plan than he already had and at the same time save $13,000 a year.

When he was asked what would he say to people who are skeptical about the plan, Mr. Matthews says this: ''I would tell them to learn more about it before they start talking bad about it.''

Mr. Speaker, he is still a real strong Republican, but he says: I'm very happy this came along.

MR. SPEAKER, OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have heard my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle say that they want to keep the government open. Well, it's simply not true, Mr. Speaker.

Look, let's face it: the Republicans are in charge of this House. It's Speaker BOEHNER and the Republican leadership that shut the government down. They could simply bring up the Senate resolution that would keep the government open at any time now, today or any time, and the government would reopen.

So I don't want to hear this constant rhetoric that, oh, the Republicans want to keep the government open. It's simply not true. They are in charge. They have the responsibility. Speaker BOEHNER has the responsibility to bring up a clean resolution that would keep this government open.

Now, I have heard that our appropriators—and you listen to NANCY PELOSI. They have said that we have agreed to the government spending levels on the other side of the aisle, so that's not the issue here. There is no issue anymore about how much we're going to spend. It's simply that Republicans want to close the government down because of the Affordable Care Act. It should not be linked in any way.

If anybody suggests this is not a problem, 22 percent of the gross national product is dependent upon the Federal Government. This is having a negative impact on our economy.

Mr. Speaker, open the government again.

PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 370, I call up the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3230

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act''.

SEC. 2. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2014, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for any period during which interim or full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2014 are not in effect such sums as are necessary to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces (as named in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code) who perform inactive-duty training (as defined in section 101(d)(7) of such title) during such period.

(b) TERMINATION.—Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this section shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation (including a continuing appropriation) for any purpose for which amounts are made available in this section; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable regular or continuing appropriations resolution or other Act without any appropriation for such purpose; or (3) January 1, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3230, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act would fix a simple drafting error that existed in H.R. 3210, the Pay Our Military Act.

This bill was intended to appropriate funding so that all of our servicemembers, Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve, will receive their paychecks on time and without interruption during the government shutdown.

As most of you know, our Guard and Reserve members perform two kinds of training throughout the year: annual training, which occurs for 2 weeks a year; and Inactive Duty for Training, which is commonly referred to as weekend drill.

While H.R. 3210 appropriated funding for pay and allowances for servicemembers who perform active service during the shutdown, it mistakenly omitted pay and allowances for performing inactive duty training or weekend drill.

□ 1245

This was a simple technical drafting error in the legislation.

I have heard from many concerned Members requesting that we address this issue as quickly as possible to prevent any lapse in pay for our Guard and Reserve members during this shutdown. This bill would correct that and ensure that all of our servicemembers receive their paychecks on time, including for time served on weekend drill.

The Pay Our Military Act passed the House unanimously, and I believe this bill should have broad bipartisan support as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I certainly want to thank the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, as well as the chairman of the full committee, for all of their good work on the Appropriations Committee.

It is not out of disrespect that I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. We are piecemealing destroying the government of the United States, including the defense and the ability to defend ourselves of this Nation.

While we would suggest today that we are solving the problems at the Department of Defense, I would ask the question: What about maintenance of the existing equipment needed for readiness? Not in here. What about procurement for new equipment that is being eaten up in Afghanistan? Not in here. What about research and development to keep technological superiority of our forces so we are never in a fair fight? Not in here. What about maintaining facilities where these personnel live, where they work, where they serve our Nation? Not in here. What about the commissaries? Not in here.

I recognize that yesterday in Europe the Army Chief of Staff said that this shutdown is impacting significantly day-to-day operations and forcing the military to cut training.

There was an additional announcement today by a particular company, Sikorsky, that said they have ''slowed production of the Blackhawk helicopter now that Federal contracting inspectors have left their posts on furlough because of the shutdown.'' The same Federal employees at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford are also furloughed, delaying the delivery of engines and spare parts.

I reference the good chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, Mr. ROGERS, who is chairman of Appropriations. About 2 weeks ago, I noted on this floor that in article 1, section 9, paragraph 7, it says:

> No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.

It doesn't say anything about partial, temporary continuing resolutions.

It is time that the Congress of the United States begins appropriating. I am here as an appropriator to talk about fiscal policy, but our process has been usurped by those who have a particular social agenda. It is called the Affordable Care Act.

I just want to reference two incidents that I have been involved in in the last 10 days, that I am appalled that we have shut the government down over this fight.

The first is a meeting I had with a constituent of mine in Merrillville, Indiana. The gentleman has worked hard all of his life as an independent contractor. Their family had insurance through his wife, who worked for a small medical practice that was purchased. She was relieved of her position not because she was a bad employee, but because of consolidation. Thereafter, of course, you know how this story turns out. She contracts cancer. My constituent is in my office in the last 2 weeks because they are foreclosing on his house because they are broke, and we are arguing about this.

But what infuriates me and profoundly disappoints me is I am getting on an elevator across this aisle at about 1 in the morning this Tuesday and one of my colleagues gets on that elevator and my colleague was gleeful, gleeful and happy and cheery, because my colleague had called their State exchange at 12:30 a.m. in the morning and for some reason no one answered the phone and the system didn't work. Why do you think people are calling that number? They need health insurance. Gleeful that government didn't work, and that is before we shut it down.

What have we come to here? We have the best country in the world. It is time we start running it again.

I am opposed to this piecemeal approach.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the very distinguished chairman of this subcommittee has rendered invaluable service to this Nation and this body and certainly this committee, and I thank him for his wonderful service over a long period of time.

I rise today in support of the brave men and women of our military who stand at the ready to defend this homeland.

This legislation will provide the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve with due compensation for their service—on time and in full—throughout the government shutdown. Our intention with the Pay Our Military Act was to support all of our men and women in uniform. This legislation merely fixes a technical drafting error to amend that.

Once again, I believe this is an important action to get us on the path toward ending this crisis. This bill underscores the need to sufficiently and appropriately fund the entire Federal Government—to preserve our national security and get the Nation back on a stable economic footing. The House and the Senate must work together to flip the switch on this shutdown not only for our troops, but for everyone who calls this Nation their home.

It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to take care of our troops. Just as each of my colleagues in this body voted for the Pay Our Military Act, I hope they will do the same today to correct that act.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Indiana, my friend, mentioned in his remarks about the other aspects of the Federal Government that need to be back in operation. I could not agree with him more on that. However, the route out of this mess—if you call it—is for the Senate to appoint conferees.

The House authorized and appointed conferees 2 days ago. We are waiting on the Senate to do the same. If they appoint conferees, we can work out the differences between the two bodies, as is the time-honored tradition of this place, and solve the shutdown problem.

So I ask the Members of the other body to go ahead and appoint conferees. Let's start talking. We can solve this problem. So far they refuse to even talk.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are once again bringing a bill to the floor in response to the terrible news coverage on their shutdown.

Now, I am very confident that every single Member of the House of Representatives supports our Guard and Reserve men and women. We all want them to receive the pay that they have earned. We could do just that really quickly by passing a clean CR to fund the entire Federal Government and put an end to this GOP shutdown. But Republican leadership isn't serious about stopping the shutdown.

We all know that this bill is not a solution. It is just a distraction. For example, this bill claims to support military pay during the shutdown. However, while this bill does provide them a paycheck, it fails to provide them the materials essential for doing their job.

Let me give you an example of a few of the things that it doesn't fund: it doesn't fund the maintenance of existing equipment, and we need that for readiness; the procurement of new equipment if something needs to be replaced in order to continue a training drill or to be fully prepared; research and development to keep the technology superiority of the U.S. forces; and then, as the ranking member pointed out, keeping the facilities and maintenance moving forward.

This bill fails to ensure that our servicemen and -women will have the equipment and other support materials that they need. It certainly won't ensure that our other Federal law enforcement at the FBI or the DEA are paid even as they continue to work to keep America safe.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican government shutdown needs to end. The entire government needs to be funded. The American people don't want the Tea Party picking winners and losers, deciding what government services are necessary.

Let's do what is right for the American people and pass a clean continuing resolution to fund the entire Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I enter into the RECORD the Minnesota Air and Army National Guard Government Shutdown Impact in its entirety.

MN AIR AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMPACT (VERSION 2—2 OCTOBER 2013)

ADDRESSED FROM:

Less than 15 days (short term) and
Greater than 15 days (long term).

FEDERAL FULL-TIME STAFF (FTS) IMPACT:

Emergency Furlough—Number of Federal Personnel Impacted

Army Technicians: 701 (655 Furloughed—93.4%)

Air Force Technicians: 445 (381 Furloughed—85.6%)

Total Force Impacted: 1146 (1036 Furloughed—90.4%)

Short Term impact:

Benefits processing delayed (in processing, retirements, return to duty) AGR and TECH

1,036 Technicians not at work and not receiving pay

General personnel actions delayed, AGR and TECH

Scheduled travel/training TDY will be cancelled

No new hires or job announcements

Leave accrual stops for technicians after 80 hours (48 already used during furlough)

Over 30 Active Duty Operational Support/Active Duty for Special Work (ADOS/ADSW) will not report to work

Long term impact:

FTS will incur a debt for benefits

FTS personnel not attending required training courses for positions

Delayed hiring actions will compound the turmoil of personnel turnover

Labor relations with union and union members stressed

Personnel readiness will drop due personnel actions not taking place

Moral of technician force is greatly diminished with another furlough

Animosity of technician force towards the AGR force

AGRs do not receive Mid-month and subsequent pay until furlough complete.

Bottom line for Full-Time Staff (FTS) is that very limited personnel actions will be able to be supported and will be greatly delayed during a furlough.

FTS Top Three Concerns:

Benefits Processing

Pay

Loss of trained FTS forces due to cancelled training

PERSONNEL READINESS/SOLDIER-AIRMAN AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPACT:

Short Term Impact:

Family Programs initiatives and support efforts will be significantly impacted due to unavailability of all personnel.

Reduce current ability to provide deployment related services to soldiers and family members by 62%

Reduction in our ability to provide ID cards to soldiers and family members in select locations.

No retiree counseling services

Slowed processing for GI bill requests and issue resolution

Longer processing times for routine medical readiness activities due to employees' taking on the responsibilities of furloughed personnel.

Long Term Impact:

Technicians will incur a debt for benefits

FTS personnel training to be qualified in their positions

Delayed hiring actions further compound turmoil of personnel turnover

Morale of Technician force is greatly diminished with 2nd furlough in one year

Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) soldiers may not receive mid-month and subsequent pay.

Units that deploy within the next two months (Oct–Nov) or who are currently deployed will experience significant impact on deployment and family readiness support. Yellow ribbon events may need to be cancelled due to contracting for venue, food or lack of child care.

Remaining Defense Travel System (DTS—travel reimbursements) Vouchers for Soldiers and Military Families for FY13 will be delayed for payment.

Funeral Honors Team will cease operations.

Reduced capacity in processing enlisted promotion actions

Outside agencies may have to process Federal Tuition Assistance requests.

Potential loss of ability to deliver timely medical readiness events across the state, reducing medical readiness of the force.

Potential reduction in personnel readiness ratings for all reportable units due to eroded medical readiness ratings.

LOGISTICS IMPACT:

Maintenance—All Maintenance activities in the MNNG will cease during shutdown. All Maintenance facilities will be closed.

Short Term impact:

Maintenance Readiness of the MNNG will decline due to inability to repair dead-lined equipment while Dual Status Technicians are furloughed.

Upgrades to MNNG M1A1s will be deferred until funding resumes.

BFT/JCR Fielding—Fielding team is issuing all remaining equipment to the USPFO effective 30 Sep 13. USPFO and J4 will then complete the install and fielding.

Long term impact:

Blue Force Tracker upgrades will be delayed, systems will go off line after 90 days of non use. Blue Force Tracking is a United States military term used to denote a GPS-enabled system that provides military commanders and forces with location information about friendly (and despite its name, also about hostile) military forces. If they are not synced with the satellite once every 90 days they lose their identity and it costs us more manpower to re-sync them.

Supply:

Short Term impact:

$54,334 of Class 1 (food) has been ordered supporting 23 units in an IDT status for the weekend of 4–6 OCT. These orders will need to be canceled.

$8,717 for seven commercial bus requests for the weekend of 4–6 OCT canceled.

Long term impact:

An additional $16,198 in Class 1 (food) orders will be canceled from the local vender if shutdown continues till 30 Oct.

Training:

Short Term impact:

New Equipment Training (NET) for 1/34 Armored Brigade Combat Team will be suspended based on Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training restrictions, suspending NET for Bradley Fighting Vehicle Crews

Training needs to be deferred to colder weather months, less desirable.

TRAINING/OPERATIONS IMPACT:

Short Term Impact:

Cancellation of upcoming drill weekend will cancel weapons qualification for many units scheduled to do this at Camp Ripley. These units will be challenged to re-schedule as ranges are usually booked first quarter of the fiscal year. Will be an opportunity for units to re-schedule yet in Oct short term. Units that have Periodic Health Assessments (PHA) and Dental events will have to re-schedule. Will negatively impact personnel readiness.

School cancellations. We will daily be cancelling travel to schools that start this FY. It will be case by case that we find school seats later in the FY that troop will be able to attend. This will be a readiness issue if it goes long term.

Long Term Impact:

Personnel readiness will begin to suffer more as we cancel schools and medical readiness events. Begin building a larger pool of Soldiers/Airmen that will need new schools dates and units will begin to see a larger backlog of troops that need periodic physicals and dental. The challenge with schools is that some lower density schools and longer schools will have fewer opportunities to re-schedule this FY. This becomes a readiness issue.

CAMP RIPLEY TRAINING CENTER IMPACT:

Short Term Impact:

No Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) or Technicians

Long Term Impact:

After 21 days loss of State Employees paid under the Master Cooperative Agreement.

Operations—Section is reduced by 50% (2 Technicians, 1 State Military) resulting in reduced support to customers and no new leases agreements.

Range Control: Reduction 55% (6 ADOS), resulting in reduced customer support for range safety briefings, general customer support, and response for Range Safety Checks delayed

Automated Target Systems: State Military, potentially 50% reduction immediately. Automated Target Personnel would not be available resulting in limited automated ranges or target maintenance for military customers and very limited support to state agencies with signed leases.

Air Operations: Reduction of 100% (3 Technicians and 2 ADOS), resulting in the airfield, UH–60 Simulator being closed and no fueling operations.

Arden Hills Army Training Site: Reduction of 50% of the full time staff, resulting in reduced support to customers and availability.

Logistics (other than billeting which is self supporting)—Reduction of 100% (17 Technicians), resulting in:

Supply & Services being open 2 days a week.

Housing: Limited AGR Employees will need to Inventory & Inspect the Troop Issue Buildings when they need to be turned-in.

Fuel Support: Retail Fuel Points will run out of fuel.

Ammo Supply Point: No ammo for military customers.

Department of Public Safety—No initial impact. After 21 days the section would reduce from 12 guards to 9 guards resulting in reduced services and ability to man only one gate.

Joint Visitors Bureau/Public Affairs Office—Reduction of 80% (4 Technicians and 1 ADOS), resulting in no ID Cards, no Command or Department of the Army photos, reduced protocol visits and public affairs/community support operations.

Signal Support—100% reduction (1 Technician), resulting in no on site support for computers, radios, frequency management, and other support.

Budget—100% reduction (2 Technicians), resulting in only emergency budget issues being addressed by non-budget personnel.

Safety—Reduction of 100% (1 Technician), resulting in all safety issues reverting back to the state level for oversight by the State Safety Manager.

Environmental—limited initial impact with the loss of 1 Technician. After 21 days the section would reduce 100% (9 State and 2 Contract), resulting in all Hunt Programs for Deployed Soldiers will being cancelled at both Camp Ripley (Dec 2–4) and AHATS (Oct 25–27) and (Dec 6–8). No Native American Consultation meeting. (Annual Requirement NHPA) REPI (ACUB) Report to NGB will not get completed. Annual update to the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) will not get completed (Annual Requirement—Sikes Act). No Environmental Review (National Environmental Protection Act Requirement) for Sustainment Restoration and Modernization (SRM) and Military Construction (MILCON) projects will not take place due to no staff available. All Conservation and Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Projects will be impacted.

AIR BASES IMPACT:

Short Term Impact:

No local flying training operations during any shutdown period—impact on perishable flying skills

No Mission Ready Airlift or Joint Airborne Air Transportability Training (JA/ATT)

No Aircraft Maintenance or fuel support presence capable of preparing aircraft for response to state or national emergency

No Air Operations Supervision, planners, or instructors to support response to real world contingencies or training events

Reduced to an AGR force only, there is no support for any function beyond maintenance & protection of the facility

Long Term Impact:

Depending on duration of shutdown, aircrew members may go non-current, non-mission ready along with instructor force leaving unit with no local means to regenerate an operations force (unless AMC/ANG issue training waivers)

Medical Readiness requirements, if not completed, render members non-deployable

Impact on SORTS for any units unable to complete upgrade or continuation training

Impact on construction projects, such as the contract for the water line replacement, if we do not have staff to supervise the operations

Pilot currencies become affected if the shutdown continues for longer period. Proficiency begins to fade (depending on experience) after a couple weeks. Additionally, the ''Ready Aircrew Program (RAP)'' currencies are tracked on a monthly basis. As pilot currencies expire, they will no longer be qualified to sit alert. For that reason, we have submitted a listing of approx. 128 essential employees that we will require in order to maintain currency for 20 of our 29 pilots. This group will be needed if the shutdown continues for an extended.

STATE/DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS IMPACT:

Number of State Personnel Impacted

State Military Employees (Short Term 2 Oct 2013): 5

State Civilian Employees (Long Term 22 Oct 2013): 131

Total Force Impacted: 136

Over the short term, the direct cost to the State of Minnesota in lost assistance for payroll through the Master Cooperative Agreement is just under $300,000.00 per week. This means that the cost to simply cover the amount of federal funding unavailable to the state for the 21 days required per the bargaining agreements to provide notice to our employees of a layoff will approach $1,000,000.00.

During the notification period, costs will be incurred by the agency to manage the seniority moves that will be generated by the layoff. Once the 21 day notification period ends, costs to the agency will stabilize, but the services provided by the laid off employees will not be available to the agency or the people of Minnesota. Efficiency will be negatively impacted as the seniority moves are made, and employees must be trained for their new responsibilities. If the Federal Government shutdown is resolved, then we will need to unwind whatever management activities we initiate to comply with the bargaining agreements, causing further disruption to routines, negative impacts on productivity, and morale.

If the shutdown continues over the longer term, the Adjutant General must then decide if any of the services provided by the employees normally supported by the master cooperative agreement are essential to state agency operations. If they are, then the agency will need to determine how to fund the activities within our existing state budget, and since we do not carry an aggressive reserve, other agency activities will need to be cut to fund the services deemed necessary.

Additionally, the agency will be responsible to pay the unemployment benefit costs for all laid off state employees for the duration of layoff.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am happy now to yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), an important member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in the family of public servants, our military, and especially their families, deserve special attention, especially during this government shutdown.

We have spoken with pride many times about our Active Duty soldiers, sailors, marines, Coast Guard, airmen and airwomen, many deployed in Afghanistan and other challenging areas around the globe.

I need not remind my colleagues that the men and women of the National Guard are just as vital to the performance of our military. They train, deploy, and they fight alongside their Active Duty brethren. Many of these men and women have completed multiple overseas deployments in some of these same dangerous areas. They guard us here at home and meet the challenges of manmade and natural disasters—civil emergencies like Hurricane Sandy last year in New Jersey or the flooding in Colorado. Last year, the National Guard alone responded to more than 100 natural disaster missions.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a drafting error in the Pay Our Military Act, signed into law last Monday. It is intended to appropriate funds so that all of our servicemembers—Active Duty, Guard and Reserve—get paid. It deserves our bipartisan support.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the ranking member for the time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of this committee and the ranking member of the full committee and I thank the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee. There may be no other Member that has as much respect as I have in working with the chairman of the Defense Subcommittee, and I thank him for his service.

All of us want to be helpful to the men and women that we care about who rise up and serve us, whatever call, as civilian soldiers. So today I want to offer a solution. Rather than this bill, I would like for our leadership, the Speaker, to bring to the floor a clean bill to open the government.

I want my National Guard in Texas—1,900 of them—to be able to be paid. But I also want their families to have the Affordable Care Act, and I also want to make sure that they have infrastructure, maintenance of existing equipment, and procurement of new equipment, research and development, facilities maintenance, commissaries in the United States.

I hear that there are 20 or 30 or 40 Republicans ready to vote on a bill that will open the government. Let's open the government to serve our National Guard.

□ 1300

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), another member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. WOMACK. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

It is important for people to remember that the issue that we are speaking about goes right to the heart of readiness. Never before in the history of this Nation have we been so reliant on our Guard and Reserve as now.

I am an example, Madam Speaker, of that reliance. It was my National Guard battalion that became the first to answer our Nation's call after 9/11 when my Gunslingers from Arkansas took the mission of the Multinational Force and Observers into Sinai, Egypt—and let me just add—on very short notice. We were able to go because we were trained and we were ready.

This sequester has already taken its toll on our military, so to deny these Guardsmen and Reservists their pay when they're making these sacrifices makes absolutely no sense to me. In fact, it's incredibly stupid for our country to be so shortsighted to try to make our political statements by denying the men and women of the Guard and Reserve the pay for their sacrifices.

I urge support of the resolution.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3230, the Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act.

On September 30, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 3210, which, I believe, is the Pay Our Military Act, which I introduced. Every Member of the House voted for that bill. Yet there are those here today who seem to have sort of temporary amnesia about that and are saying we are not going to vote for anything piecemeal, that we will only vote when there is a clean CR for everything, for everybody, for all aspects of the Federal Government—the discretionary budget.

Yet you already voted piecemeal. You voted for Active Duty personnel. You voted for Federal civil service. You voted for the contractors essential for them. You already did that. The message that you're sending is that the soldiers, the marines, the airmen, the Reserves, and the Guardsmen, who have sacrificed their lives for this country, are of lesser status than the Active Duty. You are wrong. That is simply wrong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). The Chair would like to remind the Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would simply make the point in response to the gentleman's remarks that I don't want to vote on a clean CR. I'm not here to do that. I am here to vote on 12 appropriations bills that make discrete decisions, that make discerning judgments about how best and most efficiently and most effectively to run the Government of the United States. The gentleman is mistaken if he thinks I want to vote on a clean CR. I want to do appropriations bills just as I know Chairman ROGERS wants to do and as Ranking Member LOWEY wants to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I agree that the regular order is to pass individual appropriations bills and to go to conference with the Senate if they will conference. I agree with my friend from Indiana on that issue.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my colleague and my friend.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the continued funding for our veterans and military personnel in the Reserve components. As vice chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I always find myself in awe of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made in service to our great country.

I remain committed to ending this government shutdown and to fighting to protect the American people. I have joined my House colleagues to vote multiple times to keep the government open and to make sure that Members of Congress face the same consequences under ObamaCare that hardworking Americans across the country face.

It is my desire, my sincere hope, that the Senate and the President will come together as soon as possible to join the House in a civil and open dialogue. We need to enact a fair solution to this situation that serves all Americans, particularly our Nation's heroes who have so bravely served us.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, at this point, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, the Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act.

The first and foremost responsibility of the Federal Government is to provide for the common defense. That is actually in the Preamble of our Constitution. Since our Nation's birth, some 237 years ago, the National Guard has been at the foundation of our common defense.

Since 9/11, Madam Speaker, we have seen the largest call-up to active service of our National Guard and Reserve since World War II. They actually make up about 30 percent of everybody who is in theater. The men and women of the Guard and Reserve have always answered freedom's call with bravery and with honor. The enemies and their bullets make no distinction between the regular Armed Forces and the Guard and Reserve, so it is beyond me to understand why this Congress would do so.

We have a duty to make certain that those brave men and women have the training that they need to serve in the defense of our freedoms and to make certain that they are paid for their service. Vote ''yes'' for the National Guard and Reserve. Vote ''yes'' on this legislation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE).

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3230 for our National Guard and Reserve. I would be astonished if any Member of Congress votes against this bill.

In the midst of a shutdown, due to the President and HARRY REID's unwillingness to negotiate, Congress came together, and we acted to fund our Active Duty troops. Following this vote, the radical left voted against funding our veterans; they voted against funding our national parks; and they even voted against funding cancer patients. Now we are trying to pay the Reserve and Guard components, who have fought valiantly for this country all over the world. The citizen warriors of my State of Oklahoma and across this country should not suffer because the radical left, which includes our President, is unwilling to negotiate.

Voting against our Guard and Reserve servicemembers is every bit as indefensible as voting against our Active Duty servicemembers and our vets. I urge my colleagues to act responsibly and to fund our Reserve and Guard.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield 3 minutes to the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great respect for Chairman YOUNG. However, I rise in strong opposition to this reckless Republican shutdown.

Of course we support the National Guard and Reserves. The House already passed a full-year funding bill for the Guard and Reserves in July under the auspices of Chairman YOUNG and our extraordinary ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKY; but this bill is inadequate, and it's the wrong action at this time.

Our troops need training and equipment—two key components absent from this bill. This measure does nothing to help the CIA, the FBI, the DEA, the Secret Service, or the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This is critical to our Nation's defense.

We could end the shutdown today if the majority would only allow a vote on the Senate-passed bill, which includes the funding levels that the Republicans support and that would be signed by the President. Then we could get to work, as our ranking member said, on a complete bill, an omnibus bill, through the regular order of the Appropriations Committee.

The House majority, apparently, can't take the heat from the fire that they've lit, so now they've put forward this reckless political attempt to shift blame for their shutdown. Ending the shutdown of our government couldn't be more simple: stop playing games and pass the reasonable bill that the Senate and the White House have already agreed to. Madam Speaker, it's time for the Republicans to stop opposing reasonable solutions and to end their shutdown. Allow a vote on the Senate bill.

I have served in this Congress for many years with the distinguished ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and the chairman, Mr. BILL YOUNG. I am embarrassed to go home to my constituents in my district and talk to them about the dysfunction due to the Republican shutdown of this government. There are people who don't have child care. There are people who don't have health care. There are people who are suffering, who are having trouble paying the rent. Let us open this government and get our work done.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, understanding that Chairman YOUNG will close and that he has no further speakers, I would simply make the observation that I would hope all of us think through the issues that are pending here today and tomorrow and remember that our ultimate charge is to be of service to all of the public.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is not a political bill. This is a correction bill. It has been held pretty much to a legislative process rather than a political process.

I want to say how much I have enjoyed the many years of serving on the same subcommittees with Mrs. LOWEY, and then she advanced to the high rank as the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee.

To my friend, Mr. VISCLOSKY, we have worked together for so long on the Defense Appropriations Committee to bring to this House and to this Congress legislation that had no sign of politics.

H.R. 3230, I believe, will be supported by everybody in the House. It doesn't solve the overall problem, but it does solve one problem for the Guard and Reserve. I am satisfied that there will be other legislation, maybe not following this particular bill, but following in the course of events that will come later. Today, we are dealing with H.R. 3230, and I hope that everybody in the Chamber and in the House will support H.R. 3230 and at least take care of one of the problems.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 3230, the Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act. The members of the National Guard who reside in the city of Houston are more than numbers; they are friends of mine who share a passion for love of country and community service that is unrivaled.

It is very painful to me to see our men and women in the armed services treated with such disrespect by the majority of the House of Representatives. I know how they treat members of Congress when we visit their installations or facilities. They greet us with salutes, deference and respect.

I have learned to return their greetings in kind not out of habit but out of true appreciation for who they are and what they do to make the lives of countless Americans better.

Guard and reservists, unlike regular army or military service personnel, are part of the support for first responders for communities in times when a hurricane comes ashore, wildfires strike, tornadoes touch down and ice storms occur.

When Congress moves to fund only components of the government but not the entire government they do harm to our nation's security in small and large ways. One of the large ways they harm our nation's security is to undermine the cohesiveness of all of the components of our military force.

The majority bringing a bill to the floor today to include the Guard and Reserve on their list of favored Federal government programs, projects or agencies is an afterthought.

If the House majority thought that the Guard and Reserves were important to the security of our nation, which I believe that they are, funding would have been in the bill passed that continued pay to soldiers.

What is most troubling is that if the majority of the House would actually negotiate with Democrats in the House before introducing these measures, they would know that this approach will mean that we will spend the next hundred or two hundred days coming back to fund an office, agency or Federal component that the majority did not know was essential.

The regular order for consideration of funding bills allows committees with jurisdiction and more important in-depth knowledge about agencies to make funding decisions.

No one member knows everything that there is to know about what each agency does and how what that agency does impacts or touches on how well another part of the Federal government functions.

The Federal government is not a group of dismembered parts but a cohesive unit that works as one for the benefit of the American people.

Attempting to bribe our Guard and Reservists into turning a blind eye to the best interest of our nation speaks to the character of the majority's leadership on the matter of the budget.

Attempting to turn one American against another is a shameful act and one that will not be tolerated or soon forgotten by the American public.

The House majority see members of the Guard and Reservists as selfish.

They are far from selfish, they are selfless. Over 662,000 National Guard and Reserve Troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 2011.

Included in these numbers are 15,877 Army Guard, 11,939 Army Reservists, 2,068 Navy Reservists, 3,499 Marine Corps Reservists and over 6,000 Air National Guard, Air Force Reservists and Coast Guard Reservists from the State of Texas.

If the majority cared about the welfare of the Guard and Reservists they would have ended the Sequester, which has cost them pay cuts just like all Federal personnel.

This is not a game—where points can be won or lost—these are lives being impacted by decisions made by the majority of this body who are not putting first the America the Guard and Reservists risk their lives to protect and serve.

The Guard and Reserves will not leave anyone behind—if they did they know that the ability to defend and protect this nation would be left behind.

We must learn from these brave men and women to work together for the good of a nation and not for political gain.

We know what needs to be done—put everyone back to work in the Federal government; then we can work on the issues that separate us.

Time is important for Federal workers who have been working with reduced pay for months. We should and can do better than play politics with the lives of our Guard and Reservists.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. ENYART. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. ENYART. I am, in its current form.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Enyart moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3230 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That upon passage of this bill by the House of Representatives, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, as amended by the Senate on September 27, 2013, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table and the House shall be considered to have (1) receded from its amendment; and (2) concurred in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

□ 1315

Mr. ENYART. Madam Speaker, the underlying bill pays Reservists and Guardsmen for weekend drills during this government shutdown, but it does nothing to pay the full-time support force. The vast majority of full-time Guardsmen and Reservists wear a uniform but are considered civil service technicians; thus, they're currently furloughed.

I spent nearly 37 years serving this great Nation's military; 32 years of those years were in the National Guard and the Reserve. As a young enlisted airman and later as a junior officer in the Army Guard, I certainly appreciated that paycheck for a weekend of duty. I, like many of the young troops serving today, needed that paycheck, kind of like the civilian employees at Scott Air Force Base need their paychecks or the Forest Service workers in the Shawnee National Forest need their paychecks or the clerks at the Social Security office in Carbondale, Illinois, need their paychecks.

The absolute utter cynicism of the underlying bill appalls me. As the only former general serving in Congress, I'm sponsoring this amendment to correct the underlying bill which only makes pawns of dedicated American Reservists and Guardsmen. The only thing that bill does is give the politicians who sponsored it and who vote for it a claim, while wrapping themselves in the flag, to say they're supporting the troops. It's as phony as putting a flag pin on your lapel and claiming that makes you a patriot.

The underlying bill is as phony as the bill I voted against Tuesday. That bill was falsely named ''Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act.'' My father was a disabled veteran. He's buried in a national cemetery. My

brother is a combat disabled veteran. I'm a veteran. Between the three of us, we have accumulated a total of 65 years of military service to this Nation. I tell you, as a veteran, that bill is a disservice to veterans. It cut $6.1 billion from the VA budget, which was already passed by the House. It eliminated funding for VA construction. It eliminated funding for national cemeteries, that cemetery my father is buried in. It eliminated funding for medical and prosthetic research. That bill was a lie to America's veterans and America's voters.

I am sick of phony bills designed solely to create political ads. I and my constituents are sick of the messaging that makes bad policy out to be good politics. It is time to drive the moneychangers from the temple and to bring an end to this sanctimonious foolishness. Just as a soldier refuses to leave his or her battle buddies behind, I refuse to leave all of the people who proudly serve this great Nation behind.

Stop this charade. Have the moral courage to tell the truth to the American people. The amendment I offer today presents the continuing resolution, which has the Republican budget numbers in it. It would pay not just the part-time National Guard, not just the part-time Reservists, but the full-timers, too. It puts 70 percent of the CIA back to work. It puts the VA back to work. It puts our government back to work.

Let's not call this a continuing resolution. Let's call it what it is: Put Our Government Back to Work. I ask you to have the integrity to vote ''yes'' or ''no.'' If you're a patriot behind that American flag pin, have the guts to show it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I make a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida will state his point of order.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. This motion is not germane and as such is a violation of rule XVI, clause 7, which states:

No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

This motion deals with the proposition unrelated to the matter addressed by the joint resolution and brings in a matter under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules, which fails the committee of jurisdiction test and, therefore, is a violation of rule XVI, clause 7.

I ask for a ruling from the chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Illinois wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. ENYART. Yes, Madam Speaker, I would like to be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized on the point of order.

Mr. ENYART. Madam Speaker, my motion to recommit would open up the entire Federal Government so that the part-time National Guard not only receives their pay, but also the full-time National Guard. They would receive all of their benefits. They would receive funds for the equipment to do their jobs. There would no longer be furloughs. Can the Chair explain why it is not germane to keep all of the needs of the National Guard open for public service instead of only their pay?

If we're paying our National Guard, but they can't do their jobs, what sense does that make? Are we asking our brave soldiers simply to sit at their desks? What kind of strange House is this that would force that situation on our brave men and women, the brave men and women that have been so remarkably addressed by the gentleman across the aisle?

Madam Speaker, if you rule this motion out of order, does that mean we will not have a chance to keep the entire Federal Government open today? Can the Chair please explain why we can't keep our part-time National Guard and the entire Federal Government open today?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Florida makes a point of order that the amendment proposed in the motion to recommit offered by the gentleman from Illinois is not germane.

The bill extends funding relating to the Reserve components of the Armed Forces for all of fiscal year 2014 and a portion of fiscal year 2015. The instructions in the motion propose an order of business of the House relating to funding for all other agencies and departments subject to the annual appropriations process for the remainder of the fiscal year.

On October 2, 2013, a similar motion to recommit was offered to a joint resolution that, like H.R. 3230, provided for the appropriation of certain funds. The Chair ruled that motion nongermane on committee jurisdiction grounds.

Here, similarly, the bill falls within the jurisdiction of Committee on Appropriations. The instructions contained in the motion to recommit fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules.

The motion is not germane. The point of order is sustained.

Mr. ENYART. Madam Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the ruling of the Chair stand as the decision of the House?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ENYART. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if arising without further proceedings in recommittal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 194, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 515]

YEAS—228

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—194

Andrews
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer

Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Bass
Cárdenas
Dingell
Foxx
Herrera Beutler
Jones
McCarthy (NY)
Negrete McLeod
Rush

□ 1348

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Messrs. BUTTERFIELD, HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida and Messrs. RUIZ and CARNEY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. NUGENT, GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mrs. NOEM changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 515, I was unexpectedly detained and missed the rollcall vote No. 515 on the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 265, nays 160, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—265

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—160

Andrews
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Bass
Herrera Beutler
Jones
McCarthy (NY)
Negrete McLeod
Rush

□ 1357

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 370, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 72

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Amounts are provided for entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113–6), to continue activities at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2013, to be continued through the date specified in section 103(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 103, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2013 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 103(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 102. Amounts are provided for ''Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' at a rate for operations of $2,455,490,000: *Provided*, That such amount shall be made available subject to the authority and conditions as provided under the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013 (division E of Public Law 113–6) and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by such Act.

SEC. 103. Unless otherwise provided for in this joint resolution or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this joint resolution shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this joint resolution; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2014 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 15, 2013.

SEC. 104. It is the sense of Congress that this joint resolution may also be referred to as the ''Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act''.

This joint resolution may be cited as the ''Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 30 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Joint Resolution 72, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We bring before the House today, Madam Speaker, legislation that will ensure that our veterans are given the benefits that they have earned and that there's no delay in the processing of disability claims.

Madam Speaker, the other day, President Obama gave us a list of things that are important and vital that the Nation do to make sure that there is no interruption in services. In particular, we as a Congress, as a House want to make sure that our veterans are taken care of. Everything they have earned through their service to their country, we want to make certain it is taken care of.

This legislation before us today is essential because the VA has told us that funds for these benefits will run out by the end of this month. So it's essential we pass this legislation right now.

Although the Veterans Health Administration is funded a year in advance, we have to pass this legislation today, Madam Speaker, to ensure that veterans and their survivors receive disability compensation benefits.

We have to pass this legislation today to make sure that 517,000 low-income veterans and their family members receive their pensions. We have to pass this legislation today unanimously so that three-quarters of a million students will receive their post-9/11 GI education benefits. We need to pass this legislation today, Madam Speaker, so that 54,000 unemployed veterans will be able to be eligible for training assistance through the veterans retraining assistance program.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we also have to make sure we get this legislation passed so that 67,000 veterans with service-connected disabilities receive their vocational rehabilitation and employment subsistence allowances.

It's also important to note that this legislation will provide $223 million for cemetery headstones and burial plot allowances that our veterans by their service to our Nation have earned.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are again, déjà vu all over again. The leadership of the other side of the aisle is again attempting to distract the American people from looking at their cynical shutdown efforts by trying to hold them under the torn and shredded garments of our veterans.

This is a hoax. This is a fraud.

Simply stated, this bill will not provide enough funding to pay for all the programs, where every Member of this House understands that veterans benefits are vital and crucial pieces of our ongoing obligation and commitment to our veterans.

However, we should all be clear and we should understand that in accepting this piecemeal proposal, we are in fact cutting $6.2 billion in funding that this body voted in June, in the bill that we approved 421–4.

This proposed CR does not address, touch, or do anything for the remaining VA discretionary accounts, which are equally important to our veterans and our families:

The Information Technology account, which includes $155 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System and is vital in speeding up the claims process, is not included;

The Office of the Secretary account, which includes the Board of Veterans Appeals which provides decisions on claims appeals, is not included;

The National Cemetery Administration is not included, which means that burials, Madam Speaker, at the national cemeteries will be conducted on a reduced schedule;

The Office of Inspector General account is not included, which means that audits and evaluations, administrative investigations, health care inspections, and the Inspector General hotline will be suspended;

The medical research account is not included;

The construction accounts are not included;

Grants to State veterans home and State cemeteries are not included.

On June 4 we passed a full bill, a complete bill, a bipartisan bill. We provided more resources for veterans in the bipartisan bill we passed in June than are provided in this anemic attempt to hide the cynical Republican efforts to justify a government shutdown underneath the veil of the service and sacrifice of generation after generation of veterans.

This is shameful. Veterans can see through this hypocrisy. The American people can see through this hypocrisy.

We need to end this lifeboat strategy offered by the Senator from Texas, where the only visible functions of government he approves or sanctions will be opened.

Open the entire government. Serve the American people by passing a clean resolution discharging our constitutional responsibilities and voting down this phantom of a funding bill that does a disservice to our Nation's heroes—our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege at this time to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding this time and thank you for bringing up this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

This bill continues to provide our Nation's veterans with access to important benefits that they have earned in service to their country. To let these important health benefits slow or stop would be to renege on our promise to

our soldiers that, in exchange for taking care of this country, the Nation will take care of you.

This legislation continues funding for the processing and delivering of disability claims and other health benefits at the current annual rate of approximately $82 billion until December 15, or until we enact full-year appropriations.

Yesterday, when we considered this bill on the floor under suspension, Republicans and Democrats alike united behind the duty of this Congress to provide for our veterans. Frankly, I'm surprised it didn't pass with the vote of every single Member, but some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle chose not to support the care of our former servicemen and -women.

But I believe that, given this second chance, where a majority will do, my colleagues will come together to pass this important bill. Not only is it important for the well-being of our veterans, but it's important for the well-being of the Nation as a whole. Every step we take to fund one section of the government is a step we can take toward reopening the entire government.

Even if we do not agree on much, we can agree, Madam Speaker, that we can't allow this government shutdown to persist much longer and continue to inflict harm on the United States. The clearest path forward is coming together on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to work out our differences, find a solution, and end this shutdown. And the way to do this is laying right in front of us.

The House passed the other night a motion to go to conference with the Senate on the differences that we have between us. It is the old, time-honored tradition of the House and Senate having a conference together to work out differences that is the way this place should be working; and yet the Senate refuses to sit down with us.

Madam Speaker, our conferees are waiting at the table downstairs, even as I speak. And if the Senate would just send over their conferees, we can work out the differences and the shutdown and solve the rest of the Nation's problems.

I urge my colleagues to provide for our veterans and help us get out of this shutdown disaster. Vote ''aye'' on this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, of course we support funding for our veterans. The House already passed a full-year funding bill in June by a vote of 421–4, which was $6 billion more than the cheap ploy now being considered.

It is essential that the VA can continue offering services, but we must also ensure that veterans receive job training, children receive immunizations, and that our food supply is safe.

Radical Republicans have shut down the government because they refuse to allow a vote on a spending bill that they wrote, the Senate passed, and the White House would sign.

Three days into the shut down, the majority can't even tell us what they want to reopen the government. Just yesterday, one of their Members said:

We have to get something out of this. And I don't even know what that is.

The House majority has shut down the government, but not to reduce spending or for some other policy reason. It is for pure petulance, and they don't even know what they're trying to accomplish.

□ 1415

Ending the shutdown couldn't be more simple. Stop playing games. Allow a vote on the bill—with your number—to end the shutdown that the Senate passed and the President will sign.

This could end in 30 minutes. Just take the bill with your number, let it pass here, send it to the White House, and that's the end; and we can get on with business to serve the people that we were elected to help.

My constituents want us to work on these serious issues, as do you.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the only question before the House tonight is: Will we unite to support our veterans?

I am pleased, at this time, to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise for the second time this week to talk about this particular piece of legislation. Why the second time? Well, because the Democrats banded together to kill this veterans funding bill once before. And as I mentioned before the Democrats moved to kill this veterans funding bill, we worked to ensure that disabled veterans, low-income veterans going to school on the GI Bill, and survivors of those killed in the line of duty continue to receive their benefits that they are due, the benefits that they in fact have earned.

Madam Speaker, the House Democrats must not know that BERNIE SANDERS, the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced a bill on Monday night that related to veterans funding, and I'd like to share with everyone a bit about that effort. And I quote from press reports:

> Veterans Affairs' Chairman Bernard Sanders introduced the legislation (S. 1564) Monday night and quickly got the backing from four other Democrats on the panel, as well as Richard M. Burr of North Carolina, the top Republican on the committee . . . Specifically, the bill would protect mandatory compensation and pension benefits for veterans and families, including survivor benefits. It would also, among other things, continue money flowing to educational programs for veterans . . . The bill, he predicted, would be passed in enough time to ensure veterans benefits are not disrupted. Burr said he expects the Senate to adopt the legislation by unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Does this sound familiar? It should. Because this is the very piece of legislation that we're talking about on the floor today. And I have a suspicion why the Democrats keep stalling this veteran funding bill—they are playing politics.

I ask the Senate majority leader and my friends in the Democratic leadership to unite. Take up the bill that the ranking member has already said that fully funds veterans on June 4.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, before I state my unanimous consent request——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for a unanimous consent request only.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. TAKANO. Parliamentary inquiry, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, what do the House Republicans want to end this shutdown, because——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has been recognized only for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we can end this Republican government shutdown that is slowing our economic growth by .3 percent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we end this Republican government shutdown that is undermining our national security by leaving more than 70 percent of the CIA furloughed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

As the Chair previously advised, the request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER) for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, our servicemembers and our veterans have done their duty and they have stood steadfast in defense of our Nation. They deserve more than our thanks——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman is not recognized. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate amendment to H.J. Res. 59, the clean CR, and go to conference on a budget so that we can end this Republican government shutdown that is undermining public health by preventing the CDC from working on its annual flu vaccine or detecting disease outbreaks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentlewoman is not recognized.

As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(b) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will advise Members of the remaining time in debate. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to first say that today we've had a reminder again of how much we owe our men and women in uniform. And I want to express the gratitude of the Members of the House, the people of America to our men and women in uniform who keep our streets safe every day, and say that our hearts and our prayers are with those injured officers today, and to express our immense gratitude to each and every one of them all over the country and to our men and women in uniform around the world who make it possible for us to be here today in the greatest deliberative democracy ever created in the history of humanity. We owe it all to our men and women in uniform.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OFFICERS INJURED TODAY

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silent prayer for those officers who have been injured today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will all Members rise for a moment of silent prayer.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, we are here today to work arm-in-arm in support of our men and women in uniform. I'm pleased at this time to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as a former mayor, I associate my remarks with the chairman.

I rise in strong support of the legislation on the floor today. What we have before us today is an opportunity to keep the faith with America's veterans, of which I am one, and ensuring the funding for disability payments, for the GI bill, which I used, education training, and VA home loans.

No matter what your thoughts on the current impasse, we owe our veterans this much. This should not be, must not become a partisan issue. There are real and serious debates to be had about how we're able to deal with ObamaCare and our Nation's debt crisis, but that's not what we're discussing now.

Northeast Tennessee, which I'm honored to represent in this body, has a long history of military service and hosts Mountain Home VA Medical Center, one of the largest and finest such facilities in the country. When I visit them, I don't see Republicans or Democrats; I see patriots who answered the call, did their duty, and then came home to make a life.

Let's make sure they all get the support they need. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, at this time I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have the privilege of representing one of the most military-friendly and veteran-friendly areas of the country, North Carolina. So I'm glad our Republican colleagues are concerned with maintaining funding for our Nation's veterans.

But it's too bad they didn't think a little more about the VA before forcing this government shutdown on us Monday night. And now it's too bad they're not showing equal concern for the more than half a million veterans who now serve their country as Federal employees, many of whom have been sent home on furlough and now have bills piling up, or the veteran small business owners whose SBA loans are on hold, or the veteran parents whose kids have been turned away from Head Start, or the veterans earning their graduate degrees whose research labs have been closed.

Madam Speaker, of course we need to restore full funding for the VA so it can resume its full array of services to our Nation's veterans, to whom we owe a special debt of gratitude and support.

But veterans want the same thing all Americans want: for us to reopen the entire government so they can get on with their lives as parents and workers and members of their communities.

You don't have to take my word for it. In a letter sent this morning to the bipartisan congressional leadership, the heads of several major Veterans Service Organizations write, and I quote:

> Our organizations and the veterans we represent will no longer tolerate Congress leveraging veterans' health and well-being to achieve unrelated political ends.

Or, in the succinct words of the spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, ''The VA needs to be fully funded, not piecemealed and not used as leverage.''

So let's dispense with this political theater and this piecemeal approach that fails to end the shutdown. The Senate has approved a clean funding bill that will pass this House easily this very afternoon if the Speaker will simply let it be voted on.

It's time to get on with this business that the American people elected us to do.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the emerging pattern of poor decisionmaking coming from the Obama administration on national security.

Under sequestration, this White House mandated that civilian defense workers be furloughed, even when agencies had the money to pay these employees, many of whom are veterans. And today, under this partial government shutdown, the White House has again chosen to furlough the vast majority of these same workers, against the express will and intent of Congress.

Earlier this week, all of us here in Congress passed a bipartisan bill, which the President signed, to expressly protect the pay of Active Duty military, civilian defense employees, and designated defense contractors. The Pentagon can put these workers back on the job today, but the White House is choosing to furlough our critical civilian defense workers.

The Obama administration is also eroding our national security by choosing to furlough 70 percent of the civilian employees at our intelligence agencies. This is unnecessary.

The law is now on the books to put civilians back to work to protect our national defense. Let's do it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time I also would like to extend our condolences, and would also like to express our appreciation to the Sergeant at Arms and to the Capitol Police for their hard work in making sure that the people that work in this Capitol, the Members and visitors, are safe. And we appreciate their vigilance during the recent incident.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who is the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, give us back our committee. Give us back our chairman.

Mr. CULBERSON worked, with all of us on both sides of the aisle, for about 6 months to do a veterans appropriations bill. This is not it.

This is a disastrous bill, because this cuts $6.2 billion out of the bill that we passed. This doesn't help veterans. This is game-playing.

Our Appropriations Committee is supposed to have 12 bills on this floor. We have none. We don't have a simple one just to pass to keep government open.

We've never done this before. Never. No preconditions ever in the history like this.

We have a good committee. We have a good chairman. Give us back the process. Give us back an ability to keep this government open.

Defeat this bill.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of the first week of the GOP shutdown, I want to highlight the impact it's having on just one sector of our government, the intelligence community.

As Director Clapper and Director Alexander made clear in testimony in the Senate yesterday, 70 percent of key analysts have been forced to leave their posts. This is irresponsible, tragic and, most painfully, completely avoidable.

House Republicans now say they will put up a bill funding veterans, but not the intelligence agencies. Or tomorrow, the intelligence agencies, but not the FBI, or the FBI, but not the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS and NIH, but not the Department of Justice.

This is ridiculous, senseless, and reckless.

Let's be honest about what the House leadership is really saying. We will choose, hostage by hostage, which agency of the government we will release. We will do so only to buy time until the ransom we want we get, the repeal of an unrelated health care reform.

As our intelligence analysts and other key personnel sit idle, our adversaries do not. Those who threaten the country have not been furloughed. Those devising new ways to attack our homeland, our allies, and innocent civilians around the world, are not on hiatus. They are working hard, and so must we.

End the reckless shutdown now. Put the intelligence agencies back to work. Put all Americans back to work. End the endless series of manmade, avoidable and irresponsible crises that threaten our country and our economic recovery.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Georgia has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that, today, the only question before the House today is a ''yes'' or ''no'' vote whether or not you support funding our veterans.

This is not complicated. The Veterans Administration has said they will run out of money unless we pass this legislation today to make certain that our veterans who have earned these important benefits receive them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND).

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to represent 72,000 veterans in Florida's Second Congressional District.

The bill that we will be voting on today is a bill that says, we support you, not just for what you need today, but we also support you for what you did in your past.

What our veterans did in their past was join arms with fellow Americans and went to fight for a principle, a principle of no special treatment. They believed deeply in the Declaration of Independence that says we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud today to join arm-in-arm with our veterans to say we agree with that principle. It is time that we re-establish the deeply held belief that there is one standard that should apply to all Americans, not two standards, not a ruling class and then the majority of the Americans that have to serve them. There is but one standard.

I applaud our veterans. I thank them for their sacrifice, and I believe that this bill, Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act, is the only thing that is right and principled in this Chamber today.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' in just a few moments on this bill honoring our veterans.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD), ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Mr. MICHAUD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill, which is nothing more than a political ploy. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say a vote against this bill is a vote to block veterans services.

It's actually this government shutdown, which they have caused, that threatens VA's ability to provide the services for our veterans.

If Republicans in this House were really serious about helping our veterans, they'd pass a clean CR and end this government shutdown that they have caused.

If they really want to guarantee veterans services are adequate, they would bring forward in this House H.R. 813, as amended, to the floor. This bipartisan bill would fund all the VA through future advanced appropriations, and take this political football off the table forever.

Passing that bill will help make sure that veterans will no longer be used like they are being used today, as the pawns of a political party scheme.

This is outrageous. And I would encourage my Republican colleagues to bring up H.R. 813, as amended, to the full floor so we can stop playing political football with the men and women who served this great Nation of ours.

It's unbelievable that you'd do such a thing. And if you think that you're convincing the VSOs that if we don't fund this then we're not supporting veterans, they know the difference.

□ 1545

They see through the political football. They are tired of it, and I would encourage you to encourage the Speaker to bring up once again H.R. 813, as amended, passed unanimously by the Veterans' Affairs Committee, for a full vote in this House.

This is outrageous and nothing but a political gimmick today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct all remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will remind all Members that the Veterans Administration has said that funds for these benefits will expire at the end of this month. Anytime you have a disagreement, you try to find those areas where you can agree and that are especially important, and set those aside. That's what we're doing today.

The House majority has brought this bill to the floor to ensure that our veterans and their survivors will receive their disability compensation. A ''yes'' vote will ensure that low-income veterans and their families get their pensions. A ''yes'' vote will ensure three-

quarters of a million students will receive their post-9/11 GI education benefits, that unemployed veterans will receive their benefits, and that 67,000 veterans with service-connected disabilities will get their vocational rehabilitation and employment subsistence benefits that they have earned by their service to the country.

Again, I stress the VA has said these benefits will run out at the end of this month. So we've chosen what is our highest priority, looking at our men and women in uniform—an area we are in complete agreement on—and brought it to the floor in good faith. We hope our colleagues will join us in voting ''yes'' or ''no'' in support of our veterans.

At this time I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA I want to thank my colleague from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor our veterans—all Americans—for their job by the work we do here. It's been shameful the last few days to have our veterans come all the way to Washington, D.C.—our World War II veterans and some of the Korean veterans we've met as well—and find themselves blockaded unnecessarily out of what is theirs over the politics of a shutdown.

Now the politics of this shutdown come into this room here. We don't always get to do the perfect bill around this place. I see my Democrat colleagues basically yelling at us over, We want the perfect bill, we want it all in one.

When we can find the things we agree on, including this bill, including other measures put up in the last couple of days, we can all agree on this portion of any CR bill together. We can put this out and stop the hijinx, stop the politics, stop the games, and get this agreement done.

We all agree on this piece of legislation, that it should be done and it's the right thing. It will get veterans served and get them out of this mess, out of this pool of muck that we are in, fighting over this CR, fighting over this shutdown.

So let's agree today to get our veterans served and take the political football out, take the name-calling out—Republicans, Democrats, all that stuff—and get the job done. We're here to get the job done. On my farm, I don't want to get everything done in one day. You make progress a little bit at a time, one field at a time.

This is one field at a time here. We can do this bill. Instead of holding each other hostage because the Democrats want the perfect all-in-one-bill, we can do the pieces we agree on together.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. At this time I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. BROWN), a strong and consistent advocate for veterans and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for over 20 years.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: God has blessed us with the best veterans in the world. You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. The veterans understand that if they vote for this bill, it is a $6 billion cut to veterans services.

So what are you cutting? The National Cemetery Administration, the office in charge of construction of VA facilities, Office of Inspector General, grants to the States for veterans homes, grants to the State cemeteries.

All four veterans organizations said that there is a problem in the House of Representatives' lack of leadership.

Bring a clean CR to the floor. Let's vote it up. You are not fooling anybody. This is a Republican right-wing part that is bringing this terrible instance to this country. There's no reason.

Bring up a clean CR. A clean CR.

I am appalled that the House is considering this bill that only partially funds the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To take one small portion of the budget to help those men and women who have sacrificed so much and use it as a club to hammer the American people over the head while you argue about the Republican Government Shutdown.

This bill cuts $6B from the bill the House passed earlier this year for a full year funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This is unconscionable.

This is what this bill does not fund:

the National Cemetery Administration,

the office in charge of construction of VA facilities,

Office of Inspector General,

Grants to state veterans homes,

Grants to state cemeteries.

The Four Organizations that write the Independent Budget each year, AMVETS, DAV, PVA and VFW, sent a letter today to all the leaders of the Congress. They said that "Both government shutdowns and continuing resolutions represent failures in leadership." They went on to say that anything less than passing a full appropriations bill "is unacceptable to the men and women who have served this nation in uniform."

Pass a clean CR and let's get back to the business of governing this country.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would simply point out very quickly there are no cuts in this bill. We're simply funding essential veterans services through December 15 at a level equal to the amount that we have already passed out of the House the first week of June. There are no cuts.

We want to make sure these essential services continue for our veterans and they don't see any interruption in services.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'd like to point out the fact that while the bill may do what my good friend has suggested, it doesn't fund all of the accounts. There are a number of accounts, as has been pointed out time and time again, that are not funded.

May I inquire, Mr. Speaker, as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 2¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party is a party with such a rich legacy. It's the party of Abraham Lincoln, who saved this country; it's the party of Dwight David Eisenhower, who put the expressway and the interstate system together; it's the party of Everett Dirksen, and without him we wouldn't have the Civil Rights Act; it's the party of Ronald Reagan, who sat down with Tip O'Neill and put the great tax cut in that helped the economy; and it's the party of George Bush, who gave us Medicare part D.

I bring these things out because I believe if all of these gentlemen were here—each one of them—they would say to you, Please, let's cut this out. Let your leader, Mr. BOEHNER, bring a clear, clean CR for just 6 weeks. That's all we're asking.

This is what that leadership would be. This is what Mr. BOEHNER wanted to do. JOHN BOEHNER is a decent man. That's what he wanted to do.

I urge you to do what is right. Honor the rich legacy of your party. If you want to honor the veterans who gave their lives to fight for us, they would say, Don't use us for a pawn here.

Open it all up for all America.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to point out very quickly, we are funding the most essential parts of the Veterans Administration, where we have been told they will run out of money within the next 30 days. We want to ensure that our veterans don't have a thing to worry about. We don't want their families, their children, their survivors to worry for one moment whether or not their benefits are going to be there.

We bring this bill to the floor today to ensure that they are taken care of, their peace of mind is secured. And also, this is clearly one of those areas—in support of our veterans—where we can agree.

Again, I stress, common courtesy and common sense tell us when you have a disagreement, you find those areas where you can come together and agree and put that behind you. That's all this is. It's not complicated.

Let's vote together today to make sure that our veterans programs are fully funded.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 30 seconds to my good friend, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased my friend would yield me 30 seconds.

I want to take a little time to say I have been hearing from the veterans in my congressional district. I represent counties that have two VA centers. We have two of the most, I believe, effective veterans service organizations in the country; and they tell me they do not wish to be pitted against their siblings and their spouses. They do not wish to be pitted against their children and their grandchildren.

Let's not pick winners and losers. Let's fund the full bill.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, H.J. Res. 59, the Senate clean bill, includes all programs administered by the VA. Let me repeat: all programs. The Senate didn't cherry-pick which programs get funded. It continues operations of the entire Federal Government.

On the other hand, the anemic H.J. Res. 72 that we're voting on here, the Medical Research account is not included; Construction; Office of the Secretary, Board of Veterans Appeals; Inspector General, not included; IT account, not included; grants to State veterans homes, State cemeteries, the National Cemetery Administration, not included.

Enough of these games. Let's pass a CR. Let's do our work. Let's finish our work. Let's fund the government and put these workers back to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, could I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It's important to remember that as we have done in the House and the Senate has done by unanimous consent, we have paid our Active Duty military. Their salaries are paid. So they don't have to worry about it as they stand on the walls of Rome in defense of our freedom.

Today, we bring this legislation to the floor to be sure that past generations of our military men and women who have served this country and defended our freedom and made it possible for us to be here today, that their benefits are fully funded.

We've been told straight up by the VA that the items that are before the House today will run out of money before the end of this month. This is not complicated. It truly is common sense and common courtesy to find those areas of agreement, set those aside, do those in priority order.

We've made sure the current generation of military men and women are paid. We're now, today, making sure that our veterans of previous generations are fully compensated for survivor benefits, for low-income veterans, for student 9/11 GI benefits, for unemployed veterans. We're going to make sure that veterans with service-connected disabilities are taken care of.

What we attempted to do—and as my colleague from Georgia knows, we've always worked arm-in-arm in support of those veterans—is to find those areas where the help is needed most urgently and to set that aside and get 'er done now before these benefits run out.

And the vote today is very simple: yes or no, will you vote to support America's veterans and honor them for their sacrifice and make sure they don't miss a minute, that there's no bubble in the pipeline of the benefits that they have earned by their sacrifices for this great Nation.

This is a simple yes-or-no vote in support of our veterans.

I urge passage of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this irresponsible shutdown of the government has deprived Oregonians of many federal services that they rely on. For the time being the Veterans Administration has been able to use reserve funds to continue providing benefits and medical services to our nation's veterans. Today the Republicans put a disingenuous bill on the floor, H.J. Res. 72, that claimed to fund the VA while the rest of the government remains shut down. H.J. Res. 72 would cut the VA budget by $6.2 billion. It provides no funding for prosthetic research, VA cemeteries, construction of VA facilities including the new CBOC in Eugene, Oregon, and many other critical services. This is unacceptable. I refuse to cut funding for our nation's veterans. For that reason I voted against H.J. Res. 72. The Republican House leadership needs to ignore the small faction of their party that insists holding our veterans and other Americans hostage. They need to bring the Senate passed funding bill to the floor for a vote so that we can reopen the government. Our veterans deserve no less.

I strongly support H.R. 813, which would authorize advance appropriations for all VA discretionary accounts. I fought for years to get advance appropriations for the VA, which we finally secured for medical accounts. It is time to ensure that all of the VA receives advance appropriations so that veterans are never again used as a political football. I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 3181, which would make sure that every account at the VA is exempt from any future across-the-board sequestration.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 72, the partisan resolution that would cut over $6 billion from our nation's veterans from what this House passed in June.

There are many issues that divide our two parties. One of the issues that has always received bipartisan support is supporting our nation's heroes and their families.

Unfortunately, due to the extreme views of some in the Majority, this chamber is now considering a resolution which would cut $6.2 billion from the VA and excludes funding for several VA programs which are vital to the thousands of veterans in my district, including national veterans' cemeteries, medical and prosthetic research, and grants for state veterans homes and state cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's veterans deserve better and I call on this chamber to demand a vote to fully fund the VA for the entire year.

Every day that goes by without providing full appropriations for the VA is another day that our brave veterans are being harmed and denied the support and services they paid for in blood, sweat, and sacrifice.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, here we are day three of the manufactured Republican government shutdown and Republicans still have no viable proposal to reopen the government.

The Republican refusal to back off their extreme, ideological demands has taken our country down a dangerous path that is threatening to derail the Department of Veterans Affairs' progress on the claims backlog.

How in the world can veterans claims be processed when their counterparts at the Department of Defense and the Social Security Administration are furloughed. These furloughed employees are essential to process veterans claims. This is another cynical ploy.

Mr. Speaker, individual agencies do not operate in a vacuum, which is why we need to fund the entire government.

Members of Congress are elected to make sure our government functions.

Yet, some in this chamber are taking that fundamental responsibility and holding it hostage, hoping that by doing so they can be certain that people are denied health care.

If my colleagues would really like to help veterans—rather than trying to score political points—they need to fund the entire federal government.

As the daughter of a veteran, let us honor our veterans by reopening our government.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I visited the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in San Diego. As I spoke with SPAWAR employees, I was proud, but not surprised, to learn that the majority of them were veterans.

In fact, this happens almost every time I speak to a group of Federal workers.

Veterans represent more than 25 percent of the entire Federal Government workforce—so many of whom sacrificed for our country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After making the difficult transition to civilian life, none of them expected to be told that they cannot come to work.

Let our veterans and the rest of the Federal workforce do their jobs. The best way to serve veterans and honor our promise to them is to reopen the entire government without delay.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 72. I want to point out a few critical points of this resolution and how it will ease the stress on the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as our men and women as well as their family members who have served our nation honorably and faithfully.

First, I would like to bring your attention to how important it is to continue to provide funding for disability claims processing—"disability claims need to go out—surely we can all agree on that? I have seen first-hand what these men and women must go through to get back on their feet and we should be making sure that all of the resources they need aren't delayed a single day." We have worked together over the last few years to reduce the

disability backlog and we could lose this momentum by not funding H.J. Res. 72. This resolution contains an anomaly—a $294M increase for the administrative costs of claims processing. Without sufficient funding, VA won't be able to continue its efforts to reduce the significant backlog that each Member office hears far too much about.

Secondly I would like to emphasize the importance of making funds available for the post-9/11 GI bill benefits. Without the funding in H.J. Res. 72, more than 760,000 veterans won't receive their post-9/11 benefits. This is an investment in the future of America which we must preserve.

Thirdly, I have attended far too many funerals; the mandatory funding provided in the bill will provide 49,221 burial allowances and 25,538 burial plot allowances, 26,091 service-connected death awards, 500,002 burial flags, 344,826 headstones or markers, and 63,508 grave-liners or reimbursement for privately purchased outer burial receptacles at VA and private cemeteries. We as a nation owe the men and women who have defended America the entitlements which they earned. H.J. Res. 72 will provide funding to ensure we continue to care for our Veterans.

My friends on the other side of the aisle have been emphasizing that this bill doesn't provide as much money to the VA as the bill the House passed back in June. That's because this bill is a more targeted approach. It provides all the mandatory funding and the money for claims processing administration in the near-term. But when you add the advance medical services funding that has already been provided to the money in this bill, it totals $141.4 billion—96 percent of the total the House approved last June. There are several smaller discretionary accounts that are not funded in this bill, but they tend to be accounts with a slower spend out rate, like construction and State homes, and these accounts will more than likely have carryover funds to cover the short-term. The Democrats are making too much of the $6.2B this bill doesn't provide for, when $141.4 billion will be available.

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, our service members and our veterans have done their duty, they have stood steadfast in defense of our nation.

They deserve more than our thanks, more than our tribute, they deserve our support.

They deserve the compensation, health care, educational opportunities, and employment assistance that they have earned.

That's why I rise in support of funding for our service members and veterans by ending this government shutdown.

On behalf of the over eighty thousand veterans in my district, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up the Senate Amendment to the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, H.J. Res. 59.

Let's end the shutdown and honor our commitment to our veterans and their sacrifices for this country.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.J. Res. 72, the "Honoring Our Promise to Veterans Act." I have unwavering support for our nation's veterans and Houston is home for tens of thousands of veterans.

I hold our men and women of the armed services in the highest regard. I have fought for them to receive pay raises, affordable and safe housing, family support services, and the best possible medical care. My support of veterans has been consistent and strong over the time I have served in the House of Representatives. I know firsthand how painful it is for Veterans to seek assistance for medical care—especially PTSD or Traumatic Brain injuries. So I have made it a central part of my public service to make sure they know how much they are loved and appreciated.

In the 106th Congress I introduced House Joint Resolution 98, which was signed into law by President Clinton. This resolution honored the debt paid for our nation's freedom by minority veterans who fought during World War II. If this Congress truly wishes to recognize the sacrifice and bravery of our veterans it will end this shutdown and re-open our government now. The current shutdown has slowed the rate at which the government can process veterans' disability claims and, as the VA has stated, it is negatively impacting other services to our nation's veterans.

It is extremely personal and painful to me to see the majority in this body use Veterans as a political football to try to score political points. Veterans deserve our honor and respect and regard for the service they have given to this country—which was given not for pay, but out of patriotism and love of country.

Today, I am ashamed of this body for treating Veterans as if they can be bribed to turn their backs on this nation and the pain of fellow Americans are suffering under the pressure of an unnecessary Federal government shutdown. The majority of the House of Representatives are showing such disrespect to Veterans by attempting to bribe them into leaving their fellow Americans behind by offering financial relief to them while other Americans remain in financial harm's way.

When Veterans served in uniform they fought for this nation under one flag without regard for political party or region of the nation.

As the member from the 18th Congressional District of Houston Texas I have fought hard to protect the honor and the rights of our great veterans. This Congress in years past have spoken highly of our nation's veterans because without their sacrifice we would not be in a free nation.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas there are more than 50,000 veterans and they are almost ten percent of this district's civilian population over the age of 18.

I cannot forget our nation's veterans. They are my friends' people I admire and feel privileged to serve in the House of Representatives. My service to them in part is motivated by the selflessness these men and women have shown and their courage when facing long and difficult recoveries from injuries incurred while serving.

Our veterans are extraordinary citizens who have changed the course of our lives in ways that we may not even realize. I hope we will always keep this thought in mind. The most important lessons that our Veterans can teach us is not to be divided against each other because we will surely fall as a nation. When the House of Representatives openly pits one group of Americans against another they dishonor our veterans and their sacrifice.

I would like to close my remarks with citing the words of two great American Veterans who served our nation on the field of battle and as members of the Congress: Congressman JOHN DINGELL and Senator Bob Dole. They said:

As two proud World War II veterans blessed also to serve this great nation in Congress, we consider our bipartisan work together in helping to create a National World War II Memorial to be among our greatest accomplishments and a true honor to our brothers-in-arms. If this Congress truly wishes to recognize the sacrifice and bravery of our World War II veterans and all who've come after, it will end this shutdown and re-open our government now. The current shutdown has slowed the rate at which the government can process veterans' disability claims and, as the VA has stated, it is negatively impacting other services to our nation's veterans. Piecemeal or partial spending plans do not adequately ensure that our veterans—and indeed all Americans—have access to the system of self-government established to serve and protect them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I am opposed to the bill, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Duckworth moves to recommit the joint resolution H.J. Res. 72 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That upon passage of this joint resolution by the House of Representatives, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, as amended by the Senate on September 27, 2013, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table and the House shall be considered to have (1) receded from its amendment; and (2) concurred in the Senate amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

□ 1600

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it would appear that the chairman has resigned himself to keeping the government shut down for 30 days so that the VA will run out of money in that 30 days' time. The way to ensure that the VA doesn't run out of money in 30 days is to pass a clean CR to reopen all of government.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent every moment since waking up in my hospital bed at Walter Reed defending our military and serving our veterans. I know when they're being exploited.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are debating isn't a serious or respectful attempt to support our Nation's heroes. It will not help veterans; in fact, it does just the opposite. It cuts more than $6 billion in funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs from the same bill that my colleagues and I passed, 421–4, just earlier this year.

I can't support this bill because it pits one veteran against another. It would continue paying out pension benefits at the cost of cutting medical and prosthetic research for wounded veterans. It would give veterans in the VA their health care and needed mental health services, which I applaud, but it leaves 800,000 of their brothers and sisters—my brothers and sisters—caught in the backlog where they would have to wait even longer to get a decision on their benefits. It would allow our troops with posttraumatic stress to access the Veterans Crisis Line, but at the expense of not laying our heroes to rest in our national cemeteries on a timely basis. It would allow our veterans to be counseled for military sexual trauma, but not quickly review the appeals that they submit to get the compensation they so rightfully deserve for that trauma.

This is unacceptable. It is shameful we are even considering responding to our veterans' service to our Nation with a funding cut at a time when the need for their services has never been greater. And we don't fund government by pitting one group against another. A piecemeal deal to fund some veterans could still allow TRICARE to run out of funds for prescription medication for our military and retirees.

We're not a Nation that would ask veterans to accept funding at the expense of their children who are in Head Start. A piecemeal-approach bill tells our thousands of military and veterans' families who rely on food stamps that we will pay their salaries when they go to war, but we won't feed their children.

And the idea that funding the VA will protect their benefits from the effects of this shutdown is simply not true. Our veterans are also small business owners in Elgin, Illinois; they are students in Addison; they are homeowners in Hanover Park; and many of them continue to serve their country as government employees. Funding just part of the VA will not help the veterans who are waiting on loans from the Small Business Administration.

So let's put our politics aside and stop using our veterans as pawns. This approach will not meet the full range of desperately needed veteran services. It is no way to fund government.

Our veterans didn't leave their comrades behind on the field of battle. Shame on the majority for leaving them and the Nation they defended without a government.

Our Nation is better than this. We are better than this. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this motion to recommit and please, please allow us to bring up the clean, Senate-passed continuing resolution that has the additional $6 billion of funding for our heroes, for our veterans.

Let's reopen the government so we can get back to the work of serving our Nation.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order that the instructions contained in the motion violate clause 7 of rule XVI, which requires that an amendment be germane to the bill under consideration.

As the Chair recently ruled on October 2, 2013, the instructions contain a special order of business within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules. Therefore, the amendment is not germane to the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I insist on my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from Illinois wish to be heard on the point of order?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized on the point of order.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, if you rule this motion out of order, does that mean we will not have a chance to keep the entire Federal Government open today?

Can the Chair please explain why we can't open the entire Federal Government today?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to issue a ruling.

The gentleman from Texas makes a point of order that instructions proposed in the motion to recommit offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois are not germane.

The joint resolution extends funding relating to certain veterans' benefits within a portion of fiscal year 2014. The instructions in the motion propose an order of business of the House relating to funding for all other agencies and departments subject to the annual appropriations process for the remainder of the fiscal year.

As the Chair ruled earlier today, as well as on October 2, 2013, a motion to recommit proposing an order of business of the House is not germane to a measure providing for the appropriation of funds, because such motion addresses a matter within the jurisdiction of a committee not represented in the underlying measure. Here, the instructions propose a non-germane amendment.

The point of order is sustained.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the house?

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the joint resolution, if arising without further proceedings in recommittal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 193, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

YEAS—225

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—193

Andrews
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Bass
Carson (IN)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Jones
Lummis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Pittenger
Rush
Tipton
Vargas
Waters

□ 1634

Mr. GRIJALVA changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. GRANGER and Mr. ROKITA changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. HOYER was allowed to speak out of order.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. HOYER. At the outset, I know that I join the majority leader in expressing our gratitude to the Capitol Police.

Mr. Speaker, all too often we take for granted the folks who are prepared to put their own lives and safety at risk to save others from harm's way, not only those of us who work on Capitol Hill, but those who visit their Capitol. So I know that round of applause was heartfelt and deeply meant, and we thank them.

I yield to the majority leader before I ask him a question on the schedule.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I concur with his thanks to the Capitol Police.

As well, each and every day, all of us benefit from their dedication and commitment to our safety, the people who visit this Capitol and its surroundings to their safety, and I know all of us want to extend that thanks just to let them know we really appreciate them.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker—and I know, again, as did the majority leader—Mr. SANFORD BISHOP, himself, gave such a tribute to the Capitol Police at the beginning of the last bill; but also we want to thank the Sergeant at Arms, Paul Irving, and all of those who work with the Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. Speaker, I know he may want to say a word on that as well, but I will yield to him now for the purposes of informing the Members of the majority leader's view of the schedule for the days to come.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

As well, on behalf of my colleagues on the majority's side of the aisle, I want to express our thanks to Paul Irving, the Sergeant at Arms Office and the entire team that he heads up in this Capitol for their tireless dedication to our safety and well-being, to our families' safety and well-being. Each and every one of us has been affected and touched by some threat or some risk at some time. Again, I want to express that gratitude to him and his team.

Mr. Speaker, as to the gentleman's request about information on the schedule, we did put out an email indicating that we are going to go into morning-hour tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, and legislative business starts at noon. We will also be making an announcement as to the weekend schedule and what we can expect for votes over the weekend.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

The gentleman, does he know how likely it is we will be in? Obviously, every Member has a schedule, and they are trying to deal with that and inform their staffs of that. I know it's very difficult for the leader. I've been there; I know how difficult it is to anticipate. I've heard some comments that Saturday is a probability but that, perhaps, Sunday is not.

Can the gentleman give any clarification on that?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, we will announce in the morning what to expect as far as votes for the weekend.

Mr. HOYER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 259, noes 157, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

AYES—259

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOES—157

Andrews
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Collins (NY)
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Jones
Lummis
McCarthy (NY)
Miller, Gary
Pittenger
Rush
Serrano
Tipton
Vargas
Waters

□ 1648

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. LAMALFA Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to read a text I got from a friend and colleague from my State of Illinois:

John, I have firsthand experience that the premium for an individual health policy is almost double the price now on the exchanges in Illinois.

This person works for a health broker and her premium is going from $600 to $1,100 per month with Blue Cross. This is not good.

I pray that you all band together, John, and stay the course, please. She is not the only one, John.

All my clients' new premiums are going higher, as well. If they want it at the same price, they have to pick a much larger deductible.

The President is not telling the truth. I am praying for you, John, to hold the line.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority, who've been stampeded by a radical minority of their Conference, are continuing the game of Whac-A-Mole; every time something visible pops up on television about yet another Federal agency and people having been disadvantaged, particularly when it affects Republican districts or constituencies they have some concern about, they play Whac-A-Mole. That's fun, that one. They know it's not going to happen and they know it's not going to be accepted, but they're pretending to care. It's time to stop pretending to care and to really care.

We just did a great applause for the Capitol Police. I was standing with everybody else. Guess what? They're working, they're not getting paid, and they can't take leave or be sick because they're essential employees. That's what's happening to every essential Federal employee in this country. Their life is being blown up. They're not getting paid. They can't take leave. They can't be sick.

This is not right. It's time to just allow this body to vote on a clean continuing resolution. What are you afraid of? Are afraid it would pass, to temporarily fund the government until November 15? Is that too much to ask? Then you can negotiate.

HOOSIER SUCCESS ON NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Manufacturing Caucus, I am pleased to rise in support of National Manufacturing Day on October 4.

In northern Indiana, we have a great story to share. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Elkhart County was named number three on the U.S. Department of Commerce's list of counties with the fastest growing job growth. Much of this increase is attributed to the RV manufacturers and suppliers that provide products and create great jobs.

I'd like to highlight one recent accomplishment of Drew Industries in Elkhart. A parent company of Lippert Components and Kinro, this RV manufacturing supplier has strengthened our Hoosier economy. Together, they employ over 4,000 Hoosiers in Elkhart County. The Elkhart Truth reports that the company plans to add 800 more jobs in 2017, expanding operations in Elkhart and Goshen.

The manufacturing industry has pumped life back into northern Indiana, and once again Hoosiers are leading the way.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, two heroes of mine, World War II veterans, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Senator Robert Dole, plainly said that piecemeal or partial spending plans do not adequately ensure that our veterans are served or protected.

I have in my hand today a letter from the Majority Leader, Mr. REID, whom I thank him for his service, and a letter from our Democratic leadership here in the House. It simply pleads with the Speaker of this body, rather than piecemeal the American Dream, rather than respond in a way that leaves 800,000 Federal employees unemployed—and God knows the tragedy of this poor person who came on the hill in a black car. No one knows what drove this person to do this.

What I would say to you is: Let's get our wheels back on, serve the American people, bring them back, vote for a bill today that will open the government. I will stay here until we get that bill on the floor. Piecemeal is undeserving of America and all whom we love.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to take this time to thank our Capitol Police Sergeant at Arms staff, local D.C. police that provide for our safety every day. Our prayers go out to those injured and involved in today's terrible incident.

Second, Mr. Speaker, article I, section 9, clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution explicitly states that no funds shall be drawn from the Treasury without appropriations made by law. This is one of the few obligations that Congress must meet annually, and Congress has

failed to meet that most basic responsibility, which is why I've cosponsored the Government Shutdown Fairness Act.

Mr. Speaker, where I come from, we believe in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. While I continue to cast every vote on this House floor in order to keep the government open, it should be morally reprehensible for me or other Members of the body to collect a paycheck while this lapse of appropriations continues.

Unfortunately, this gesture will not reopen the government. As we continue to work towards ensuring that critical services are made available to our Nation and citizens, we remain hopeful that the Senate majority leader will see the error of his ways and begin negotiations with the House.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, over 186,000 students in Clark County School District in Las Vegas receive free or reduced school meals, and for many this school meal is the only food they'll eat all day. Yet this destructive government shutdown has cut off Federal funding for school meals, leaving school districts to struggle to feed their students with budgets already devastated by the sequestration.

Hungry children come to school unprepared to learn, and school meals give them the opportunity that they need to succeed. Children who eat a school breakfast are better able to score higher on academic tests, they're less likely to miss school, and they're more likely to graduate. Despite this, Republicans are preventing Federal funds from buying food for these students.

With 28 percent of children in Nevada at risk of going hungry, we should be doing everything we can to feed these students. The Republican shutdown is doing the opposite. It's harming vulnerable children by literally taking food from the mouths of babes.

Shame on these Republicans. They must end this shutdown now.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the United States Capitol Police deserve our thanks every day, but this day especially for all they do to keep visitors in this Capitol safe.

Mr. Speaker, Americans don't want a government shutdown. They also don't want to get an unfair deal under ObamaCare.

The House wants to reopen government fairly, but we need the Senators to be part of the conversation. In the meantime, their refusal to talk has consequences. To name a few: NIH is unable to research and innovate; veteran benefit applications are delayed; military reservists aren't being paid; national parks are closed, including open-air memorials that should never be disrespected by the theater of barricades.

Republicans and Democrats in the House found common ground and passed legislation to solve these problems. We urge the Senate Democrats to do their part. These proposals offer common ground. Let's build on it.

And with regard to the closure of the World War II Memorial, may I offer a reminder that the beaches of Normandy were closed, too.

□ 1700

REOPEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Yesterday I spoke about the damage to the St. John economy because the national park is closed. Like everyone's district—Republican and Democrat—the damage is growing exponentially with every day this continues. By not putting a clean CR to a vote, the House leadership is preventing pregnant women and babies from getting important nutritional support.

The gentleman who called me on a radio program on Tuesday can't get help from us with USDA loans because USDA offices are closed. Our work with SBA offices, to help our small businesses, are on hold. And the town halls with GSA on Federal contracting with local businesses will be put off.

My community is already in economic distress, and this shutdown is making it worse. I'm proud to have one of the best National Guard units in the country. I'm a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and avid supporter of NIH. But the bills that are being passed here only pretend to help these entities while imposing damaging cuts.

The ACA is law. Get over it. Let's stop this divide and conquer piecemeal approach. Let's vote on a clean measure to reopen the offices of the Federal Government to ensure Federal workers can pay their bills. And let's make sure the Federal Government will pay its debt too.

GIVE UP YOUR SPECIAL DEAL

(Mr. CASSIDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I have good news for my colleagues from the Democratic side of the aisle. We can reopen the government.

Let's make clear what the House has done: we have sent a continuing resolution to the Senate which funds the government and has two amendments which are found so objectionable. It does away with a special sweetheart deal the President created that only benefits Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen. And for those folks who are getting their insurance from their employer, the President postponed the mandate on their employer, so we postponed the mandate on the employee. That's all we have to do.

Now if you'll want that special deal so much, we understand. But if you speak about people going hungry, keep in mind, it's only your affection for that special deal that keeps them from being fed. If you really cared about those people, you would give up your special deal.

Now it may be that Senator REID so loves it, he can do nothing about it. That said, let's negotiate.

The Constitution says that if the two Chambers disagree, you go to conference committee. At the end of the day, if you give up your special deal, people are fed. Why do you want that special deal so much?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING DEPUTY BILLY ''BUBBA'' KENNEDY

(Mr. GALLEGO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Billy ''Bubba'' Kennedy, a deputy sheriff who was killed last night out in west Texas. A committed peace officer of 14 years, he was killed in the line of duty at only 38 years old.

A graduate of Iraan High School, Deputy Kennedy worked for 7 years at the Pecos County Sheriff's Department, where I met him. He also worked for 4 years at the Brown County Sheriff's Department before joining the Upton County Sheriff's Department in November of 2012. He is remembered by his friends, his colleagues, and his family. Deputy Kennedy's name will be added to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial next year. That is the only memorial in Washington, D.C., that will never be finished.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Jodi; two sons, Lane and Blake, who are 10 and 15 years old; and his parents, Billy Frank and Della Kennedy.

I'm honored to have had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize Bubba Kennedy, the deputy sheriff that I knew and respected. His devotion to his community and his family has truly impacted the lives of many and will continue to do so, even after his passing. In Rankin, Texas, which is such a small community in west Texas, where everybody knows everybody, his death, his loss is truly, truly deeply felt.

CONSTITUENT LETTERS ON OBAMACARE

(Mr. RICE of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to read a couple of the letters that have come into my office about the new health care law.

I'm a senior citizen working part time. I can no longer see my doctor of 14 years. I know of other people getting their hours cut and not being able to find a job, and they don't know what their health care will be.

The next one:

We have 24 employees and have been in business since 1982. We currently pay 100 percent of the premium health care insurance for our employees. After discussing this with our health care provider, we've determined that when ObamaCare is put in place, we will no longer be able to provide health care insurance.

The next one:

Higher premiums, higher deductibles, less coverage.

Next:

I have been paying insurance to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 25 years now. A month and a half ago, I got a letter in the mailbox, saying, I am losing my coverage due to the Obama health care law. I thought Mr. Obama promised no one had to change insurance companies. Mr. Obama has told a lie, and there's no other way to say it.

Next one:

My insurance company is dropping my business. So much for being able to keep your insurance if you want to. Not. A small business owner like me is—up a creek.

Well, that's not exactly what he said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

OPEN UP THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the public has been witness to extraordinary divisiveness between the Republicans and Democrats in this House. But I think it's important that the public bear in mind that we have a law that was passed, passed substantially in the House and the Senate—granted, it was primarily by Democrats, of course. But it was signed by the President. And then we had a Presidential election. A major issue was the Affordable Care Act. That's why it was called ObamaCare. And President Obama won by 5 million votes, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the issue is the funding of the Federal Government. Virtually all the Democrats voted to fund the government. Virtually all of the other side, Mr. Speaker, voted not to.

So now, for the Republican majority to come up and try to open up different agencies, suggesting that we don't want to do that—they're the ones that closed them, Mr. Speaker. We're the ones that voted to keep them open. What we want to do is to open up the government. And if we do it in bits and pieces, we create more dissension within the Federal workforce. We shouldn't do that. The American public deserves better from us.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here to do a Special Order.

We are here, and I am here as a cochair of the House Manufacturing Caucus, to celebrate and recognize National Manufacturing Day. We know there are a lot of divisive issues being talked about here in the Nation's Capitol. But I think one issue, as we start to lay some groundwork for what the world looks like after we shake this virus that's happening here in Washington, D.C., I think manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, additive manufacturing, three-dimensional printing, and all of the issues that surround rebuilding the United States of America, can happen. And we have an obligation, I think, as we have arguments about the issues of the day, also to lay that seed corn, that long-term investment in strategies that will help our country grow.

We have a group of men and women, Members of Congress here this evening, that would like to speak on that. And I would like to work quickly through that list. First, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts. Congressman KENNEDY, coming from New England, coming from Massachusetts, which obviously is a huge manufacturing State with a long history of manufacturing, beginning with the early stages of our country.

Mr. KENNEDY. To my colleague from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the House Manufacturing Caucus, I want to thank you for organizing this and for your leadership on this issue.

On October 1, just 2 days ago, the Institute for Supply Management reported the manufacturing index rose in September for the fourth straight month to a reading of 56.2. Any reading above 50 indicates growth, and it's the highest level we've seen since April of 2011.

Now a couple of monthly statistics about manufacturing: In 2011, manufacturing contributed over $1.8 trillion to the Nation's economy and accounted for 47 percent of all U.S. exports. For every $1 that we spend in manufacturing, another $1.48 is added to the economy, the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector. Nine percent of the workforce, more than 11 million Americans, are employed in manufacturing. And two-thirds of the U.S. private sector investment in research and development occurs in the manufacturing sector.

The value and potential for future growth in manufacturing in Massachusetts is a perfect example. The industry continues to be a critical segment of our economy. Yes, in the downturn, we were hurt. But what's remarkable is that the persistence and ingenuity of the manufacturing industry statewide continues to rank above the national average in terms of the concentration of manufacturing employment.

And after years of decline, in 2011, the total number of manufacturing firms actually increased. This means that companies and industries like aerospace, electronics, computers, pharmaceuticals, they're central to the success of the Massachusetts manufacturing economy. It's why I believe in advanced manufacturing in that it promises future growth, and it's essential to the public-private partnerships that are going to innovate and are going to be needed to commercialize and bring new products to market.

That's why I'm proud to have written and introduced the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act, RAMIA, of 2013, along with my Republican colleague TOM REED of New York, the fellow cochairman with you, Mr. Chairman.

The bill is designed to bring industry, universities and community colleges, Federal agencies, and State and local governments all under one roof to accelerate manufacturing innovation. It establishes public-private sectors for manufacturing innovation that will help bridge the gap between basic research and development and commercialization of novel technologies.

The centers will serve as a regional hub of manufacturing excellence and will provide access to cutting-edge capabilities and equipment, creating an unparalleled environment to educate and train the next generation of our workforce.

And as we've seen, Mr. Chairman, we've seen this model work right there in your hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, the area that you represent. There are great advancements that we have seen in additive manufacturing in 3–D printing.

Our bill is locally driven manufacturing policy that addresses the disconnect between research, commercialization, and workforce training. We've seen that back in my district in communities like Taunton, Fall River, and Attleboro, where industrial manufacturing and manufacturing has been and can be a key to economic development in the future. That's why I support this industry. That is why I am proud to support this bill. And I thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman. And I would also like to thank him for his leadership on that particular bill. We do have the National Additive Manufacturing Institute in

downtown Youngstown, Ohio, and we're starting to see how that public-private partnership is beginning to light up not only downtown Youngstown but the entire tech belt region, from Cleveland to Akron, Youngstown down to Pittsburgh.

And there are multiple companies involved in that. We just had Siemens Corporation donate over $400 million in software to Youngstown State University as we begin to create that pipeline for people to go into this new and what will be a transformational industry.

Our next speaker is the gentleman from Delaware, also a State that is crucial to our defense industrial base and our manufacturing base here in the United States. I yield to Congressman CARNEY.

Mr. CARNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the midst of this manufactured crisis here in the Capitol to join many of my colleagues on the Democratic side for something that we all can get behind, which is creating strong manufacturing jobs here in our great country.

One of the frustrations about the impasse that we have here in the House and in the Capitol is that we have some really serious issues that confront us as a country. And I think the most important among them is, where are the jobs of the future going to come from? We know that in our districts—Mr. RYAN of Ohio and some of the other speakers tonight, in my State of Delaware—that manufacturing has been the backbone, particularly of those jobs that provide middle class incomes for generations.

We've lost so many since 2008. My home State, we've lost both of our auto manufacturing plants, the General Motors plant at Boxwood Road and the Chrysler plant in Newark.

□ 1715

We've lost, over the past 10 years or so, Avon Products, a manufacturing facility in Newark. And for generations, downstate in the town of Seaford, the Dupont nylon plant provided a pathway to middle class for generations of families down there.

We know that the competition for those jobs, today and into the future, is going to define the success of our own ability to maintain a middle class here in the United States, and also, define the competition that we have with our neighbors around the world.

There's some hope on the horizon. In recent years, we've seen a new trend called insourcing. We're actually seeing companies moving back jobs here into the United States.

General Electric, one of the premiere manufacturing industrial conglomerates, international companies here in the U.S., has started to move appliance manufacturing to the States of Indiana and Ohio and other places in the Midwest from their plants that they moved some years ago to Mexico.

Apple just announced it'll start manufacturing a new laptop here in the United States.

But here's the thing. Not only do we have to attract and bring jobs back to the United States, but once we get them back here through this insourcing trend, we need to make sure that we keep them here.

Making things here at home, whether it's building new cars, the cars of the future, whether it's building the appliances or electronics that we're talking about, help create the strong economic foundation that we've enjoyed as a country and will do so for future generations.

So it's our job, as Members of Congress, to pass laws that will encourage innovation and job creation right here at home, and put hardworking Americans back to work. And that's why I've worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come up with ways to attract and keep U.S. manufacturing jobs here.

This summer, I joined my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) to introduce the Made in America Act. It's really a simple bill. It creates a labeling system called the America Star labels, much like Energy Star, that companies can use to identify the extent to which their products are made in America.

Just this past summer I had to go shopping for a new air-conditioner. My air-conditioner broke down. And it was difficult to determine what products were made here, how much they were made here, what kind of parts were made here.

Last year I bought a new front door, a new oak front door; spent a lot of time going around trying to find a door that was made here in the U.S., and found a wonderful product just over the line in Pennsylvania.

Made in America is something that people want to see, and they want to know what the products that they buy and that they see out there in stores, how much is foreign-made and how much is made here in the USA. And people, consumers, care about it, and that's why this piece of legislation is important because it provides people with the opportunity to know that.

I also got together with the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), who's here in the Chamber, with the Scaling Up Manufacturing Act. I'm sure he'll talk about it. The bill creates a 25 percent tax credit for the cost of construction or lease of a company's first domestic manufacturing facility. Thank you, Mr. HONDA, for that, for the opportunity to join you on that.

I also introduced a bill to increase the research and development tax credit from 14 percent to 17 percent and, more importantly, to make it permanent, to create certainty for businesses to locate their research and development facilities here in this country. This will give those companies that certainty that they need to set up those operations.

These are just a few examples, Mr. Speaker, of the ways that Congress can do something to make it possible for us to make things here in America again. We all believe, many of us here, frankly, on both sides of the aisle, believe that making things in America is the key to our economic recovery.

We need to get our house in order here, with the impasse that we're dealing with over the last week, and focus on these efforts, focus on the things that we can do to incentivize U.S. manufacturing.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman from Delaware, who obviously gets it, and is involved in, I think, a lot of initiatives that we're beginning to push here in a bipartisan way.

And as I said, I hope when we get through the next few weeks and this tough time that we're having here, that we can begin to push some of these initiatives.

Our next speaker is the gentlelady from Connecticut, another New England State that is deeply, deeply engaged in manufacturing in the United States from very, very early on, a key component to our defense industrial base, whether it's any branch, quite frankly, of the military, especially the Navy, and the technologies that spin out of a lot of the public investments that we make.

And I think when we talk about public/private partnerships, and when we talk about public investments, Connecticut's the kind of State that, if we make these investments, benefits a great deal. It has a very skilled workforce, a well-educated workforce, but also a great manufacturing workforce.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. I want to thank you for your leadership, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. REED, your bipartisan cochair of the Manufacturing Caucus, for all you have been doing in this Congress and in others, to promote manufacturing.

Today, we celebrate the rebirth of manufacturing in Connecticut and across America. My State is home to close to 5,000 manufacturing companies, employing nearly 168,000 men and women. Our State has a long tradition of manufacturing, dating back to Eli Whitney and the cotton gin, and I am proud to see that that tradition is being carried on to the next generation.

Tomorrow marks the Second Annual National Manufacturing Day, and in Connecticut, we are celebrating manufacturing through what we are calling the Dream It, Do It Initiative. Folks across the State will be showcasing the importance of American manufacturing. Hundreds of middle school students will participate in a Manufacturing Mania program, to learn how Connecticut-made products impact their lives.

Throughout the month, manufacturing facilities will be giving tours, and technical colleges and high schools will hold open houses to show young people and their parents how rewarding a career in manufacturing can be.

I've been meeting with manufacturers from across my district, and I've

seen firsthand the innovative work that they are doing. In New Britain, family-owned Peter Paul Electronics has been creating good jobs for three generations. They strive every day to expand training and hire new employees.

At Ward Leonard, in Thomaston, and Jonal Labs, in Meriden, employees and managers are working together seeking ways to manufacture quality products for customers across Connecticut, across the country, and across the world.

I'm proud of the innovative, dedicated men and women of manufacturing, and I want to make sure that they continue to succeed for generations to come.

I also know firsthand how important manufacturing is because I come from a family of manufacturers. My grandfather started a small manufacturing company 61 years ago that I'm proud to say is still in business today.

I know, from that experience, and from companies all across Connecticut, the importance of providing a supportive environment for manufacturing to grow and thrive and ensure that we are building jobs right here in America.

That is why I'm introducing two bills, the First STEP Act, and the STEM Jobs Act, that help students, employees, and small businesses succeed by ensuring that our students have the skills for the future. It's a need I've heard time and time again from manufacturers in my district.

We have to ensure that the next generation has the skills to be competitive in a global economy where manufacturing jobs pay those high wages that we need to rebuild the middle class here in America.

I know that there is a lot of bipartisan support in this Chamber for our efforts to promote American manufacturing, innovation, and competitiveness. Many of us, on both sides of the aisle, are committed to working together on this and many other issues to help the American people.

The time has come for us to pass some real jobs bills for manufacturers, for workers and for families across my district and across this country.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentlelady for her good work and good words.

Our next speaker is from the great State of California which, obviously, has one of the most diverse economies. But many people think California, and they don't necessarily think manufacturing. And the leadership that the gentleman has been providing here, a number of issues, a number of bills sponsored and pushed throughout his career here, and we're going to learn more about, I'm sure, what's going on in California.

So I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. I thank my friend for leading this group, and also providing the rest of the country the understanding and the idea that there's work being done here. There are creative minds in Congress that are looking at the issue of manufacturing and creating jobs.

I dare say that the word ''manufacturing'' probably, for many people in this country, conjures up the old-fashioned traditional kinds of work. But today we've heard nothing but the upgraded, the high tech, the kind of manufacturing that requires many, many other States to cooperate with each other in order for something to happen.

So the American manufacturing renaissance is really essential for a full and sustainable economic recovery. National Manufacturing Day is an opportunity to highlight manufacturing's importance and outsized contributions to America's economy.

Manufacturing can generate 70 percent of exports in both advanced and emerging manufacturing, and up to 90 percent of business research and development spending.

Just in my home State of California, there are over 40,000 manufacturers that account for over 1.2 million jobs and $230 billion of output. Small supplying contractor manufacturers like Cal Weld, in Fremont, California, which I was going to visit, but I think that our calendar is going to delay that visit. Cal Weld, in Fremont, California, plays a key role in the worldwide supply chain system.

The term ''supply chain'' is a concept that's not well understood nor well-discussed. But a supply chain is necessary for any manufacturer to be able to produce their products.

These manufacturing jobs are high-paying, and they are job multipliers, a term that's been used previously. High-paying and they are job multipliers. Each manufacturing job creates 47 additional non-manufacturing jobs in other industries like customer service, transportation and other service-oriented sectors.

Manufacturing outputs are almost 12 percent of our gross state product in California and account for 87 percent of our exports. So manufacturing has and continues to be the platform for building a solid middle class all across this country, the United States and abroad.

For these reasons and others, I remind my colleagues today that we have plenty of work to do to provide appropriate funding for innovation, appropriate funding for research and development to rebuild and educate a skilled manufacturing workforce, and to provide targeted tax incentives to protect and re-shore the manufacturing supply chain.

The term ''re-shore'': bringing back the manufacturing supply chain that has been decimated for over the 30-year period of outsourcing.

We can and must rebuild manufacturing capacity and leadership in the United States.

For those reasons, I'm very proud to be part of this caucus, the Manufacturing Caucus. And we shall work together to knit together all our ideas and our bills to make sure that we have a network of supply chains and manufacturers that will provide all the jobs that we need to build a stronger middle class.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman. And that point of the supply chain, I think, is essential; to recognize that it's not just the General Motors plant, but it's all of the Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 suppliers right down the line that are making component parts, that are providing good manufacturing jobs for Americans.

Those jobs, as has been stated here several times, pay a lot more. The average manufacturing worker makes about $77,000 a year. The national average is $60,000 a year.

So more patents, more innovation coming off the factory floors around the country, in the field of manufacturing, and so that happens in supply chains, the companies that are involved in the supply chains, and also the big manufacturers that we often think of.

One statistic I'd like to make, too, before I introduce the gentleman from Rhode Island, is we think of big companies like Boeing and like Facebook. And Facebook, which has a lot of prominence today, Facebook, they both have market values over $50 billion.

Facebook employs about 5,000 workers. Boeing employs about 170,000 workers because you need the manpower, the woman power in these facilities to make that happen.

So I'd like to yield to my friend, a strong advocate for working-class people on the House Budget Committee, and it's always fun to be on that committee with him.

I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

□ 1730

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding and for your very powerful leadership of the Manufacturing Caucus here in the House.

As you know, tomorrow, October 4, we celebrate National Manufacturing Day, which is an opportunity to underscore and reaffirm our commitment to manufacturing and to remember that manufacturing helped build this country. It made this country a great and powerful Nation. It helped build a thriving middle class and has created good-paying jobs for hardworking men and women all across our country.

This is especially true in my home State of Rhode Island, which is, as you all know, the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, and has a very long and important history in American manufacturing—more than anyplace in the country—and I know the gentleman from Ohio will contest this a little. But Rhode Island understands the importance of a strong manufacturing sector; and if we want to get our economy back on the right track, it's critical that we start making

things again here in this country and support those companies that are already manufacturing things in America.

So I am really proud to stand with my colleagues today as we salute American manufacturing and to really underscore our commitment to helping rebuild and strengthen manufacturing in this country, and particularly to pay attention to the House Democratic Make It in America agenda, which is a very comprehensive set of bills that will help reinvigorate American manufacturing and put folks back to work in my home State of Rhode Island, and I think all across this country.

As part of that package is the Make It in America Manufacturing Act, which is legislation I introduced to help manufacturers buy new equipment, retrofit their factories, retrain their workers, and increase their exports, but really, help to jump-start what we're already seeing in this manufacturing renaissance.

As you know very well, market conditions are such that wages are starting to rise in Asia. Energy costs remain high, so the cost of transporting goods is expensive. So this is a real opportunity, a real moment to seize. And if we change some policies here in Washington and, instead of undermining American manufacturing, replace it with policies that support American manufacturing, we have a tremendous opportunity for additional job growth.

Earlier this week, we saw even more evidence that our manufacturing sector is growing stronger, again. In the September report, the Institute for Supply Management found that manufacturing was growing at its fastest pace in almost 2½ years. And as has been said—and we all know—manufacturing is a jobs multiplier. For every new manufacturing job we create, it results in an additional 4.6 jobs being created. Support it. Of course, with high-tech manufacturing, it adds an additional 16 jobs.

So this is very, very important in our ongoing effort to grow the economy and create jobs. I think it particularly is important to make note that in the area of manufacturing, we need to be very focused on job training and be sure our young people are prepared to compete for the kinds of jobs that are becoming available in advanced manufacturing.

I visit manufacturers in my district all the time and hear from them the importance of skills development and job training for the new workers in the manufacturing sector. It's not the case anymore that you can walk down to your neighborhood manufacturer and get the job your father or grandfather or mother or grandmother got. It requires a different set of skills, and it requires additional training.

So as part of our strategy, we have to focus on how do we ensure that young people and people entering the manufacturing sector have the skills necessary to compete successfully.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Will the gentleman yield on that point?

Mr. CICILLINE. Of course.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think it's important and it's a critical point. We have legislative fixes and we have strategies down here, but much of this is cultural. As you said, these facilities are not your grandparents' manufacturing facilities. In Youngstown and Akron and in Rhode Island, we remember growing up and hearing about that long legacy of the steel mills blowing out soot. You've got to sweep your porch off two or three times during the course of the day because of the soot that's coming out. The mill was running and people said, That means we're working. It's gold dust, really.

Today, it's much different. You can eat your breakfast off the floor in some of these facilities.

And so how do we break with guidance counselors with, in my estimation, the robotics in the schools, Legos in the early schools, and begin this pipeline to get people excited about using their hands and making things again. And not everyone is going to go to college and get a 4-year degree.

Mr. CICILLINE. I think you raise a very important point. Of the things I think we have seen, unfortunately, is the way that we have approached manufacturing in this country the last couple of decades where we have actually sent messages to young people that they should think of something other than manufacturing, that it's sort of a dead-end career and manufacturing doesn't exist here anymore. We're going to be a service economy.

And you hear it in the language of guidance counselors and sometimes in parents. I would say if kids came home and said, Mom, Dad, I want be to a manufacturer, their parents would say, Really? That doesn't have a bright future.

I think what we have to really do is support both in career and technical academies manufacturing tracks to be sure people see this as a career path and to remind people that manufacturing jobs pay, on average, above non-manufacturing jobs. So these are good-paying jobs. And that it requires a different skill set today—a more advanced skill set.

But when you look particularly at what's happening with innovation and design and 3–D printing and all the intersections of making things with this new technology, it's a career path that has tremendous opportunities. But I agree with you very much that we have to stop saying to young people, Your life is only a success if you go to college.

When I was the mayor of Providence, I used to visit schools all the time and very often hear principals or teachers say, Everyone is going to go to college, right? And they would encourage everyone to raise their hands.

The truth is, we have to send a message to young people that if you want to go to college, and you're interested in that, great. We want to be sure you have all the tools to be successful. But you can have a fulfilling, successful, wonderful life or you can support yourself with your family in other careers like advanced manufacturing and realize that's a valuable, important, valued part of our economy. And I think there needs to be a lot of language around that and a lot of support so that people see that as a career path.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Yes. I think a lot of the jobs people have today, you're tied to a Blackberry after 5 or 6 o'clock, your iPhone on the weekend. A lot of these manufacturing jobs you put a good hard day's work in, you go home. You go home and get the grill going. You go to your kid's little league game. You go watch the Browns. You do whatever it is you've got to do. The Patriots or whoever you're rooting for. You have time to do other important things and be with your family and other things.

And I remember looking back in the heyday in Youngstown and Niles, where I grew up, my grandfather had a great job, was well paid in the steel mill, and at 3 or 4 o'clock, he was gone. And he would go to his garden, they would have time to make dinner, have a happy hour where the families would come together and be together and have that quality of life.

And I think we can look at manufacturing and say, Well, hey, it's clean, it's a new skill set, it's exciting. There's a lot of really hot things going on in manufacturing today. You can work in a team. You're creating new products in all different sectors of the economy, and you have a life outside of your work that is important for your family, your children, your kids, and everything else.

Mr. CICILLINE. And you are making things that are sought by the rest of the world. I think one of the things we should never lose sight that those words ''Made in America'' still mean a lot. And people understand when a product is made in America, it's made by the best trained workers in the world; it has the best quality standards in the world. And so people all over the world want to buy stuff made in America.

So I think given the opportunity to do that—and, certainly, I think all Americans want to do that—given that opportunity, we will see tremendous growth in our manufacturing sector. But I think it's very important that in this moment we understand the significance of changing some of the policies in Washington that undermine American manufacturing.

I want to take a minute to applaud the President, who has really made the rebirth of American manufacturing an important priority. He talks about a lot of this in the State of the Union, I know, and addresses to the country.

He established recently this Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, a program to help

strengthen manufacturing and to help States develop regional manufacturing strategies. I am particularly proud that Rhode Island received one of the first grants in the first phase of this program. That will really allow us to develop a strategy that will help to support and strengthen Rhode Island manufacturing and, obviously, recognize what that will mean for job growth.

But it's been, I think, very valuable to have the President take a leadership role and continue to make the case that manufacturing and making things and rebuilding American manufacturing is a key part of our economic recovery.

It's one of those issues where one would hope that there's bipartisan support. You have been a great leader of the Manufacturing Caucus with a bipartisan leadership there. You look at the Make It in America agenda and you think, Why hasn't every single bill on that agenda already become law? These are good, commonsense bills that support American manufacturing, which is so critical to our country.

We're in a difficult period where there's not a lot of bipartisan support, but I'd love to hear the gentleman's thoughts on that because it seems so critical.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I agree. The issue really is we need to get on the stick because China, the European Union, many other countries are pumping a good deal of money into 3–D printing. We have one set up. The President wants to do an additional 7 to 10 or 20, maybe 30 additional centers, where you have these public-private partnerships where you're innovating in areas of the economy. We have the first in Additive Manufacturing. You have one of the first grants to start developing in Rhode Island.

The Chinese are dumping tons of money in 3–D printing. They're going to have 10 innovation centers in China. So they're full speed ahead. And this is an area that we want to win. We want to make sure that we are on the cutting edge, not just because we're Americans, but because our success is the world's success.

I think making these investments is critical. There really isn't that much money. In the grand scheme of things, putting hundreds of millions of dollars into these critical areas of the economy, if you look at three-dimensional printing, it's a printer, in essence, like the printer you would have on your desk, except you pump materials into the printer, and it can print your iPhone, it could print a shoe. They have YouTube videos of houses being printed one day.

It's just amazing how this is going to revolutionize manufacturing. We used to have the mainframe computers that became desktops.

So we have manufacturing today that builds rooms that could also be shrunk. And parts. And it has a transformational effect to have a desktop manufacturing unit that every American could utilize. And the kind of innovation that's going to come from this, the kind of decentralizing, streamlining efficiencies in the supply chain, all of these things that can revolutionize our country. Look at what the Internet has done for wealth creation. But this is the kind of wealth creation that hits people in Rhode Island, hits people in Youngstown and Akron, Ohio. It's not just Silicon Valley. They benefit, manufacture it somewhere else, and no one else really benefits from it other than the product, which is a significant benefit. This, I think, can be very revolutionary in that regard.

So we've got an obligation here. Seeing the tea leaves, reading the leaves, we've got to make those investments.

Mr. CICILLINE. Absolutely. First and foremost, I want to congratulate you again because you have led the country with the manufacturing center, being the very first one. And I'm hoping we're going take a group from Rhode Island soon to visit so we can see the success of what you've done and the kind of model it can provide for the whole country.

But I think you're absolutely right. I think 3–D printing is one example that is really going to transform the way we make things in this country. We have some great partners in Rhode Island—the Rhode Island School of Design—where I think we're going to really begin to understand that design is going to be such an important part of this new manufacturing, and it's going to make everyone a manufacturer, in some ways—to have the ability to print products.

So you're right: our competitors around the world also know this. And they're making very substantial investments. So I think this is one of those moments in the history of our country where we have to realize that if we're going to continue to lead the world economically and continue to be a place where products are produced that are the envy of the world, we have to create conditions that help companies and individuals innovate and be successful in making things so that we can start shipping American-made goods all over the world.

One of the things I think we have to look at is how do we support American manufacturers in tax policies so that we're not incentivizing companies to ship jobs overseas and instead incentivizing companies to keep jobs here; how do we provide research and development tax credits that are more generous and more permanent so they can plan the kinds of investments that will help grow jobs.

I know you have the same experience. You go to a manufacturer in your district, and you're awed by the entrepreneurship and the commitment and dedication of the workers there and the quality of the products they're producing. And all they're asking from us is give them a set of tools to level the playing field to help them succeed so they can sell their products to the rest of the world.

□ 1745

That should be a bipartisan effort. Making things and taking pride in making things in America should be something we all agree on. I hope that we will enjoy a lot of bipartisan support in making that a reality.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, it takes some public investment. That's what I worry about and I talk to our Republican colleagues about.

My concern really is this national narrative that there isn't anything that the government could spend money on that would be a good thing—it's all bad, any spending at all. So that is a bad narrative to operate from when you're trying to say, hey, here's the public-private partnerships that we want to see, as I said in my opening.

So the public-private partnership with NAMII in Youngstown, the Additive Manufacturing Institute, public-private partnership; a lot of companies, defense companies—companies like Siemens. So here is the investment in Youngstown. Now there is the building that was refurbished was an old warehouse—and that's great—in old downtown. Now there's other businesses looking to locate. They say well, we want to be around the innovation that's happening there. So for an older industrial area, fantastic for us to have that opportunity.

Then Siemens comes in, and Siemens donated $440 million worth of software to Youngstown State University to create that pipeline. You can see how just that little public investment is driving all of the private investment that's not just going to help our region—the tech belt from Cleveland to Pittsburgh, to Akron and Youngstown, that whole region—but transform throughout the entire country. Everyone will benefit from this.

So you begin to see that pipeline that you can create. And as you said, get on a track for manufacturing when you're in high school so that when you're 18, you're not wandering around saying what car can I go buy and get myself into debt, or go to college for 1 year and accumulate debt and drop out because it's not your thing. We want kids to graduate from high school with a skill, to be able to go out in the world and earn if they don't want to go to college.

Get these 3–D printers in the schools. These kids are amazing. They'll learn it like that. That's going to take some public investment.

Mr. CICILLINE. You're absolutely right. In my State, in the cities of Woonsocket and Pawtucket and Central Falls and Providence, which all have mill buildings that were filled during a different time, filled with good-paying jobs, and so we have to make adjustments to sort of what the demands are of the marketplace: What are the new technologies that are

available, like 3–D printing? What are the skills that workers need? And what are the incentives we need to create to help those buildings be filled with manufacturing jobs of the 21st century?

And you're right, it's going to require some public-private partnership—thoughtful, careful, efficient kinds of relationships, but a real public investment that will bring tremendous benefit not only to my State, but to our country.

I, too, worry that there is a group of folks here in the Congress who believe we can't invest in anything that's important for our future. And as you mentioned, our competitors are doing it, and they're doing it at a much faster pace. So if we're going to be successful, we need to seize this moment and build on the rich and wonderful manufacturing history of our country. I think we will see tremendous opportunities in my State, and I know in Ohio and across this country.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate the gentleman being here. I see States represented here, Rhode Island and Connecticut and Massachusetts and Ohio and California, and you could go on into Michigan and Indiana and Wisconsin and all through New England and into Maine and New Hampshire. We are a manufacturing country. We always have been. So I thank the gentleman.

Can I ask, Mr. Speaker, how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would like to make a few comments slightly off topic for celebrating Manufacturing Recognition Day tomorrow and just explain to my constituents at home in a couple of minutes—because I don't want to take the entire time, but in a couple of minutes, explain to my constituents at home my feelings and how I think things are playing out here in Washington. I haven't had an opportunity to be home, and I want to communicate to them.

My position here obviously is we need to get the government up and running. We have the national discussion going on about health care, the Affordable Care Act. I voted for the Affordable Care Act, support the Affordable Care Act. We're going to have its glitches as it rolls out. But prior to a few years ago, as we were getting into the run-up of the Affordable Care Act, I had 1,700 families in 1 year go bankrupt because of health care costs, numerous people losing their insurance.

As we're talking about the next generation of manufacturing, it has been an ugly process in communities like ours with people losing their jobs and not having health insurance, and 45, 50, 55, 60 years old can't yet qualify for Medicare, are stuck, can't get any insurance. That was a problem. Health care costs going up dramatically.

But what's happening here is we're now having a discussion from a smaller group in the Republican caucus of Tea Party members who are hellbent on killing the Affordable Care Act and dismantling it.

Now, here is the problem: They have every right as an American citizen and as an elected Member of the United States Congress to have that opinion and to fight for that.

Here's where I think there is a problem: We have an obligation here in this Chamber to make sure that the government runs—runs smoothly, gets funded. We're going to have our arguments as to what the investments are, what the Tax Code looks like, what are the trade agreements. These are all fights we have in this Chamber. I'm not here to say that democracy is pretty. It's ugly. It's messy. There's a House of 435 Members, a Senate of 100 Members, a President, an executive branch. This is an ugly process. It is inherently ugly. As Churchill said, it's the worst form of government on the planet, except for all the others.

We have an obligation to keep the government running. So my argument, my complaint with what the Tea Party members are doing by saying, well, we'll extend what we call a continuing resolution—funding of the government—we will agree to extend it for 6 more weeks if you defund ObamaCare or if you delay ObamaCare.

Now, as I said, they have every right to make that argument and they have every right to have that belief, but a couple of points.

We fund the government, and then through the normal process of governing—committee process, the struggle between the House and the Senate, the Republican House and the Democratic Senate and a Democratic President—we have that fight through the normal budgetary process.

You do not shut down the government because you don't like a piece of legislation that passed the House, passed the Senate, was signed into law by the President of the United States, and the Supreme Court deemed it constitutional. You do not shut the government down because of that. You continue the government operating, and then you have this other fight.

And guess what? Maybe you won't win the fight. I was here in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006. The Iraq war was going on. I was against the Iraq war, had no interest in us going to Iraq, campaigned against it my first election. But when we got down here, we, through the political process, fought it and we tried to end it. Then, eventually, in 2006, Democrats won the House, won the Senate. We began the process of trying to continue to end the war in Iraq. We didn't do a very good job of it because President Bush was still in office. President Bush had just won reelection in 2004, but we continued the fight.

My friends say the Affordable Care Act is not affordable and not popular. Guess what? The Iraq war was not affordable. The Iraq war was not popular. Well over 50 percent of Americans did not want us to be there at one point. But you just don't shut down the government because a policy has shifted in the country or the mood of the country has shifted on something. You have to work through the political process.

So let's have that fight. And if you don't win it—if I were the Tea Party, I'd say: Boy, this ObamaCare is so bad, set it up and let it go. Wait until the American people see this. We're going to sweep them in 2014. We're going to win the Presidency back in 2016.

Why wouldn't you just let it go? If it's so bad, let it go. You win the House back. You could defund it. You could strip it down. You win the Presidency. Start back over. We could go back to that old system where people are going bankrupt with their current health care plan or getting kicked off or not getting coverage for a preexisting condition. You have every right to do that.

So let's get back to regular order. If Speaker BOEHNER brought a bill to the House floor today, right now, called all Members and said we're having what we call a clean CR, we're just going to extend funding from the current levels out for 6 weeks or 8 weeks—whatever the number would be—and he brought it to the floor, it would pass, Democrats and Republicans. The Senate would send their bill over; the President would sign it. The government would open back up, and we could go back to having our fights about the Affordable Care Act; and the Tea Party folks could talk about how bad it is, and we'll have examples of people that have benefited and we'll move on.

Now, the other problem I have is that we've already had this political fight. It doesn't stop us from having it again. Sometimes political fights take some time. So we just had this fight.

Our friends on the other side called this ''ObamaCare,'' and President Obama just won reelection—clean sweep across the country; more Democrats in the Senate in States like Indiana. SHERROD BROWN won reelection in Ohio. President Obama won Ohio and a bunch of other key swing States where the central issue was repeal ObamaCare. So that battle was just fought, and to shut down the government in this process, I think, is improper.

Here we have now all these other issues with the debt ceiling coming up and all of these other things. Let's have the fight, win the political argument, win the political battle. Take it back to the people in 2014 and 2016 if that's ultimately what you want to do. As I said, you have every right to do that. This is a democracy. The political system will allow for it.

So I just want my constituents to know, you know, I don't think we should get into a position of necessarily picking what parts of the government should open and not open. Open it up.

The other point is, the Democrats, for the number we want to open it up at, we wanted a much higher number. There's been too many cuts, in our estimation, for some of these essential

programs that are long-term investments for our country. So we already compromised, because our number was $1.58 trillion, or something like that, and the Republican number was $986 billion. And the President said we'll take that number, so we already compromised.

If you go out and want to buy a car and someone makes an offer for $10,000 and you say, ''No, I'll give you 9 for it,'' and they say, ''Okay, we'll take it for 9,'' that was a compromise. That's what happened here.

But still, to be clear to my constituents, every bill that has come off this floor didn't just say we're going to extend funding for the government. It said we're going to extend funding for the government and we want to repeal ObamaCare, we want to repeal the Affordable Care Act, and we want to delay it for a year. That is an issue that has been argued. We can continue to do it, but let's do it through the normal political process.

Let's get NIH back up and running, Centers for Disease Control, Food Safety. All of these things can be funded with a total package.

If Speaker BOEHNER brought a bill to the floor, a clean continuing resolution that funded the government without any of this extraneous stuff, it would pass with Democrats and Republicans. The Senate would agree to it, the President would sign it, and the doors would open back up.

Lastly, let me say—because my friends have come up on the other side and said, well, we want to fund NIH because there's pediatric cancer patients there that need help, and I say of course we want to do that. But we want every family in America to have insurance if their child gets cancer. We want every citizen to have access. And the Affordable Care Act has done that for millions and millions of people. It got rid of preexisting conditions. It has taken the insurance companies out of the doctor/patient relationship.

Before, if you were a child or you had cancer, you could hit your lifetime limit on your insurance policy and then you were screwed. You couldn't get insurance because you hit your lifetime limit in just a year or two. The Affordable Care Act removed that cap and it allows those investments to be made and allows that person to be able to get their health care.

These are commonsense things. So I wanted to communicate that to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you. We are here also to recognize National Manufacturing Day tomorrow. I want to thank Congressman REED, who is the cochair of the House Manufacturing Caucus, for his leadership on establishing more of these innovation centers, along with Congressman KENNEDY and all of our speakers here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy my friends on the other side of the aisle, some really terrific public speakers. I also enjoyed particularly the question from my friend across the aisle who said: ''Why not let ObamaCare just go through?''

That is something that has been debated and I have discussed with so many of my constituents. There are many people in the country that are so angry about ObamaCare being passed. It is just hard to call it ''affordable care'' because I have heard from so many that it has just devastated, so many who have told me that it is anything but affordable. It is devastating them.

Some have said if we just let ObamaCare go through, it is going to hurt so many people. It has already hurt so many people. If we just let it go through—stand by, just get out of the way, let it hit, let it get the full hurt and damage that will continue—that will just get worse as it hurts the economy as it continues to make most people's health care and health insurance both go up.

If you are a purely political animal, that is the perfect question to ask: Why not just let ObamaCare go through and let it do its damage?

But when you care deeply about people and see the damage it is doing, how can you stand by and let it keep hurting the way it is? People have already lost insurance, they've already gotten their notices, we continue to get emails, we continue to get calls, I continue to hear from people I know and trust back home, I hear from other people around the country.

There has been an email where people could send us their stories and then we try to verify: ObamaCare@mail.house.gov. So those stories continue to come in at ObamaCare@mail.house.gov.

So if you are purely a political animal, whether Republican or Democrat, then it is a good question to ask: Why not just let ObamaCare come through? Because if it is as bad as people are telling us it is—you see the damage to the economy, you see the people that have lost full-time work and gone to part-time work because of it, having to take multiple jobs, losing the benefits they had, you see businesses that had cultivated and trained employees, who did not want to lose employees, who were building and building but got above the 50 threshold and now they have had to cut below that or go to part time, you see the damage—then, yes, for purely political animals why not let it go through?

As my friend noted, if it is all that bad you will win the next election, the majority in the Senate next time, you will win the Presidency next time.

But there are some of us that don't think in purely political terms. We hear from people—our hearts break when their hearts break, we rejoice when they rejoice—and it is hard to feel good and stand by and let a train wreck or a nightmare, depending on which Democrat's description of ObamaCare you want, just let it go and continue to wreak havoc on America and real American people, on American lives.

We've mentioned some of the stories before. As I say, they continue to come in to ObamaCare@mail.house.gov.

Here is one from Jeff:

> I run a business in Tyler. We have part-time associates that work 35 hours per week on average. But this varies due to the changing business levels. We provide transportation services moving freight to and from Tyler. Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we have had to cut down hours of these associates to get below the employer-mandated level of 30 hours. These associates are used to working 35 hours on average per week. As most Americans, they set their budget for their family around this many hours. Our company needs to be able to compete in this market so we need the flexibility of the part-time worker. However, we must now cut hours of loyal, dedicated associates below 29 hours. This is creating a problem, first for our associates, who are simply trying to make ends meet, and for the organization that I run to provide quality service to our customers. This law is handcuffing the businesses and will ultimately drive up costs of running a company. When costs rise they are passed along to the customers and on to the end consumer. We will continue to struggle economically under this law. Please do whatever you can to reverse this law and restore liberty to this country and our businesses.

Here is one from Tammy:

> When ObamaCare first passed its law, I asked my ObGyn what he thought of it. His words were that it ''sucks.'' I told my husband that I bet when all this is said and done he would retire. And guess what? He did. So the part about being able to keep your doctor is definitely not true. Also, I own a small business with less than 50 employees, and we will never be able to grow our business any bigger than what it is right now. Sad.

From Tammy.

Mary said:

> We had insurance through Moen in my retirement package, which cost us $27 per month. It has been canceled effective January 1 of 2014 and comparable coverage is going to cost us $300 per month. We are on Social Security.

That is from Walter and Mary in east Texas.

Here is one from Harold:

> My granddaughter teaches elementary students in Mesquite. She was shocked to find that the health insurance she carries on herself and her son has doubled in cost since the school year. She inquired as to why. And well, you already know what the answer she was given: ObamaCare.

A single mom and her son.

Here is another from a business owner:

> I have been told that my company offers what is known as a Cadillac health plan, although it has been years since anyone in my

company could afford a Cadillac automobile. As a small business, I use the ability to offer health care that was superior to others to attract and retain quality, longtime employees. Now faced with being taxed for providing too much of a good thing I will reduce the benefits to my employees. We call that a ''left-handed handshake'' in Texas. It doesn't sit well with me. I am sure not well with my employees. I am considering early retirement and closing or selling my business all together. It just doesn't seem to matter to anyone anymore that hard work and doing the right thing all these years ever counted for anything. Here is hoping some folks will pull their heads out of—before it is too late.

I was part of Tenet's reduction in force on June 21, 2013. With low hospital census and poor CMS reimbursement my position was eliminated. I lost the family health care. I was paying $2,062 annually with a family deductible of $2,400 for our medical, dental, prescription, and eye insurance. For COBRA or Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance we will now have to pay $1,000 per month or $12,000 annually. My employment will not cover the cost of my insurance.

That's from Claudia.

I am a firefighter with the city of Whitehouse, Texas. We have been able until October 1, 2013, to work up to 39 hours a week because the city cannot afford to give us benefits. The city asked us if we could get on our spouse's group insurance I could still work up to 39 hours a week with the new health care law. I joined my wife's group policy and went from paying $189 a month to $600 per month. We have been told as of October 1, 2013, that Texas Municipal insurance has interpreted the new health care law as anyone working over 30 hours a week has to be provided health benefits. We are now going to be cut back to working 24 hours a week and not get health care. I have left my wife's plan and went back to my own insurance policy, but with the cuts in hours I cannot afford to stay on her plan and will have a hard time paying for my own.

I cannot understand, if the new health plan is going to get health insurance for everyone and I already have insurance, why can't I be left alone to work the 39 hours a week? At $13 an hour, 24 hours a week doesn't bring in much for the job we are expected to do, and at 61 years of age jobs are kind of scarce. I can't understand why my country is trying to put me on welfare. We have too many on it already. All I want to do is work.

From John.

Here is one from Kerri:

I've been in law enforcement since I was 21, and what is happening to our officers, dispatchers, and deputies today is disgusting. Many rural counties, like mine where I'm from, have voted in County Commissioners Court and actually passed that because of ObamaCare, the deputies will have to pay for their own medical insurance. These officers are already being paid below what surrounding counties are being paid. Now they are going to have to spend over half of their income on their own insurance because the county cannot afford to pay it. Let me break this down for you. A good friend of mine is employed as a deputy by the same county sheriff's office and makes about $900 every 2 weeks and $400 to $450 of that will now go towards medical insurance. This deputy was almost killed in the line of duty 2 years ago, resulting in a lot of surgeries and a year of hospitalization and rehabilitation as well. Because of all of those line-of-duty injuries he may not be able to get private coverage now. How could you ask a man or woman to lay their life on the line every day, to serve the public and enforce laws, but then tell them that they'll go from spending about $150 a month on insurance premiums to about $450 per month.

□ 1815

It's true that you should be able to go to the exchanges, and if they can ever get through and someday get it, it's not going to have the coverage that they had before. They've lost their insurance. They won't have insurance like that again. It won't be the coverage that they'd wanted, that they'd selected, that they'd agreed on. Why? Because, if you like your insurance, ObamaCare makes sure you're not likely to keep it. That's the bottom line.

Here is one from Ima:

Due to ObamaCare, I received a letter from my doctor 2 weeks ago, telling me she would no longer take care of anyone on Medicare. There is a big shortage of doctors that will accept Medicare patients in such a small town as Lufkin. I haven't been able to get another doctor to accept me as of this date. I never thought I would live to experience my own government treating us like we were a Communist nation. Our Congress has truly let the American people down.

I'm sure Ima remembers being told repeatedly by everyone—from the President and by so many of our Democratic colleagues here—that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. Well, Ima lost her doctor like so many across America.

Here is one from Jay in east Texas:

My son returned from a tour in Iraq to an economy that hindered his job search for over a year. He finally got a job with Fastenal as a part-time warehouse worker. As a part-timer, he was able to work 39 hours every week, which paid his bills and allowed him to put aside some savings for pilot training. Thanks to ObamaCare, his hours have been cut to 29. He has had to move out of his apartment and into a communal house so he can afford to live. Thankfully, he has VA health benefits. Otherwise, he would have to pay for health benefits or a fine out of his greatly reduced income.

This is from Jim:

My son has a learning disability. Yet he has worked faithfully for a nationwide paint company for over 3 years. He is married. He and his wife work hard and refuse to go on welfare. They have their dignity, a life vision and a committed work ethic. Yet the best position he had attained was part time at the paint company. He was working 32 hours per week, and they were paying their bills, but were living basically at the poverty line.

Then ObamaCare came, and like so many companies, my son's hours were reduced to 28 hours per week. This put him below the poverty line and made it impossible to meet all of his bills. He refused to pursue welfare because he has a commitment to earn what he receives. ObamaCare punished diligent, community, responsible Americans like my son.

How many other working poor have been similarly hurt because of a program that was put in place with such irresponsible legislative leadership?

If someone wonders what James is talking about regarding irresponsible legislative leadership, that came through a legislative process without any input from Republicans, who represented nearly half of the country, so nearly half of the country didn't get any input into ObamaCare. We were told it would be negotiated on C–SPAN by the President while he was running. Not only was it not negotiated on C–SPAN, but the legislative leaders in this room—in this body—who pushed it through without most of the people who voted for it, haven't any idea what is in it. I read it. That's why I was so committed to voting against it and to trying to get others to understand what they were going to do to America.

So, for this young man, who had known the pride of being self-supporting with a disability and providing for his family just above the poverty line, ObamaCare has shoved him into poverty.

Here is one from Michelle with two ''l's.'' It's not my friend, MICHELE BACHMANN. This is from a Texas ''Michelle.'' She sent this last week:

During this process and even before ObamaCare actually goes into full effect, every single member of my family has been affected. Both of my children, who have always maintained full-time jobs and have supported their families are now faced with part-time employment from multiple jobs because their employers can't afford to provide health insurance any longer, and as such, their hours have been reduced to avoid having to provide health insurance. That means my children and my grandchildren are all going to be forced into the exchanges, which are not affordable at all despite the empty promises made by the Democratic Party when this horrible bill was passed.

In fact, please tell our former Speaker that, now that everyone has had a chance to read it, it's even more obvious that this plan does not work.

On my side, I've always maintained health insurance, but since the passage of ObamaCare, my health premiums have increased over 316 percent. In addition, my deductibles have skyrocketed by 500 percent, and the covered services have been reduced. So thank you for allowing me to keep my health care coverage if I chose to. You didn't mention that it would now be unaffordable.

Here is one from Leland:

''A dark age in medicine.'' That was the phrase my oncologist, at a recent office visit, used. He said, When you cut reimbursements as low as Medicare and ObamaCare have done, the number of patients I must see to cover the fixed costs of my practice severely impacts the time I can spend with a single patient. Quality of care can't help but be impacted.

If Leland has an oncologist, I hope and pray that his cancer is in remission.

It was amazing to hear Democrats say, Hey, yeah. Okay. Maybe we did cut Medicare in ObamaCare by over $700 billion. I'm not sure if I hear them talk about the amount by which they devastated Medicare. Hey—but that only goes to the providers. It does not affect and will not affect your care.

As you can find out from Leland, it does affect their care, and as we've heard from other people across the country, when you cut so dramatically the reimbursement that a health care provider gets for providing health care service, either they're going to have to stop providing that service or they cannot provide the same level or quality of service.

Seniors across America are one by one figuring that out. Wow, wait a minute. You were so sold on this ObamaCare bill, and you called it ''affordable.'' Yet you told me I wasn't going to be affected as a senior citizen in America when you cut hundreds of billions of dollars out from the services I was going to get? They're figuring it out. Their service has been affected, and it will get worse and worse as time goes on because that's what the government does. When the government takes over something, it's rare that it gets better.

Here we've got one from Nick:

The American Veterinary Medical Association has decided, because of the uncertainties of ObamaCare, to discontinue its sponsorship of its group major medical policy, effective December 1, 2013. Not only have my wife and I had this insurance since she graduated from vet school in 1976, but my dad also had it when he graduated from vet school in 1952. So now, at the age of 61, we are looking for new insurance.

I'm sure Nick recalls the promise: if you like your insurance, oh, you can keep it.

Here is an email from Debbie:

I am responding by letting you know that I've lost my health care insurance. It's terminating at the end of this year due to ObamaCare.

Of course, we have her name and information.

One from Tom:

My doctor retired as a result of ObamaCare.

That's somebody who served in the Army.

Here is one from Emily:

We had group insurance with my husband's work. It was a plan that covered our family that cost $568 a month, no co-pay, and the $1,200 deductible per person has now increased to $1,100 per month and a $4,800 deductible per person to stay current with new health care laws. That's more than our house payment. Once upon a time, a mother whose husband worked was able to stay home. Now either both have to work to afford a thing like insurance or neither works so we can bum off the people who do.

Her subject line was: ''Unaffordable rather than Affordable.'' But her insurance went from $568 a month, which is a pretty healthy price there, basically doubling to $1,100 per month, and the no co-pay deductible went from $1,200 per person to $4,800 per person. That's enough to devastate a family.

Here is one from James:

Several months ago, we got a letter in the mail saying that our physician—and I won't give the name—was leaving her affiliated practice. When we asked her about it, she listed ObamaCare as the primary reason for leaving the practice.

Here is one from Ty:

I just received my affordable health care renewal notice from my health care insurance provider, which is one of the two members participating in North Carolina's marketplace exchange. I've been informed that the plan which I currently have and like will no longer be available under ObamaCare. As a result, I'm being forced to switch to a new plan. Additionally, effective January 1, 2014, the premium for an insurance plan comparable to my current is increasing from $235 to $407 per month, and my maximum out-of-pocket expense is increasing from $2,700 to $6,350.

He goes on to complain about hearing the President say on numerous occasions, if you like your insurance, you can keep it.

□ 1830

Here's one from Carmine:

I am a responsible family man. I've always provided health insurance for my family. In 2008, I was diagnosed with MS, making insurance expensive. However, I always made do by having insurance either on my wife's plan or my own plan. In 2009, we lost my wife's plan and we worried because of my preexisting condition. However, we learned that our State of New Jersey had a provision that we cannot be denied coverage as long as we can prove we had coverage at the time I was diagnosed. I also find out that in our State, New Jersey, dependents can stay on their parents' plan up until they are 31 years old. So two of Obama's biggest benefits were already available in my State. However, after being extremely responsible in this tough economic time, the ObamaCare law has now made my insurance policy nonrenewable. My wife worked really hard to make sure that I and our child are covered under this plan and now we will lose it. We do not know if these plans, which could be a little cheaper, will provide the coverage I need. I have a specific doctor I see at St. Sinai. Because the liberal Democrats want to cover the uninsured—a noble thing—they are hurting those who always try to be responsible.

That was Carmine in New Jersey.

It is worth noting, Mr. Speaker, that back during the ObamaCare debate, there were many of us Republicans who were saying to our Democratic friends—they controlled the White House; they controlled the House; they controlled the Senate—who said, Look, why don't we do a bipartisan group of bills or one bill? We can agree on a bill that allows people to keep their kids on their insurance if they're dependents. We can work something out here. We were told we weren't needed because they controlled the White House, the Senate, the House of Representatives. They didn't need our input.

They rammed through a bill without knowing what all was in it. I know of cases, I've heard of cases where people had acknowledged conditions, insurance companies that we know, and then later got dropped after they got expensive. Oh, you had a preexisting condition. There have been things that were very unfair that insurance companies have done, and there are ways to deal with those things. When there are not, we should fix it with legislation.

What the Democratic party did, without most people who voted for the ObamaCare bill knowing what was in it, they passed a law that had not been properly vetted or thought through. There was no chance to fuss about amendments at the subcommittee, at the committee, or here on the floor because the bill that was dealt with in the subcommittee, committee, it wasn't the same one that they rushed through as the final ObamaCare.

I read the 1,000-page bill. I read their 2,000-page bill when it looked like that was what they were going to vote on here. Then it turned out, here came the other. So I was slow to make my way through that bill. I really didn't want to. What if they come back with a 5,000-page bill after that? When it turned out that's what they were really going to do, I went through that.

I wasn't able to go through and take the sections in each place that were talked about in other bills, other laws. It's almost impossible unless you have a tremendous amount of time to go back and figure out how it actually affects other laws. But when you read through it, you get an awful lot of gist of what's happening, and it sure wasn't something we should have passed.

Karen, from Vermont, actually, said:

Shortly following passage of ObamaCare, I lost my primary care doctor. He decided to join a group that limited the number of patients that he could treat, and they charged a yearly fee not covered by Medicare for the privilege of remaining his patient. This resulted in hundreds of patients being dropped. Put an end to ObamaCare.

She lost her doctor. She didn't get to keep him or her.

Here's one from Dee:

My insurance deductible was raised to $4,000, as of September 1, 2013, per individual, $8,000 per family.

She goes on to describe all the other things that jumped up as a result.

Here's one from Erica:

As a single disabled mom to one disabled son, I'm on Medicare and Medicaid. I just got my new policy for 2014. Half of the insurance I had is gone because of——

Well, I can't read that here, Mr. Speaker, as Erica describes the bill in such a way that I can't read it on the floor.

Anyway, she says:

I was able to join a gym on a discount to keep me active, but no longer can do that. My price increased for my prescription drugs. Please, repeal this bill and listen to the American people.

Here's one from Helen:

As a glass artist, Obama's hold on our economy has ruined my business. My target market is middle class, stay-at-home moms, but almost all my customer base has shifted to those owning half-million-dollar homes. I know, because I check every time I make a sale. This makes me very sad, and even mad, that only the wealthy can afford my art now. I should have gone into gun sales, which don't discriminate.

ObamaCare has forced my family to lose our Blue Cross from my husband's work because he cannot afford us anymore. We're almost old enough to go on Medicare, but I hear it's been raided by ObamaCare, which we refuse to participate in. We're not Obama's slaves.

Well, I'm not going to read the rest of that. But Helen obviously is rather bitter because they liked their insurance, but the promises were broken. She didn't keep her insurance, she and her family. That's only a portion of the stacks of emails we've been getting.

I want to go back to the question my friends ask: Why not just let ObamaCare go through? Like I say, if you're a pure political animal, yeah, let it go through. Let Americans like

these poor folks, let them keep suffering and, ooh, it will be so good. Republicans will win back the majority in the Senate, and we're told, oh, gee, they'll win the White House in 2016. Well, it just happens that, to some of us, doing the right thing in Congress is not about helping a political party. It's about trying to help the people that elected us. It's about trying to do what's right for the whole country.

If your heart doesn't break when you read these stories and when you take the phone calls and when you have people tell you, with broken hearts, of what's happened to their business, what's happened to their job, what's happened to their family, what's happened to their kids' jobs and the suffering that's going on, why? if you're enough of a political animal like some folks, I guess, yeah, okay, maybe it would be great for the Republican Party if we just sat back and let it go through, let it devastate everybody you can.

My late mother used to tell me she wished I would be a doctor. She used to have Dr. McKellar, who passed away this year. I think he's the one that kept encouraging me, but he would tell me: LOUIS, you'd be a great doctor. I'll help you. You'd be great. We can get you into Baylor Medical School.

That's a great medical school, but it just didn't feel like what I was called to do. It didn't feel right in my heart. But when I think about the suffering that is going on, I know that I'm in a place to make a difference, and we, every one of us here in this body, are here where we can make a difference, where we can help people see the doctor that they should see.

The question has come from different constituents, from other people, gee, all Federal workers—some think that Congress has a different health care plan than all Federal workers, but it's all part of the same Federal plan that every Federal worker has, and you've got choices you can make. Some people have asked a question that I don't have a really good answer for. They've said: If the Democrats were so insistent, if the real purpose of ObamaCare was to try to make sure people that didn't have insurance got insurance, and they really intended to make sure that if you like your insurance you can keep your insurance, and if they were really serious that if you like your doctor you can keep your doctor, then why didn't they just figure out a way that if you don't have insurance, you can choose from a State's cafeteria plan or Federal employee plan in their States? Do something like that.

I don't have a good answer, other than, when you look and you go through ObamaCare, it is very clear, as we said before, it wasn't just about health care. It was about the GRE, the government running everything, the government getting all of your most personal, private information, having every one of your medical records in Federal possession.

It's a disaster.

Well, I have reflected on Franklin Roosevelt's speech. I admired the speech he gave in this room from that podium when it was white marble, that this is a day that will live in infamy. He gave another speech when he said the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. It's considered one of the greatest speeches by anybody. Yet our President was on CNBC yesterday, and he said:

> If we get into the habit where one party is allowed to extort, then any President who comes after me would be unable to govern effectively.

That's rather interesting. It's a little different from the approach that Bill Clinton took back in the 1990s; because President Clinton, back during the shutdown, the few weeks that was going on, talked to the Speaker of the House virtually every day. There may have been 1 or 2 days that they didn't talk, but otherwise, they were basically talking every day.

You had an interviewer asking the President, gee, Wall Street seems to be pretty calm. The President, instead of saying that's a great thing, everybody should remain calm, we're going to work this thing out, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself, instead sounded more like a fire alarm, gee, they better be concerned.

He wanted Wall Street to be concerned, to be worried, because when Wall Street gets worried, then it means that people that have invested in the market, that have their life savings, retirement savings in the market, it means they lose money. Yet that's what was suggested—get worried, get concerned.

□ 1845

Here's an article from Penny Starr from yesterday afternoon late. It is an interview with our Democratic colleague across the aisle who chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee that brought ObamaCare to the floor. cnsnews.com asked, ''What I was going to ask you is if you've read those 10,535 pages of regulations.'' Those are the final ObamaCare regulations that have now come out and been published in the Federal Register.

Former Chairman WAXMAN, who pushed through the ObamaCare bill, said to the reporter, ''Have you read them?'' The reporter said, ''No. Have you read them?'' The former chairman that pushed through ObamaCare said, ''Is it important that I read it?'' The reporter said, ''Do you think that the American people should read it? I just asked you a very honest question, whether you've read them. It's a yes or no question.'' The former chairman that shoved through ObamaCare said, ''I think it is a propaganda question, and I refuse to talk to you about it.''

The article says:

> Since March 2010, when President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its companion Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, various Federal agencies have published in the Federal Register 110 final regulations governing how ObamaCare will be implemented. Those regulations add up to 10,535 pages in the Federal Register. That is more than eight times as many pages as there are in the Gutenberg Bible, which has 642 two-sided leaves or 1,286 pages.

It is bad enough ObamaCare was never read by most of the people that voted for it. And now you've got 10,535 regulations that have been published that I'm sure nobody here in the House or the Senate has read, that are now the effective new laws of the land.

We've got new navigators. There is money, massive amounts of money being paid for navigators. And that's created a problem. National Review Online published this today by Sean Riley:

> Tuesday marked the first day of open enrollment for the health insurance exchanges set up by the Affordable Care Act. It didn't go very well. Would-be health insurance consumers in at least 47 States encountered technical problems. These so-called glitches, however, mask a much more serious concern for consumers: protecting sensitive data. The lack of sufficient security surrounding the exchanges should give potential enrollees pause.
>
> In August, a coalition of attorneys general from 13 States wrote Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to express concerns over consumer privacy and oversight of ''navigators,'' counselors charged with assisting consumers enrolling in the exchanges. Specifically, the attorneys general asked what policies were in place to screen and monitor program personnel, prevent fraud and remedy cases of it, and regulate the navigators at the State level. But chief among their concerns was whether sufficient safeguards were in place to prevent security breaches.
>
> In September, the concerns of the attorneys proved prescient. An employee of Minnesota's health exchange accidentally sent 2,400 Social Security numbers, complete with names and addresses, to an insurance broker applying to become a navigator. Not only was the information mishandled, it was sent in an unencrypted and unsecured spreadsheet, suggesting additional lapses in security. HHS—Health and Human Services—has yet to respond to the August letter.
>
> Concerns are not limited to the 13 attorneys general who wrote to Secretary Sebelius. In California, State insurance commissioner Dave Jones, an early supporter of the ACA, expressed worry that the 21,000 personnel providing customer support for the exchanges lacked proper oversight and could ''obtain information that will allow them to build the trust they have with the individual they're working with and potentially sell them all manner of bogus products, steal their identity, and gain access to certain assets they might have.''
>
> Commissioner Jones is not alone in his unease. A report from the House Oversight Committee found that top HHS officials are similarly worried about the potential for identity theft.

Anyway, the article goes on.

An article here from today entitled, ''Obama: 'I have bent over backwards to work with the Republican Party.' '' It says ''I think it's fair to say that—during the course of my presidency—I have bent over backwards to work with the Republican Party. And have purposely kept my rhetoric down.'' Of

course that's not exactly what the term ''extort'' would indicate from the other article.

But again, I go back to the fact that during the last shutdown of the government, President Clinton and Newt Gingrich were talking daily, only a day or two exception during those few weeks. I mentioned that to another Member of Congress. And he said, Well the difference must have been that President Clinton wanted to end the shutdown. Because there's evidence that continues to mount that this wasn't about the Republicans as much as it was our Democratic friends thinking that the polling data, the conventional wisdom that all of us in this body have heard, that if there's a shutdown, Republicans will pay in the next election. So the conventional wisdom has been going around for some time. It goes back. I recall hearing it after the majority was won here in the House by the Republicans in November of 2010: If there's another shutdown, then we'll get the majority right back from the Republicans. Which always kind of mystified me a little bit because the last shutdown was in '95—that was when it began. And it was 11 more years before the Republicans lost the majority. And Newt Gingrich stayed Speaker for 3 more years. And as a result, the relationship seemed to grow closer, and the President and the Speaker worked more closely together.

But again, that was a different time because then, back in those days, the President would never call over the Speaker of the House to say, I just wanted to remind you here in private, here at the White House, since you took off from your busy day to come over here, I just wanted to remind you basically that I'm not negotiating with you.

Which had to feel a little weird to everybody in the room because everybody in the room knew the President has said, after the next election, you know, he'll be a lot more flexible with the Russians and certainly willing to negotiate with the Russians, certainly willing to negotiate now, as we've seen, with the Iranians, which certainly causes our close allies and friends who are trying to fight radical Islam a lot of concern because they've seen this administration throw one ally after another under the bus. We've heard allies wonder which ones of us may be next under this administration. So how is it the President can work with all these other countries—Russians, Iranians, Syrians—but can't negotiate with Americans?

This is an article from the National Review Online from Charles Cooke. In the article it says:

> The Washington Post's Wonkblog is snarking a little about the lack of successful Federal ObamaCare sign-ups. Under a picture of a unicorn, Sarah Kliff writes: ''If you have purchased health coverage on the Federal Government's new ObamaCare marketplace, about a dozen or so reporters would like to speak with you. We promise we won't take up too much of your time. We just need to find you first. The Federal Government has said that somewhere out in this vast country of 313 million people, where 48 million lack insurance coverage, someone has managed to sign up for health insurance on the federally run marketplaces. As of yet, we haven't tracked this person—or these people—down. This is not for lack of effort. Reporters here at The Washington Post and at other publications have been on the hunt for this mythical creature.''

Anyway, kind of sarcastic snarking.

This article is from The Daily Caller by Alex Pappas from October 2:

> In Tennessee, those shopping on the new health insurance co-ops could end up with more than just some health insurance. They might even walk away with a free smartphone. The Nashville Business Journal is reporting that Community Health Alliance, Tennessee's ObamaCare health insurance co-op, is using the prospect of a free phone to encourage folks to enroll:
>
> ''Community Health Alliance, Tennessee's health insurance co-op, is running a unique promotional program to drive enrollment in its plans for sale on the exchange: health insurance in exchange for a smartphone.
>
> ''As a part of its Community Health Connection Program, CHA is offering qualified individuals an LG''—that's not Louie Gohmert—''an LG Lucid 2 4G smartphone (or equivalent model), a phone plan, and tech support, included as a cost of their health plan benefits. The phone plan includes unlimited talk, unlimited texting, and 1.2 gigabytes of data.''

The article goes on.

This is by the Associated Press in Paris:

> Government Shutdown Spreads to the Beaches of Normandy.
>
> Tourists traveling to Omaha Beach to pay their respects to the 9,387 military dead at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial will find it closed, a victim of the U.S. Government's partial shutdown.

We've seen what has happened to this country and what is happening to this country. It's time to stop the suffering. We could let it go through and let people continue to be hurt. I never took an oath to do no harm, but by golly, that's what this Congress should do. Stop the harm. Let's, at least, delay ObamaCare. And in the meantime, we'll keep passing spending bills to keep things going.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2038

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 8 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 75, SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–242) on the resolution (H. Res. 371) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making continuing appropriations for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. TIPTON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today after 3:30 p.m. through October 6 on account of attending his daughter's wedding.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3233. An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 4, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3216. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting

the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Registration of Municipal Advisors [Release No.: 34-70462; File No. S7-45-10] (RIN: 3235-AK86) received September 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3217. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Fair Employment Practice Agencies (RIN: 3046-AA96) received September 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3218. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Unique Device Identification System [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0090] (RIN: 0910-AG31) received September 27, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3219. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Unverified List (UVL) [Docket No.: 120524116-2116-01] (RIN: 0694-AF70) received September 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3220. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1222; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-134-AD; Amendment 39-17505; AD 2013-13-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3221. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0213; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-207-AD; Amendment 39-17512; AD 2013-14-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3222. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0206; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-068-AD; Amendment 39-17507; AD 2013-14-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3223. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0299; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-072-AD; Amendment 39-17508; AD 2013-14-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3224. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gruver, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1111; Airspace Docket No. 11-ASW-13] received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3225. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0204; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-229-AD; Amendment 39-17510; AD 2013-14-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 371. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making continuing appropriations for the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (Rept. 113–242). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 3239. A bill making automatic continuing appropriations for the continuation of FBI emergency and critical training programs in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PITTENGER (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 3240. A bill to instruct the Comptroller General of the United States to study the impact of Regulation D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. TURNER, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 3241. A bill to amend the Pay Our Military Act to provide for continuing appropriations for defense civilian personnel (including military technicians (dual status)) and members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces performing inactive-duty training; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the election to treat the cost of qualified film and television productions as an expense which is not chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.J. Res. 75. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.J. Res. 76. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Nuclear Security Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.J. Res. 77. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Food and Drug Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.J. Res. 78. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for national intelligence program operations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.J. Res. 79. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for certain components of the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.J. Res. 81. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 82. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Weather Service for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 83. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Impact Aid program of the Department of Education for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 84. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for Head Start for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.J. Res. 85. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.J. Res. 86. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the Consumer Product Safety Commission for continuing projects or activities of the Office of Compliance and Field Operations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.J. Res. 87. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 3239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United

States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 3240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 3241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .''

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 3242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.J. Res. 75.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.J. Res. 76.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.J. Res. 77.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.J. Res. 78.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.J. Res. 79.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.J. Res. 80.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina

H.J. Res. 81.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One of Constitution.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 82.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 83.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 84.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.J. Res. 85.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United

States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.J. Res. 86.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.J. Res. 87.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 460: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 487: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 494: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 713: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 961: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 1024: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1428: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1429: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1461: Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 1462: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1698: Mr. KENNEDY and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1726: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 1728: Mr. HONDA, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1755: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1779: Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 2001: Mr. HONDA, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2477: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2575: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 2632: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2692: Ms. CHU, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2727: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 2728: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 2734: Ms. CHU and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 2760: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2866: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 2876: Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 2918: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 3043: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 3103: Mr. NADLER and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3108: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3111: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 3121: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 3154: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3163: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3170: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 3197: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 3206: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3223: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WATT, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COLE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. STEWART, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HURT, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. DENT, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. WALZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 3231: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 3232: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Res. 112: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H. Res. 281: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H. Res. 360: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ISSA

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in H.R. 3223 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 75, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 76, the National Nuclear Security Administration Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 77, the Food and Drug Administration Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 78, the National Intelligence Program Operations Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 79, the Border Security and Enforcement Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 80, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 82, the National Weather Service Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 83, the Impact Ad Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 84, the Head Start Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 85, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2013 No. 135

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and save us from the madness. We acknowledge our transgressions, our shortcomings, our smugness, our selfishness, and our pride. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Deliver us from the hypocrisy of attempting to sound reasonable while being unreasonable. Remove the burdens of those who are the collateral damage of this government shutdown, transforming negatives into positives as You work for the good of those who love You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

MEASURES READ THE SECOND TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, having received H.J. Res. 70, 71 and 73 from the House, the measures are considered to have received their second readings and objection to further proceedings is considered to have been heard for purposes of rule XIV.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. this afternoon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes. The first hour will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority the second 30 minutes.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday I made the Speaker of the House of Representatives JOHN BOEHNER an offer I thought he could not refuse, but he did. House Republican leaders have demanded the Senate join them in a conference committee to work out budget differences. That seemed like a good idea to me. That is why Democrats yesterday asked consent to do exactly that, go to conference—on anything. You want to talk about spending; you want to talk about health care; you want to talk about agriculture; you want to talk about the post office, it does not matter. We are happy to do so. Our agreement that we proposed to them: whatever you want to talk about.

So I formally offered that, first in a letter to the Speaker. I talked to him. Then I came to the floor here and reiterated the offer. My only condition: that the conferees negotiate in the light of day while the government is open for business. That did not seem too unreasonable.

To my surprise, the Speaker refused and the Senate Republicans objected. House Republicans truly do not know what they want. They cannot take yes for an answer. We have agreed to their budget number, which we thought should be higher. We agreed to that. They want to go to conference. We agreed to that. But they have had trouble agreeing to anything for quite some time now.

This spring, after years of Republicans loudly longing for a budget passed by the Senate, despite already having a budget with the force of law, we decided: Let's give them their way. We worked hard, led by Senator MURRAY, to have a budget that we completed after 5 o'clock in the morning.

We voted on over 100 amendments. Then Senate Democrats, following what they said—they, the Republicans said they wanted, regular order. They said: Let's go to conference to work out the differences. They passed their budget; we passed ours. Guess what. After all of this haranguing about having a budget and regular order, they decided they did not like that so well.

It was really very difficult to comprehend. When Republicans finally got what they said they wanted, it turned out they did not want it after all. Yesterday, the same story. Republicans asked to go to conference on a budget. Democrats agreed. Republicans objected. Those tactics truly are back to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Orwellian. They believe that if you go east, you are really going west. If you are going north, you are really going south. You are not going down, you are going up. Whatever, obviously, they say does not really mean anything in reality.

But maybe they really do not know what they want. Maybe they do not have a game plan. It is becoming more apparent every day. One of the House Republican tea party leaders, a Congressman from Indiana by the name of STUTZMAN, admitted this to one of the Washington newspapers yesterday. Here is what he said. Listen to this:

> We are not going to be disrespected. We have to get something out of this.

Now listen to this, the last phrase of his statement:

> But I don't know what that is.
> If there is any way I disrespected him, or we disrespected him, we do not want that to happen. We apologize. They want to get something out of this. Well, let's consider that. Except they do not know what they want. It is a little hard to make a deal there.

Republicans should come to their senses and realize there is more than wounded pride on the line. The longer this Republican government shutdown persists, the harder it will be on our economy. I hope they can figure out what it is they want, before the damage to the economic recovery is even more irreversible than they have already created.

It is obvious the strain of the self-inflicted shutdown is beginning to wear on many Republicans. Pick up the papers today. Listen to the news. There were reports of vicious infighting from yesterday's Republican caucus meeting. This is what one Republican said after the meeting:

> It was very evident to everyone in the room that the junior Senator from Texas does not have a strategy. He never had a strategy and could never answer questions about what the end game was. Just like Stutzman from Indiana—that is the danger of following the tea party, because you are following and you are headed off the cliff. That is where we have been and that is where we already are, trying to get off the cliff that they put us over.

Tea party Republicans do not really want a way out of the government shutdown. I read here direct statements yesterday from one of their candidates—she is a Congressman. She ran for President. She said: Finally we've gotten what we want. We've shut down government.

So I think the statements I have made about their being anarchists are pretty valid. They are glad the government is shut down. They do not believe in government. A government shutdown is the end game for them, obviously. Tea party Republicans do not really want a way out of this government shutdown. They like it the way it is.

But in addition to the statement coming from the Republican Senate caucus, there are some rumblings over in the House. More than 20 reasonable Republicans in the House have said on the record that they are ready to pass a way to fund this government right now.

I was not a math major—far from it. But I can count. If those 20 reasonable Republicans unite with 200 House Democrats, that is a majority in the House of Representatives. That would end the shutdown now. So I have a message for my mainstream Republican colleagues: If you ever hope to get out of this mess to end this Republican government shutdown, get rid of the tea party direction. Work with us. Help us reopen the government. We can start negotiations today.

As everyone knows, I think, I had a meeting with Leader MCCONNELL, Speaker BOEHNER, and Leader PELOSI last night at the White House. The Speaker said after the meeting—of course it was obvious during the meeting—the only thing that he cares about is ObamaCare. That is what this is all about. They do not care about anything else.

We know what this government shutdown has done to our country already. General Clapper, one of the leaders in our intelligence gathering information around the world, has stated that 72 percent of people who work in our intelligence agencies are home watching TV, reading a book. They are not at work, protecting us from the bad people around the world—and there are lots of them.

We have talked about our national parks here. It has really been bad for people coming to Nevada who want to recreate in our parks. But not only for them. It has hurt business in Nevada, as it has around the country.

NIH. We all understand how important it is that people who are sick and ill have the ability to have the best care in the world. If you are at the end of the line and you are fortunate enough to be able to say: Well, maybe there is still another chance; they are doing something back in Washington at one of the National Institutes of Health; maybe they can help.

Not now. They cannot do it now because of the Republicans.

The Centers for Disease Control is not a very glamorous sounding name, but that is what it is about, controlling disease. Most of them are furloughed. Senator HARKIN came on the floor yesterday and talked about a real serious problem. They could not figure out what it was. People were sick and dying. The Centers for Disease Control figured it out. It was because of pomegranate seeds coming from some other country. They work on these scourges every day because things come up that make people sick. We are in flu season now. They are not working on that.

The second in command in the House of Representatives, Congressman CANTOR, said yesterday: Well, that's okay. We know that there's a lot of problems around our country with the shutdown. But we are going to, one by one, reopen those agencies.

It is so obvious. It is so obvious. This is all directed toward President Obama's signature legislation, ObamaCare. They want to piecemeal this and wind up trying to hurt ObamaCare. Even Dr. COBURN who is a medical doctor, never known for being a shrinking violet, has said: This is not the way to go. ObamaCare is funded, except for maybe 10 percent.

We are willing to sit down and talk about anything they want to talk about in conference. But the government has to open first. It is time for my Republican friends to defy their tea party overlords.

Every day that passes the idea of shutting down the government in order to repeal ObamaCare is becoming so transparent and so bad for the country. No one—I mean, it was not very popular for them to do it anyway. Every day that goes by it is less popular. Considering that only a handful of Americans supported the strategy, as I said, to begin with, it is a bad sign for them, the Republicans.

Millions of Americans have visited Federal marketplace exchanges over the last 3 days. The demand is so high that on some of the Web sites, they crash. This is not unprecedented. Google, when they first started, they experienced the same challenges. State-based exchanges have flourished virtually everywhere. Take, for example, my friend the Republican leader's State of Kentucky. More than 100,000 people have already visited the State's health care exchange and Web site. More than 10,000 people have filled out applications for health coverage, and more than 3,000 Kentucky families have already enrolled in new coverage. This shows the hunger the American people have to sign up for affordable health care.

We have had Republicans come here and say: Oh, it is so bad for the job market. Throughout the press today—and I will only pick a few of them—for example, one out of the New York Times. Speaker BOEHNER said it is job killing; TED CRUZ, it is hurting the American people; Senator MCCONNELL, it is a big reason we are turning into a nation of part-time workers.

I am not going to go through all the economists, but they all say the same thing—it doesn't hurt jobs at all. Mark Zandi, of Moody's Analytics—who, by the way, was JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic adviser when he ran for President—said: I don't see ObamaCare as impacting the job market. A man by the name of Gregory Mankiw, a Harvard economist who worked for President George W. Bush, when asked about how it affected the economy: Not a whole lot.

There are many more quotes, but we get the picture. When the history books are written—and they will be written—ObamaCare will be seen as the greatest single step since Medicare to provide fairness to all Americans. The more America learns about the affordable care provided in ObamaCare, the more they like it. And the Republicans

would be wise to abandon their impractical request to repeal it. It has been the law for 4 years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to start this morning with a point that is obvious to me but I think bears repeating: Nobody wants the shutdown. Democrats say they do not want it; Republicans certainly don't want it. We all can agree on at least that. The question at this point is: How do we resolve the issues that truly divide us—that really divide us. The point I have been making all week is simply this: The only thing keeping the government from opening back up is the Democrats' refusal to apply a very simple principle of fairness when it comes to ObamaCare: Let's treat everybody the same. Let's treat everybody the same. Basically, all the House is asking for at this point—they wanted a lot more, but all they are asking for at this point—is a level playing field when it comes to ObamaCare. That is about the only thing standing in the way of the government's opening back up, and it is a pretty reasonable request. If Washington Democrats can't agree to that, then can they at least join us in making sure that veterans programs are funded; that the Honor Flight veterans can visit the World War II Memorial, and that the National Institutes of Health can continue its research? Can we at least agree on that? That is just the right thing to do.

Those issues respond directly to the concerns a number of our Democratic colleagues have raised and it is the same thing this Congress voted to do a couple of days ago with the brave men and women of our military. I hope my friends across the aisle will reflect on the efforts of Republicans in the House and allow the Senate to quickly vote on all the bills the House sent us last night so we can get the government reopened as soon as possible.

That said, yesterday's meeting at the White House, frankly, wasn't particularly encouraging. The President basically called us all down there to tell us he is not interested in negotiating. It was essentially a negotiation about not negotiating. Now we hear he is off campaigning today in Rockville rather than sitting down to get this thing solved, which is certainly disappointing.

But here is the good news. A solution isn't that far from reach. As I said, nobody wants a shutdown, so that is a good start. And it is hard to argue with what Republicans are asking for, especially after the embarrassing—embarrassing—rollout of the ObamaCare exchanges on Tuesday. I mean, one of the folks the President had standing behind him at the White House tried to log on and sign up for ObamaCare, and after a couple of unsuccessful attempts, the Post reports she gave up—literally gave up. And here is the quote she gave afterwards: It is not so great.

Not so great? Some Americans might call that an understatement. You would think the administration would be begging for a delay after stories like that. So this should be easy. Congress gets treated the same way as everybody else on the ObamaCare exchanges and individuals get the same break the President already handed out to employers, the same break the President has already unilaterally given to employers. It is time for Democrats to start acting responsibly. It is time to work with us and find our way out of this mess.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 2 p.m., with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the second 30 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to engage in a colloquy with the Republican leader, the Senator from Missouri, the Senator from Georgia, if he wishes to join, and the Senator from South Dakota during the 30 minutes allocated to our side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I came to the floor—and I am happy to do that—but I was told there would be a unanimous consent request. If that is not the case, Senators can go ahead and do their colloquy, and when they want to do that I will come back.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for the information of the majority leader, and anyone else who is interested, there will be some unanimous consent requests. We will frontload those so the majority leader doesn't have to stay on the floor more than maybe about 10 minutes, if that suits his schedule.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.J. RES. 72

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, many of us were stunned this week to see the administration blocking the World War II Memorial. It was a reminder to all of us how much we owe the ''greatest generation.'' Last week the Senate unanimously agreed to ensure our troops are paid during the shutdown, and the President correctly signed it into law immediately.

Today the House will pass a bill to ensure our veterans—in fact, they have done that—continue to get the services and benefits they so richly deserve. If Democrats are unwilling to fund other parts of the government, at the very least they can agree to support our veterans.

As the Senator from Texas and the majority leader were just discussing, I have the first of these unanimous consent requests to propound.

I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.J. Res. 72, making continuing appropriations for veterans' benefits for fiscal year 2014, the measure be read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, my friend notes that no one wants to shut down the government. Obviously, he didn't listen to my statement. We have people who have been saying for days now—Republicans saying—they are glad the government has shut down; they have been waiting for this for years. I have quoted the Congresswoman from Minnesota who said that. Congressman MARLIN STUTZMAN of Indiana tells us where the tea party is when he said: ''We're not going to be disrespected. We have to get something out of this. And I don't know what that even is.''

So Republicans are throwing one crazy idea or another at the wall in the hope one will stick. They throw out one idea, then come up with another one. And then, I repeat, they hope something will stick on that wall, and they do not even know which wall they are throwing it on.

The latest plan came from the junior Senator from Texas, which is to cherry-pick parts of the government he likes. House Republican Leader CANTOR admitted this strategy. According to the New York Times, this is what he said when asked: What about those cancer patients who need some help; what about the disadvantaged kids who want to return to their Head Start classes?

That's coming as well. We are going to take every issue that has come up and put it on the floor.

He is following Senator CRUZ's idea specifically. Senator CRUZ is now joint Speaker. He lectures the House on occasion, as he does people over here.

We support veterans and parks and NIH and all these different elements of government that are closed, but we also are not going to choose between veterans, cancer research, disease control, highway safety, or the FBI, and we are not going to give a blank check

to the junior Senator from Texas to pick his favorite parts of the government on a daily basis. Today it is parks, tomorrow it is NIH, maybe later it will be something else.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. I simply wanted to follow up on what he said.

If we were to go along with these individual UC requests——

Mr. CORNYN. Regular order, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, here is the situation. The junior Senator from Texas wants to fund everything else, just not ObamaCare. Here is what one columnist said today—Dana Milbank from the Washington Post—and I will be quick; I know Senators have a lot to talk about here:

> House Republicans continued what might be called the lifeboat strategy: deciding which government functions are worth saving. In: veterans, the troops and tourist attractions. Out: Poor children, pregnant women, and just about every government function that regulates business or requires people to pay taxes. Here are some of the functions not boarding—

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, is that an objection?

Mr. REID. I will use leader time then, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. So if they are afraid to listen to the things I have to say, they should listen, because the government is closed, and it is closed because they have helped close it. So let's not try to be technical here. I want to say something and I am going to say it.

Continuing the Milbank quote:

> Here are some of the functions not boarding the GOP lifeboats: market regulation, chemical spill investigations, antitrust enforcement, work site immigration checks, workplace safety inspections, the Environmental Protection Agency . . . communications and trade regulation, nutrition for 9 million children and pregnant women, flu monitoring and other functions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and housing rental assistance for the poor.

Here is what else he wrote:

> And that's quite a list that the Tea Party is throwing out of the boat. We need to end the Government shutdown.

I say, without any reservation, that the key to opening the government still remains with the Senate-passed funding resolution that will open the government. We will talk about anything they want to talk about. We have said that.

I ask unanimous consent that their request be modified as follows: That an amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate and is the clean continuing resolution for the entire government. It is something that is already over in the House and reportedly has the support of the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives, including at least 20 Republicans, and some report as many as 100.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I object to the previous consent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, with all due respect to my good friend the majority leader, he was speaking about the junior Senator from Texas, whom I don't see on the floor at the moment. The request was made by the minority leader, the Republican leader of the Senate, and it dealt, quite appropriately, with veterans' benefits. That was the whole purpose of the consent request.

I would repeat that I was the one who requested consent that we provide relief for veterans during this shutdown, and the person to whom his speech seems to be directed I don't see on the floor at the moment. But with that, I know we are in the middle of a colloquy here, and the Republican whip has the podium now.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.J. RES. 70

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to raise as a preliminary matter under rule XIX of the Senate Rules, no Senator shall in debate directly or indirectly by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

I want to remind all our colleagues that when they talk about Members of the Senate who are not on the floor and not here or able to defend themselves, I think if not the letter of the rule, certainly the spirit is in jeopardy of being transgressed, and I think we don't want to head down that path.

I would point out that we have witnessed, with some dismay, many of our World War II veterans being turned away at the World War II Memorial here in Washington, DC.

A number of these Honor Flights come from my State. There will be one that comes here tomorrow afternoon. I intend to meet them and welcome them to Washington and visit the World War II Memorial with them.

These gentlemen and ladies are quite advanced in years, and for many of them—like, for example, my father-in-law who landed on Utah Beach on the second day of the Normandy invasion, his physical health is not such that he could come. But he would love to come to the Memorial.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will not yield for a question at this time. I will at a later time.

He would love to visit the World War II Memorial. Unfortunately, his health is not such that he can. But those who can are coming to Washington. There will be one from Fort Worth coming on Tuesday, and I intend to meet them and to welcome them. They should not be turned back because of this politically concocted government shutdown—one that the President and the majority leader seem to be enjoying but which is causing a lot of hardship and inconvenience.

The House of Representatives has passed a separate piece of legislation that would open the World War II Memorial, along with other national park services. I would note it got 252 votes in the House of Representatives yesterday, including 23 Democrats. I hope it would enjoy the same sort of bipartisan support in the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 70, making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, which was received from the House; that the measure be read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent that their request be modified as follows: That an amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. CORNYN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, may I inquire. Did the majority leader object to my unanimous consent request or seek to amend it?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection has not yet been heard.

Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.J. RES. 73

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I recognize my colleagues from Missouri and South Dakota, who I know also have unanimous consents, and I yield to them for those.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

On Monday morning, I was scheduled to be at Washington University in St.

Louis, MO, to look at some of their research. A lot of the research NIH does has been done in our State; one-third of the research for the human genome project was done in our State.

Then, on Tuesday evening, for the fifth year in a row, I was at the fundraising event for the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health, where families and children can stay while they are there for treatment. This is a private sector event. In spite of everything else that was going on, it was a great event where lots of money was raised for those kids.

I said at that event that somebody told me years ago that if everybody in your family is well, you have lots of problems. If somebody in your family is sick, you have one problem. The Children's Inn is one of the places where people help families deal with the one problem they have.

But as virtually every Member of this Senate at one time or another has said, the work of the NIH is important. It is important that it continue. The House yesterday passed a House joint resolution that would continue that work.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 73, making continuing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for the fiscal year 2014; that the measure be read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am going to make a counteroffer to the Senator from Missouri which is even better. It is going to open the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and all of the medical research at the Department of Defense. We are going to make sure all of the medical research and medical services of the Federal Government in every agency at every level are open for business immediately, and the Senator from Missouri, by agreeing to this modification, will go way beyond the National Institutes of Health. He is going to be opening all of these medical services.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the request be modified as follows: that an amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, then be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate, is a clean continuing resolution for the entire government, including the National Institutes of Health, and is something that is already over in the House and reportedly has the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Representatives. This is an opportunity for the Senator from Missouri to finally break down this government shutdown and put all the medical services of the Federal Government back in business immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. BLUNT. Reserving the right to object, I would remind my good friend from Illinois that there was a time when in the Senate we dealt with all of these issues individually—as we should have last year and didn't. There were no appropriations bills on the floor.

A continuing resolution is not the best way to do the business of the country, and I would object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3230

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the men and women who serve our Nation in the Guard and Reserve shouldn't be impacted by a partial government shutdown.

Recently, the House and Senate unanimously passed the pay our military first act, which was signed into law by the President this past Monday. That bill ensures that Active-Duty military and those who support them stay on the job regardless of the dysfunction in Washington. Congress was right and passed the legislation, and President Obama was right to immediately sign it into law.

Today, the House of Representatives is going to pass H.R. 3230, the Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act. This bill provides funding to pay Guard and Reserve troops who are not currently on Active Duty. Although these men and women currently don't have Active-Duty status, they have regularly scheduled training requirements. They stand ready to serve in overseas conflicts and to respond to domestic disasters if called upon by their country.

These men and women proudly serve this country, and they should not be impacted by spending disagreements in Washington. Today the Senate has a chance to give these individuals and their families greater certainty by passing H.R. 3220, as soon as it is received from the House.

I am sorry to hear that the majority and the President have already indicated they are going to oppose this and that the President has threatened to veto this legislation. I can't imagine that we would not do for our Guard and Reserve troops what we have already done for our Active-Duty troops. I think that is a big mistake.

So I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.R. 3230, making continuing appropriations during a government shutdown to provide pay allowances to members of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces; that the measure be read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask the Senator from Illinois and the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense to respond.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am going to offer to the Senator from South Dakota an even better deal. Not only will we help the reservists, not only will we open the Veterans' Administration, but out of the two million federal workers, 800,000 have been furloughed. There are over a half a million veterans in the federal workforce and a fourth of them are disabled. Now I am going to give the Senator from South Dakota an opportunity to put them all back to work immediately, including paying the reservists and everything he suggested.

I ask unanimous consent that the request of the Senator from South Dakota be modified as follows: that the amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; that the bill as amended then be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate. It is a clean continuing resolution for the entire government and will put thousands of disabled veterans back to work. It is something already in the House and reportedly has the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Representatives.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as the Senator from Illinois has already pointed out, that has already passed in the Senate. What he is suggesting is already in the House, not being acted on.

What the Senate can act on is legislation that is being sent from the House that would ensure that our National Guard and Reserve troops are treated the same way as our Active troops are treated. I think that is only fair and only fitting. These are people who not only respond to domestic disasters but are also involved in conflicts overseas on a regular basis.

So I would object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard to the modification requested.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of the one-half million veteran Federal employees, one-fourth of whom are disabled, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, may I inquire how much time is remaining in our allocated time?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thirteen minutes.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I grew up in an Air Force family. My dad served in World War II in the Army Air Corps, and as I have mentioned on this floor many times, he continued to serve for 31 years in the U.S. Air Force.

As fate would have it, he was transferred to Tachikawa Air Force Base in Japan right after my junior year in high school. So I graduated from high school in Japan, and I became acquainted with this 17th century stylized form of drama and dancing called kabuki.

The thing about kabuki is that the audience oohs and aahs as the actors demonstrate their great skill at carrying out this stylized form of drama and dance. What we have seen on this government shutdown, contrived as it is, is a form of kabuki. We know exactly what is happening.

The Senate, under the majority leader, has turned down at least four—and now here today four more—proposals from the House of Representatives to try to mitigate some of the hardship as a result of their determination to protect the special congressional carveout from ObamaCare—which was tabled the other day at the instance of the majority leader—as well as to deny average Americans the same opportunity the President has unilaterally given to employers to delay the implementation of ObamaCare for 1 year when it comes to the individual mandate.

That is what the majority has objected to. That is what the majority leader in a party-line vote has tabled, and that is the only reason we are engaged in a government shutdown—because of their refusal to accept those reasonable conditions from the House of Representatives.

So this is kabuki as we in America understand it. We all understand the dance. We understand this is a form of drama. But the problem is the American people are suffering either hardship or great inconvenience as a result of the unwillingness of the President of the United States to negotiate and the hard-line ''my way or the highway'' position of the majority party.

I ask my colleagues who are on the floor—both of whom served with great distinction in the House of Representatives—whether they believe the House has acted in good faith, whether they have tried to resolve this impasse by sending over to the Senate reasonable pieces of legislation which, if accepted by the majority, could break this impasse and reopen the Federal Government.

I ask the Senator from Missouri to respond first.

Mr. BLUNT. Let me say to my friend from Texas that until the leadership in the Senate changed to the current leadership 7 years ago, we always did appropriations by debating and advancing individual things.

The idea that we don't want to debate anything if we don't debate everything makes no sense. It is not the way the government should run.

I think the House is not only well intended but that their goal is a worthy goal. The House of Representatives, led by Republicans beginning in 1995, doubled NIH funding in 10 years. My good friend from South Dakota and I were there for the majority of that 10-year doubling of NIH funding.

Last year in the Appropriations Committee markup I voted for a bill that would add $1 billion extra to NIH funding. It was defeated in the committee. This year I voted for a bill that would add almost $1.5 billion of additional NIH funding.

This makes a difference in the lives of people. Dr. Francis Collins, the Director of NIH, has estimated that each week there is a shutdown his agency's research hospital would have to turn away an estimated 200 patients. He estimated 30 of those patients would be children.

I know they took the children and individuals who were coming Monday and Tuesday but are now beginning to notify people: If you were scheduled to come, we have 4,000 people working and 14,000 people not working. We can't accept you right now.

I think this is the right thing to do. It is an easy thing to do, if we would just stand and do it.

If we do not oppose NIH—and I do not believe there is a Senator who does—why don't we continue their funding and do it right now?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I heard the assistant leader on the Democratic side, the majority side, yesterday make what I thought was a very impassioned speech on behalf of access to research that is provided by the NIH for children who are suffering from cancer. I ask the Senator from Missouri, would the bill the House has passed and the Senator asked consent the Senate consider address the very same sort of cancer research for children the assistant majority leader was arguing for yesterday?

Mr. BLUNT. I was impressed by the comments of my friend from Illinois yesterday about NIH funding. I am for NIH funding. I have never failed to vote for NIH funding. Frankly, I have never failed to vote for an amendment that would increase NIH funding, as far as I know. I have seen it increase dramatically.

Opening the doors of that research facility is the right thing to do. We could do it today. I cannot imagine the President would not sign a bill that let three-quarters of that workforce go back to work and let the 200 people who will be turned away in the next 7 days be told instead: Come on, be part of this process. We are waiting for you. We are here. We are doing the kinds of things your family critically needs us to do.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask the Senator from South Dakota, I know South Dakota has a lot of uniformed military. The Senator has already addressed a piece of legislation that has passed the House and come over here. Is it the Senator's impression that the House is trying to address some of the hardships—inconvenience in some cases, hardships in others—that are caused by the government shutdown? In his experience, are they being reasonable in demonstrating good faith in trying to break this impasse?

Mr. THUNE. I say to the distinguished whip, the Senator from Texas, he is exactly correct. The House of Representatives has moved several pieces of legislation—and will this morning—that address some of what we think are the real needs out there in the midst of a very unnecessary government shutdown. Some of those have been mentioned here on the floor this morning. I would point out two in addition: taking care of our Guard and Reserve troops as we have our Active-Duty troops—it is really important. All of us have Guard units with families that have been impacted. The House of Representatives has given us an opportunity to do that.

The other thing I would mention, I spoke yesterday about President Obama's refusal to open the World War II Memorial for veterans on their Honor Flight. He rejected their appeal to visit the memorial dedicated to their service, an opportunity to honor their brothers in arms, many of whom died in that great war. I am pleased that the veterans—not ones to be defeated—breached the barricades and took their memorial.

I have had the opportunity—my father is a World War II Navy fighter pilot—to be able to show him some of these memorials we have, monuments here in Washington, DC, particularly the one that was erected in honor of his generation.

They should not be denied the honor of visiting these monuments to their service.

When we are thinking about that generation of Americans, we had Senator MCCONNELL put forward an opportunity today to address the needs of our veterans. We found out that even though the veterans budget is advance-funded by a year, there are certain elements of that budget that are going to run out of money. We want to make sure those of the great generation that served our country, defended our country around the world, have access to the programs and the benefits that have been assured and promised to them.

I think it is unconscionable, unacceptable that we not agree to allow those services to continue to be funded. I am very disappointed to see our colleagues on the Democratic side resist and object to that motion here this morning. If anything, if any group of people in this country deserves to have the respect and also the promises honored, the promises we made to them, it is those American veterans.

If we look at the last shutdown in 1995 and 1996, President Bill Clinton

came to the table and supported legislation to protect veterans programs. I hope we could get some cooperation from our colleagues on the other side to do that today, I say to my colleague from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. May I ask how much time remains?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Three minutes.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Senators from South Dakota and from Missouri for making very important points. I know the leaders—bicameral leadership of the House and the Senate—were called to the White House last night, at which time Senator MCCONNELL, the distinguished Republican leader, reported here on the floor, the President announced he was not going to negotiate. Bizarre. Why would the President call the Republican and the Democratic leadership to the White House to say: I am not going to negotiate. Is it for a photo opportunity? Is it to give sort of some false impression that he is actually rolling up his sleeves and is engaged in the business of government to which he was elected?

I hope the President reconsiders leaving town while the government is shut down, in the words of the majority leader, and leaving for a trip to Asia while, as our distinguished Democratic colleagues just pointed out, many federal employees are furloughed during this government shutdown. My hope would be that the President would cancel his trip and that he would stay here in Washington, as we are, trying to solve this problem and break this impasse.

These proposals we have made here today, many of which have been voted on by the House of Representatives in a bipartisan fashion, are designed to do exactly that—to break this impasse. Yet what is the response of the White House to some earlier proposals? They sent out a Statement of Administration Policy saying: If it is passed, I would veto it. That is President Barack Obama. How is that rolling up your sleeves and being engaged in the job you got elected to? He earned it. He was elected twice as President of the United States. But it is not leadership to convene a meeting of Republican and Democratic leadership at the White House and say: I am not going to negotiate. And by the way, I am leaving town on Saturday. Good luck.

That leads me to conclude that the President and his party are actually enjoying this shutdown because they see this as partisan political gain. They read the public opinion polls, just as we do, but I do not think the American people should be fooled and they are not being fooled. House Republicans and Republicans in the Senate have made many reasonable proposals, only to be given the Heisman, and the President is not negotiating and the government remains shut down.

The President needs to stay here, demonstrate leadership, continue to meet with leaders on both sides of the Capitol, and we can break through this impasse, get the money for children's cancer research, get the money for the troops, and open the World War II Memorial to the Honor Flights coming from Texas and around the country. We can do this. They call it self-government for a reason. We all ought to be working together toward that end.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican time has expired.

IRAQI SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, having received from the House H.R. 3233, which is identical to S. 1566, the bill is considered read three times and passed. The motion to reconsider is considered made and laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are two sides to every story. Before he leaves the floor, I would like to say to my friend from Texas—and he is my friend—I was at the World War II Memorial yesterday with an Honor Flight from Illinois. There were no barricades stopping them from going to the memorial, so the characterization on the floor that the veterans were stopped is not true, it is not accurate. I hope the record will reflect that.

The reason there is any question about access relates to the shutdown of the U.S. Federal Government, the shutdown of this government. We have passed a continuing resolution, which is a spending bill, to allow the government to function for 6 weeks. We passed it here in the Senate. The House Speaker, Mr. BOEHNER, refuses to call it for a vote.

There is a majority, Democratic and Republican, ready to vote for it, ready to reopen the government, no questions asked about the NIH, about the barricades at the World War II Memorial which were there originally. All these questions will be resolved. Three times this morning the Republicans have objected to bringing that measure up for another vote in the Senate. That worries me.

Let me say one other thing about the Affordable Care Act, the insurance exchanges. This morning—I am sorry he has left the floor—this morning, this is what the Republican leader, Mr. MCCONNELL, said about the insurance exchanges:

> Embarrassing, embarrassing rollout over ObamaCare exchanges on Tuesday. I mean, one of the folks the President had standing behind him at the White House tried to log on and sign on to ObamaCare, and after a couple of unsuccessful attempts, the Post reports, she gave up.

I have good news for the Senator from Kentucky. When you look across the United States of America at the exchanges that have been opened, he should hold as a matter of pride the fact that the Commonwealth of Kentucky is one of the most successful insurance exchanges in America. Listen to the report we just received this morning from the secretary of the Governor's Cabinet for Health, Audrey Haynes, in Kentucky. The Kentucky insurance exchange, which the Republicans want to close down, has had 117,000 unique visitors, 109,000 prescreenings to determine qualifications for health insurance, and 13,000 Kentuckians—already, in 2 days—already 13,000 have applied for health coverage and 8,000 are now complete.

This is great news. They are leading the country. Kentucky should be so proud. Mr. President, 122 small businesses have begun applications, 3,500 new families have been enrolled, and there have been 15,000 calls to the call center.

Apologize that we have not been able to process these as quickly in any State, but the overwhelming positive public response across America to what they call ObamaCare is an indication of pent-up demand in Kentucky, Illinois, and every State for people to finally get access to health insurance.

I see others are on the floor to speak. I want to say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, please reopen this government. We can sit down and negotiate—we should—about important issues, the issues the Senator from Washington addressed in the budget. Let's address all these issues. Let's do it in a bipartisan, thoughtful, adult manner. Telling 800,000 Federal employees to go home is really unfair to them. It is unfair to this Nation. It doesn't speak well of us.

The last point I will make is this. I left the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing this morning. Wendy Sherman is Assistant Secretary of State. She is widely respected. We were talking about the threat of Iran as a nuclear power. She said to us—and she said it with some regret—that the government shutdown is hurting our efforts to stop the development of nuclear weapons in Iran. How? Ninety percent of the employees at the Department of Treasury office responsible for monitoring Iran so that the sanctions are there and tough and bring them to the bargaining table—90 percent of those Federal employees have been furloughed at the Department of Treasury because the government shut down; and 72 percent—almost three-fourths—of all the men and women at our intelligence agencies in a civilian capacity have been laid off as well because of the government shutdown. These are men and women charged with watching the enemy every minute of every day so we never have another 9/11. This is one of the aspects of the government shutdown that literally jeopardize the security of the United States of America.

For goodness' sake, let's put this government back in business before the end of this day.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Illinois for reminding all of us of the many people and communities and the economy in this country that are being hurt today because of the tea party's insistence, in the House of Representatives, that this government remain shut until ObamaCare is defunded or eliminated. I am frustrated, as is every American today, thinking why can't our government work? Why can't people come together?

As chair of the Budget Committee, I have been out here 19 times since last March saying: Let's go to conference committee and resolve our differences, and 19 times Members of the Republican Party have said no. They have not allowed us to go talk.

Now we find ourselves in a mess. The government is shut down. Families are hurting and communities are hurting and our economy is hurting. What is the response now of the Republicans in the House of Representatives and here on the floor? Oops, we didn't mean to hurt everybody. We have a few friends we are going to take care of.

I have listened to the debate this morning where our Republican colleagues came out and asked unanimous consent to take care of a few of their favorite parts of government so that they can say they helped. I am as passionate as anyone about our veterans. There is not one Member of this Senate who does not fully support our military and our veterans. No one questions that, but I take a backseat to no one in advocating for our veterans—as the former chair of the veterans' committee, as the daughter of a World War II veteran who earned a Purple Heart and was one of the first soldiers in Okinawa.

As a young woman myself during the Vietnam war, I worked in the Seattle veterans hospital with men and women my age who were coming home from the Vietnam war. I have done so much work on this floor, as well as worked with hundreds of thousands of our veterans who are coming home from the current conflicts, and helped to pass legislation to make sure they have what they need, so we don't just say thank you, but we serve them well.

I take a backseat to no one on veterans. I can tell you one thing about our military and our veterans that everyone here knows: They are the least selfish among us. They have volunteered to serve our country. They have given up for every American, and they have a motto that they leave no one behind. I can't imagine that our veterans are out there today saying: Take care of me with this small amendment and leave behind the children who are in our Head Start programs or the moms and dads who are dependent on nutrition programs in this country or the 800,000 employees who are sitting at home today scared to death about how they are going to pay their bills because this government is shut down.

We have an obligation and a responsibility to solve the problems in front of us. They are widespread in terms of our differences with our Republican colleagues, but we don't do them any favors by shutting off, closing our arms and saying: We are not going to talk about it. We do it by going to conference, and we do it by working together. We don't do it by shutting out the lights across this country on our government.

In front of the House today is a solution. It is the Senate-passed bill that is supported by a majority in the House and a majority in the Senate as well and would pass today if it were brought up. With that vote, we could open our government, put people back to work, and then we would go to conference, work out our agreements in the way our children expect us to do.

Let's be an example as adults to families and young people across this country that when there is a disagreement, all parties involved work together at a conference table and set aside their differences and find a solution for the country. It cannot be done by saying: I'm not going to let anybody go to work until I get my way, which is what the House of Representatives is doing.

We can get this done. As I talked about yesterday, I am a former preschool teacher, and I have seen this kind of activity before. We have all seen our kids make a mess in their room, and then say: Gosh. How did that happen? That is what we are hearing from the other side today: Well, gee, how come we haven't passed any appropriations bills? Wow, if we had a budget done, we wouldn't be here.

Why has that happened? Because time after time—and the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee is here—when we have tried to get our work done, we have been blocked by the very same tea party Republicans who today have put us into this shutdown and said: My way or the highway; either repeal ObamaCare or this country hurts.

That is not what we should be doing. Let's tell our veterans, our military, our Head Start moms, our 800,000 employees, and everybody in this country: We are a country that can work. We are at work. Let's open our doors, pass legislation in the House, and then we will work out our disagreements. As hard as it is, we can do that.

I hope that is the focus we have today. I say to Speaker BOEHNER: Bring up the bill, pass it, and allow us to get back to work.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak in morning business. How much time remains?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Nineteen minutes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in a twofold role. No. 1, I am here under my constitutionally designated responsibility as the Senator from Maryland, duly elected and duly certified. I love representing Maryland. We have 5½ million of the most wonderful, patriotic, hard-working, philanthropic, community-oriented people you can have.

I also love representing Maryland because in my State we have one of the largest concentrations of civilian agencies in America. They have wonderful names such as the National Institutes of Health, and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology that helps to set the standards that enable the private sector to be able to develop the products they can sell around the world. We are home to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We are home to the Consumer Product Safety Commission that looks at a variety of things from children's toys to the safety of our mattresses to make sure they are not flammable. I could go on listing those agencies: the Census Bureau, the National Weather Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, which helps to keep the seafood industry safe and operational.

I have a lot of Federal employees, and they are asking me: What are they doing? What I am telling them is that the other side—one faction in one party in one House of government—is prohibiting a reopening of our government because of their failure to take up the Senate continuing funding resolution, which would reopen government for 6 weeks while we work out our fiscal problems.

Their solution is to do this piecemeal. Piecemeal does not work. We cannot do this one agency at a time.

Weren't we proud of our World War II veterans and how plucky and spunky they were when they essentially broke the line to be able to see a memorial in their honor? Absolutely. When the National Park Service put that ban up around it, they were operating under the orders of what a shutdown is. Now, unofficially, that World War II museum is open. But while we say, aren't we proud of our veterans—Yes. Don't blame the National Park Service for closing the World War II memorial. Blame the others for shutting down government. Our veterans—who wanted to see the memorial which salutes them, the greatest generation who fought World War II—should not have to worry about their own government.

Then the other side says: Well, we are going to fund veterans' benefits. We cannot fund veterans' benefits without reopening Social Security and the IRS. I have looked and investigated and worked with my committee on why the veterans had a backlog for disability benefits. One of the ways claims are processed is they not only have to get what the veteran says, but they have to get paperwork from the Social Security Administration and from the Internal Revenue Service to be able to process the claim.

They can beat the drum, raise the flag, sound the bugle all that they

want, to say they want to fund veterans' benefits, but unless the Social Security Administration and the Internal Revenue Service are reopened, they are still placing our veterans at a disadvantage. We need to reopen the whole government.

While they are doing their piecemeal approach, they are so busy showing off and trying to show their pro-defending America stance—they passed a bill to make sure the military gets paid. Sure, what American would not want our troops in harm's way to get paid? We are for that. But they were so fast and so facile and so showbiz, they forgot the National Guard.

Now they are coming up with a piecemeal approach to add the National Guard. I love the National Guard. We are the home of the fighting 29th. They were heroes in World War II, and they have been heroes in every war since then. I want to see the National Guard helped, but they are kind of Johnny-come-latelies to the piecemeal approach because in their fast-track, showbiz, showoff approach, they forgot the National Guard. Oh, wasn't that a cool thing to do.

I support what Senator REID just did on each and every one of those piecemeal bills, to add the continuing funding resolution to open all of government. Over the last few days we have shamed them into thinking about the National Institutes of Health. I love the National Institutes of Health. It is in my State. Every day people go to work there to find cures for the dread diseases, such as Alzheimer's and autism, not only for the American people here but also around the world. In a few weeks we will be racing for the cure. Let's race to open government.

In their disdain for civilian agencies, NIH was closed down, but now they are coming up with a piecemeal approach to reopen NIH. Do I want NIH open? Absolutely. Over 70 percent of the people who work there have been laid off. Last year NIH announced—because of its research and work with wonderful academic centers and our private sector to develop biotech and pharmaceutical products—that cancer rates in the United States were reduced by 15 percent. With all of that work, they have now been furloughed.

Some might say: Senator BARB, do the piecemeal. I would love to. But if NIH workers were here, they would say: If you reopen us, it is a hollow opportunity unless you open the FDA. We do the basic research at our institutes, but somebody has to take that research and make use of it in other medical devices, biotech products, or pharmaceuticals. They then go through clinical trials because in this country we want to be sure that whatever you put on your body or in your mouth to help you is safe and effective. The Food and Drug Administration does that.

We can do lots of research, and have brilliant ideas that could lead to new and credible solutions for people in pain, agony, and suffering, but unless we can put it into clinical trials and have it go to the FDA, it is a hollow opportunity. If we're going to reopen NIH, we have to reopen the FDA. And guess what. The Food and Drug Administration is furloughed. We pay a good part of the FDA through fees, such as pharmaceutical fees and medical device fees. But guess what. During the shutdown, the government is prohibited from collecting the fees that it is owed.

What is this? This is showbiz politics. This is not pragmatic solutions.

We need to reopen government—reopen the entire government—so it can do the job we have authorized them to do, and have the men and women who do that job be able to come back to work. That is why Senator REID has—instead of cherry-picking individual items—offered the comprehensive solution that would reopen our government.

This is not only affecting government workers because government workers actually affect the economy. Right this very minute, the President has been in Rockville, MD. I would have loved to have joined him this morning, but I wanted to be here at my duty station. The President was at Rockville Pike, which is a road in Montgomery County that has some of the greatest civilian agencies in the world clustered around it.

He was going to visit the Luis family. They are a minority, woman-owned asphalt contractor. They are a wonderful family and an American success story. They came to this country with just a little money in their pocket but with big dreams in their hearts to have freedom and the opportunity to open a business. They opened an asphalt contracting business which gets most of its business from local, State, and the government for roads. They are the infrastructure people. Not coming up with a way to keep our government open, cancel sequester, and move legislation to fund our physical infrastructure is dramatically affecting them.

Around Rockville Pike, there are several agencies, and I have already said their names: The National Institutes of Standards and Technology, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. That is affecting businesses up and down Rockville Pike. People aren't buying their groceries, they are not buying gas. I am going to say more about that in a little while.

Remember that Social Security agency I talked about? It is in a neighborhood called Woodlawn in Baltimore. Nine thousand—nine thousand—Social Security workers in Baltimore and around the country have been furloughed. Right near them is the CMS agency which also looks out for our Medicare.

A few blocks from Social Security is the FBI field office. Those FBI agents are on the job—on the job—but they are being paid with IOUs. Do my colleagues know that because of what we have had to do with our budget they don't even have gas for the FBI cars? In a recent book called ''Voices From The Field,'' the FBI agents have spoken out about what is happening to them; that when they get in their car to chase a bad guy or gal, they have to pay for their own gas. What kind of government is this, with all that pomp and strut, the ridicule of our Federal employees? Now this shutdown is humiliating our country and humiliating the people who work for our government, and so on.

Across this Nation and in my own State, because of thousands of Federal employees being furloughed or paid in IOUs, businesses are hurting. I am the daughter of a small business owner. My father owned a small grocery store. I am the granddaughter of a woman entrepreneur—a wonderful woman of Polish heritage who opened a Polish bakery to be able to help her family. Every day they said, ''Good morning, can I help you?'' I know what it is like to be in the retail food business, and I understand what it is like when your customers are facing the fact that they are unemployed. All of these, mom-and-pop stores to the larger agencies, are being affected.

The government shutdown threatens our progress. We know in 1995 and in 1996, it cut our gross domestic product. The shutdown can cost our economy as much as $10 billion a week.

Every week the Small Business Administration, because it is shut down, can't process loans or give technical assistance to small businesses. The International Trade Association, which helps our people sell products around the world—and what is left of our manufacturing sector in Maryland has told me how important our foreign commercial service officers are—is shut down.

The Department of Labor processes applications for visas, for farms, for seafood processors as in my own State. Businesses typically file for visas 2 or 3 months in advance. Because of the shutdown, it is going to affect everybody from citrus farmers in the South to those people who have New England ski resorts. People might say, Oh, that is a Gucci job. A Gucci job in a New England ski resort? I don't think so. It is very important to Vermont and New Hampshire and the citrus farmers down South.

We have to reopen the government. The way we reopen the government is not by a piecemeal approach but by the House taking up the Senate resolution.

I have a lot more to say, and I will say it during the day today. I know my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED, is on the floor. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee and a member of the Defense authorization committee. He is a staunch defender of people. He has been so outspoken on the need for student loans. He has also been so outspoken on the need for energy assistance for poor people with the coming winter. He is a defender of America, a graduate of West Point, and he has been a defender of the little guy

and the little gal who should have a government on their side. I want to make sure he has a chance to speak, and I will be back later on to speak on the floor again.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first let me commend the chairwoman for her extraordinary leadership in so many different ways, including her articulate explanation of the crisis we face at the moment and her compelling argument that a piecemeal approach to resolving the government shutdown will not work, since the pieces are so critically interrelated.

I rise to speak about this government shutdown as well. Today is day three of the Republican government shutdown, and it seems increasingly clear that Speaker BOEHNER is trying to drag this out long enough to merge the shutdown with brinkmanship over whether to pay our Nation's bills. This attempt to gut existing law and put the full faith and credit of the United States at risk is no way to run a country. If we are dragged into the commingling of the Republican government shutdown and the Republican proposals to default on our debt, we could be facing a catastrophic financial situation that would affect not just government operations but markets worldwide, and that is not something we should even contemplate. So we have to move very quickly to a resolution of this manufactured crisis.

When I hear a discussion of what is going on, the words I hear used are words such as ''reckless,'' ''irresponsible,'' and, indeed, words much worse than these all across this country. The bottom line is the average American is fed up. They expect government to open, to serve them, to perform its basic function—not selective functions but its full range of functions.

Survey after survey notes two simple things: No. 1, the government should be reopened for business. No. 2, the effort by some to connect the Affordable Care Act to funding the government should be ceased. These aren't the views of one particular political party; they are the views of a very, very large majority of Americans, and I share their sentiment. The government should not be closed. The Affordable Care Act should not be tied to reopening the government.

There is a very simple solution here: Pass the short-term, continuing resolution at current levels of spending so then we can begin the process of resolving the budget impasse. Let me say that again: Pass the bill that funds the government at the current level of spending. Doing so means keeping, in effect, the sequester—something that many on the other side of the aisle have demanded. Frankly, I would hope that having done that, we could then seriously get into discussions with the leader and with the chairwoman on our side about how we create a budget for 2014 that does away with the sequester. This was inherent in the budget resolution which I supported last March.

Regrettably, the tea party has refused to allow negotiations on the budget, even though we heard day in and day out complaints by our colleagues in a previous session of Congress that we need a budget, we need a budget, we need a budget. Well, we produced a budget, and now we are being blocked.

What is happening instead of moving to meaningful, comprehensive budget negotiations is that we are in a government shutdown, and now the Republicans are trying to extricate themselves from this manufactured crisis, created by their own hands, by sending over piecemeal bills to fund preferred and selected agencies of the government. As the chairwoman pointed out, it doesn't work, because the government is related. NIH can make discoveries, but if the FDA is not authorized and operating so they can approve their use by people, it doesn't work. We can't disassociate these things.

We saw today in Rhode Island about 26,500 women and children might lose their WIC benefits, their nutrition benefits, their support. Ignoring them and helping others is not going to benefit this country. In fact, it will contribute, I think, to decline.

We have looked at the National Guard, veterans' benefits, and national parks. Those are all worthy elements, but they are not the entire range of elements we must perform. I believe the other side is trying to come up with some type of coherent argument for their actions. Is this about the debt? We have made progress in reducing our deficit. Because of actions we have taken, we have reduced projected deficits over 10 years by $2.4 trillion. Do we have to do more? Yes. But we have to do it in a current, thoughtful way.

Is it about the sequester? Well, let's talk about the sequester. Let's talk about it in the context of a budget and appropriations bills for 2014.

Is it about the Affordable Care Act? Well, it has begun. There has been a huge demand in the first few days and it is working through problems. And there will be problems. There is no major initiative of this kind that is rolled out by any business or any government that doesn't have issues, and those issues will be dealt with.

What is very clear, though, is closing the government and then, in sort of an ad hoc way, opening up parts is no way to operate. It is unfair to the American people who aren't getting services they expect and deserve. Also, it's unfair to furloughed Federal employees at the Defense Department and elsewhere—not just the Defense Department but all Departments—some of them are working without the certainty that they indeed will be paid.

There is a simple way to avoid this situation. The House should stop preventing an up-or-down vote on the Senate's continuing resolution and open the government. The Speaker can call up that vote in less than an hour, get it on the floor, and go ahead and reopen our government. Then reopen the thoughtful, careful, collaborative discussions about where we are going in terms of our budget, in terms of our deficit, in terms of serving the American people.

I have heard a lot of talk such as: Oh, we have to have a lot of negotiations and compromise, et cetera. I have supported legislation I believe in strongly. I have opposed legislation, but I don't think I have ever stood up and said it is either my way or nothing happens. That is not the way to responsibly represent the people of America. It is the give-and-take of principled compromise. Sometimes there is legislation that reaches this floor that I can't support, but I think in a democracy it is the majority, ultimately—after we go through our procedural convolutions—it is the majority ultimately that prevails.

There is a strong sense, as reflected in the newspapers, that the majority of the House of Representatives wants this situation resolved. They want all government agencies opened. And through the procedural votes on this side, it is very clear that our colleagues were willing to allow a majority vote to come to this floor, which carried. So the majority of the House and the Senate are with the American people. We just have to get the leadership of the House to get with the American people.

We have to talk about some of these serious issues, but I think the best place to do so, in my view, is in the context of budget negotiations, and we have been repeatedly blocked from bringing the budget to conference. In fact, many of our Republican colleagues—and I will give them credit; many of them have stood up and said we have to go to the budget negotiations in the conference. Senator MCCAIN said, for example, ''It's not the regular order for a number of Senators, a small number, a minority within a minority here, to say they will not agree to go to conference.'' That is what is happening. It is happening in terms of a minority of Republican Members in the House who are demanding that this Speaker not relent on this government shutdown, and it is happening here to a degree with respect to the conference committee on the budget. We have to go ahead and do our job.

We have had colleagues on the other side talk about how the closure has detrimental effects. The Member who represents Yosemite National Park was very sad it was closed. I am also distressed that it is closed. I chair the subcommittee that appropriates funding for our national parks. We do our best to maintain the parks, to make sure we support those individuals who work for the Park Service. I understand the impact is not just within the confines of the park, it is the businesses all around the park. That is

what we said a week ago. That is what I said a week ago, asking, in terms of our deliberations, that we pass a continuing resolution. So this should come as no surprise to those people who voted against keeping the government open.

But this is not just about the value of a national park. It is about all the functions the government performs. It is about those women and children who receive benefits through the WIC Program. It is about those Federal workers who are furloughed who cannot perform their duties. We have to go ahead and open up our government. We have to recognize what a democracy ultimately is all about: It is the will of the American people—the majority of the American people—that has to be reflected, ultimately, by the Representatives and the Senators.

Again, I think it is very clear, except for the bottleneck at the House leadership, that the majority of the House and the majority of the Senate want this government to open up. Let's do it. We need a vote. We have to stop relitigating the Affordable Care Act. It passed. It was upheld as constitutional by the Supreme Court. It is open for business starting on October 1, with significant interest by the public. There were 3,000 page-hits per minute in Rhode Island as it opened up on October 1, which I am told by the technologists is an amazing number. There were 2,000 calls to our call center—people who were looking for insurance, to buy it in a private marketplace, which is the core of the Affordable Care Act.

So we have to move forward. If we do not move forward, SBA lending is effectively cut off, so small business men and women, who are struggling to get their businesses going, to keep them going, and hire Americans, will not have that ability to receive support from the SBA.

We need, as they say—and everyone has become familiar with this term—a clean CR that opens everything up. If we do not, then we know the impact is going to be dramatic.

In 2011, economists estimated that a shutdown would cost the economy 0.2 percent of GDP each week. And it accumulates.

Looking back to 1995 and 1996, when a Republican House also shut down the government for 27 days, it reduced GDP growth by roughly 0.5 percent. Those are jobs, not just statistics. Those are lots of jobs and confidence in our economy. If we do not have jobs and confidence, then we are not doing our job and we are not fulfilling what we were sent here by the people to do: grow the economy, give us work, give us confidence that you can at least perform the basic functions of government.

Now we have to move forward. I am uncertain as to how long this will continue to fester. We should do this immediately. As I said, procedurally the House—and I had the privilege to serve there for 6 years—can bring this continuing resolution up on very short notice and get, which I believe they have, the majority votes they need to pass it. That should be done. Then we can sit down and work again—work hard on those issues that face us in the context of budget negotiations and a conference and also recognize that while we are here involved in this manufactured crisis, the world is moving. The world is moving in ways in which we cannot be so preoccupied that we do not sense: foreign affairs issues in Syria, foreign affairs issues across the globe; international economic issues; future competitive issues with other economies. While we are fixated and focused on this manufactured crisis, which is completely unnecessary, we are not doing the important work, we are not anticipating the problems that are developing right now in the world or in our economy, we are not investing in jobs and in job creation, we are not looking ahead. We have to do that also.

I would urge a quick, decisive vote on a continuing resolution so we can get back to the business of leading America.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, let me second the very powerful and eloquent remarks just made by my colleague from Rhode Island: that we must vote, we need to have a vote in the House of Representatives to give moderate Republicans the opportunity to put the Federal Government back to work in the service of Americans and keep America—in the private as well as public sector—at work so they can meet the obligations of their families.

We have developing a situation in America where more and more the ripple effects of this shutdown will affect private employees, not just the Federal and government workers who are told to go home and told they cannot do their jobs.

As I have said repeatedly, we need to end the hostage-taking tactics by one small faction of one party in one House of this branch of government. The ripple effects of this shutdown are beginning to grow across America.

Last night, United Technologies, the largest employer in Connecticut, announced it has been forced to furlough thousands of employees, starting initially with more than 1,500 at its Sikorsky facility in Stratford, which makes Black Hawk helicopters for our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Special Forces. Thousands of other jobs may be at risk at Pratt & Whitney and at defense manufacturers all cross the Nation.

This political gamesmanship and budget brinkmanship has stopped production of the Black Hawk helicopters, an iconic symbol to all our servicemembers that help is on the way. They are the ones that transport troops into combat, rescue the wounded, and deliver supplies to the most inaccessible and inhospitable parts of the Earth. Black Hawk helicopters are vital to our national defense. Why is the production line at Sikorsky being shut down? Because 45 Federal employees who work for the Defense Contract Management Agency have been sent home as a result of this shutdown—sent home by one small group of rightwing extremist ideologues in the House of Representatives, one part of this Congress, one branch of the government—and those 45 employees who work for the Defense Contract Management Agency cannot certify and inspect the work of the Sikorsky employees. So there is no way the U.S. military can take delivery of those helicopters.

My hope is this situation can be resolved quickly and that we can find a way to get these DCMA employees back doing their vital jobs that contribute so directly and importantly to the success of our military operations. They are civilian employees. They should be back at work certifying and inspecting and making sure those helicopters are the best in the world, as they have always been, and that they can be delivered to our military; that the military can pay Sikorsky, and Sikorsky can keep its people at work rather than furlough them, and so that those Sikorsky helicopters are available to help our troops in the toughest challenges they face all across the globe. They need and deserve those helicopters.

But even if we put those Sikorsky workers back at their jobs tomorrow, the needless chaos and confusion caused by the shutdown is an outrageous and inexcusable dereliction by those small, rightwing extremists who have insisted on ideology over country and fearmongering over job creation.

The ripple effects of Sikorsky shutting down its assembly line will be felt by the suppliers who provide parts and components used in those helicopters. I have visited them, and I have seen those parts and components used on those assembly lines by those Sikorsky workers. If Sikorsky is not using those parts and components, workers in those suppliers will be furloughed as well, or worse.

We are talking about men and women who live—many of them—paycheck to paycheck. They do not have huge savings. They may well, in fact, probably will not be paid for the time they are furloughed. The ripple effect on consumer demand will be felt across Connecticut and, as a result of similar situations, across the country.

All too often, we tend to think of the Federal workforce as a nameless and faceless group, but this shutdown is bringing home what the real impact of their work is—from the NIH employees who do cancer research and provide treatment to people who need it and now will go without it; to the Head Start workers and programs across the country that provide for educational readiness to children who now will go

without it; to the Social Security recipients who encounter problems with their check or payment and need someone to guide them or help them receive those checks that they need to survive and now will go without those checks; and resolving veterans' benefits, other kinds of issues all across the country. The chaos and confusion will ripple and accumulate. These effects are cumulative, and they will multiply.

The damage done by these wounds to our workforce are, tragically, self-inflicted and they dramatize how that cumulative effect will, in fact, increase exponentially.

I warned of the effects on job creation and economic growth repeatedly before and after the shutdown occurred. In addition to the vital services that are imperiled and impacted, these economic effects on job creation and recovery are irreparable. They affect people's lives. They are real consequences to real people.

I have called on this body to let compromise and cooler heads prevail and end those ripple effects, end the shutdown, end this self-inflicted wound before it becomes an economic tsunami.

I hope everyone in this body, everyone in this Congress, will use every ounce of their energy, every minute of this day and the days to come to cause this inexcusable shutdown to end, to fix the train wreck before it leads to other wrecks of other trains that may collide.

We have spent a lot of time in this body talking, and it is time we started listening. We ought to be listening to the American people, who are telling us: Get the job done. Get back to work. We ought to be listening to voices of our local communities which are seeing the harm of this shutdown.

Jim Finley, for example, the CEO of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, said yesterday:

> Our poorest communities. They're the ones who are going to feel the hit first.

That is because the Women, Infants and Children's Program and housing vouchers for low-income families are just two of the programs that make the social safety net work and help people most in need. The WIC Program provides food assistance to more than 58,000 low-income pregnant women, mothers, and children in Connecticut.

Listen to Mayor Pedro Segarra of Hartford, who said:

> After 30 days it becomes very difficult. We've already been under pressure from the feds because of sequestration to reduce expenses in several categories.

Recently, Newtown and Monroe, along with other Connecticut communities, received Federal grants to hire local police officers. So listen to Monroe First Selectman Steve Vavrek, who said he has no idea whether that money will ever arrive, and he has no way of checking on it, and, of course, he has no way of planning for future law enforcement in his community.

Students from Sandy Hook Elementary School were relocated to a school in his town of Monroe. Let's listen to those kids. Let's listen to their parents. They have no one to speak for them here, unless we listen to them.

Similar to children across the country, they need those Federal grants for their schools. If we listen to our local leaders, if we listen to America, we will put the Federal Government back to work. We will avoid that train wreck and tsunami that will result from the spreading ramifications and ripple effects of the loss of income and service that results from this shutdown.

Finally, let me just emphasize one of the very important unintended consequences of actions that we have taken or failed to take. When Congress passed the resolution to pay our troops, we intended to cover all of the men and women who wear the uniform, all who serve in our military forces, including all categories of National Guard service.

Unfortunately, some are not covered in actual practice. I am committed to ensuring that everyone in uniform is paid for their service and sacrifice. Regardless of the numerous diverse categories of service that may exist in the National Guard or in other branches of service, every man and woman who wears the uniform, every man and woman who serves in our military should be paid and paid on time now.

I am committed to making sure our Department of Defense and our government recognizes that obligation. So let's think about them. Let's keep in mind the brave men and women who are serving and sacrificing to keep us free, to make sure our democracy functions in the service of people. Let's keep faith with them as well as with the American people. Let's do our work by making sure we put the American Government back to work and make sure the country is at work. Let the House vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.J. RES. 72

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.J. Res. 72, making continuing appropriations for veterans' benefits for fiscal year 2014, the measure be read three times and passed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MURPHY. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, my understanding is that the Senator is proposing to allow for appropriations to move forward for a portion of veterans funding. Let me just say a few things. It is clearly a hardship that the shutdown is going to result in a diminution of benefits to our veterans. I appreciate the Senator coming to the floor to try to address that today.

But as my colleague from Connecticut just mentioned, it is also an unacceptable hardship that there is about to be 4,000 workers at Sikorsky Aircraft who are going to be furloughed on Friday because of this shutdown. It is also an unacceptable hardship that thousands of Head Start children are going to show up to their preschool being closed. It is an unacceptable hardship to millions of frail elderly who are going to have their nutritional benefits compromised.

So I think we can all agree that the consequences of the shutdown are unacceptable to our veterans. They are unacceptable, though, to a panoply of other families and individuals across the country.

I would note also that I believe the resolution the Senator is offering and suggested be passed provides only partial funding for the VA. There is no funding here to operate the national cemeteries. There is no funding for the Board of Veterans' Appeals. There is no funding for constructing VA hospitals and their clinics. There is no funding, actually, to operate the IT system that the entire VA needs in order to continue going forward.

So I would actually offer and ask unanimous consent that the Senator's request be modified; that an amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, that the joint resolution, as amended, then be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate. It is a clean continuing resolution for the entire government and something that is already over in the House and reportedly has the majority support of the Members of the House of Representatives. This would solve the problems I am sure the Senator is going to talk about with respect to certain veterans but would also solve all of those other problems and would make sure we continue to have funding for the national cemeteries, continue to build hospitals that need to be built for veterans, continue to service the IT needs that underlay the foundation of our veterans systems, and also make sure Head Start kids do not get turned away from their classrooms, make sure Sikorsky Aircraft workers get to go back to work, make sure our food still gets inspected, we get meals to our frail elderly.

The CR is in front of the Senate. If the Senator would agree, I propose we move forward with this modification to his request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Utah so modify his request?

Mr. LEE. I object to the proposed modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, I just want to say I so strongly support my colleague from Connecticut. I so oppose what is going on here with the Republicans. Time and time again they have had a chance to

open this government, and they say no. We have the votes in the House. The Senate passed it. We sent it over there. Let's make sure we do what is right for the people. That means opening this government. We show up to work. We have two things to do to earn our pay; one is keep the government open. Just because people are going to get health insurance and it bothers some Republicans, sorry you lost that battle 3½ years ago and then in the election.

So we have to keep the government running, and we have to pay the bills that we all incurred. They are threatening chaos. I am so appreciative the Senator from Connecticut came down and gave another chance to our Republican friends to let them join us and do our job.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MURPHY. Again, the Senator having rejected my offer to modify his consent—we have an opportunity to pass a continuing resolution which enjoys the support of the Senate, which reportedly enjoys the support of the majority of Members of the House of Representatives should the Speaker simply call it. We could solve the problems the Senator is about to talk about, as well as all of the other problems presented to the people being affected today by the shutdown, if we would just move forward with a clean continuing resolution with no political riders attached to it.

For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, what we are being told by the majority is that we have to vote for everything in order to fund anything. Moments ago, I proposed a unanimous consent request that if approved would provide for the immediate availability of mandatory funds generally controlled through the annual appropriations process for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I thank the Republican leader for making similar requests earlier today and other Republican colleagues for joining him. I look forward to making other similar requests in the coming hours. Frankly, I am a little stunned at some of the things we are hearing from the other side of the aisle. It is difficult for me to understand the objection to bills the House passed last night and the ones Senate Republicans are trying to pass today.

First, this legislation does not fund anything that is controversial. None of the pieces of legislation being worked on and passed by the House right now and last night can be considered controversial. These bills provide funding for things such as veterans' disability benefits, the GI bill, and cancer research. These bills keep our national parks open and they make sure our National Guard personnel get paid.

There are many things on which Republicans and Democrats do not agree, but whether to take care of our veterans should not be among those things. Second, the President himself has asked Congress to do this. I remind my friends exactly what he said a few days ago, speaking to what might happen during a government shutdown.

He said:

> Office buildings would close, paychecks would be delayed. Vital services for seniors and veterans, women and children, businesses and our economy depend on would be hamstrung . . . Veterans who've sacrificed for their country, will find their support centers unstaffed . . . Tourists will find every one of America's national parks and monuments, from Yosemite to the Smithsonian to the Statue of Liberty, immediately closed. And of course the communities and small businesses that rely on these national treasures for their livelihoods will be out of customers and out of luck.

The Republicans in the House of Representatives took the President of the United States at his word and started acting immediately to draft bills that would make sure these priorities received funding. In response, Senate Democrats have said this plan to fund things such as veterans, national parks, and others was fundamentally unserious. They said Republicans were playing games. The biggest headscratcher of them all, the President issued a veto threat for bills that fund the very things he said he wanted to fund, that he would like Congress to fund.

It makes me wonder, why is it that the President of the United States and the Democrats in the Senate are having such a hard time taking yes for an answer. The fundamental objection, as I understand it, has been that because these bills, passed by the House of Representatives last night, and those being passed today, within the next couple of hours, because those bills do not fund everything, they are objectionable; in other words, we have to fund everything or we may fund nothing.

I have to remind my colleagues that normally, under regular order, Congress will vote on and ultimately approve a dozen or so separate segmented appropriations measures, making sure we address each year within our Federal Government what it is that we are spending money on. This is a big government, one that expends between $3.5 and $4 trillion a year. It is appropriate that we break this up into pieces.

But over the last 4½ years or so, we have been operating on the basis of back-to-back continuing resolutions, measures that basically require us to fund everything or fund nothing. So what this proposal does, what the Republicans in the House of Representatives are quite wisely doing is saying let's start with those areas as to which there is the most broad-based bipartisan consensus, and let's keep government funded at current levels, as the continuing resolution would do within those areas, and let's build consensus and let's start funding the government in those areas where there is not significant objection.

What I do not hear from my colleagues is a substantive objection to what it does fund. What I hear is they are objecting to what it does not fund. So let's pass those things we can agree should be funded, and let's move forward. I think we can get most of this resolved fairly quickly.

Two of the bills in the House of Representatives that have been passed in this fashion have, quite significantly, received substantial bipartisan support. I expect that the rest of them will receive bipartisan support as well. In the middle of an unfortunate government shutdown, surrounded by all of this diverse rhetoric, Republicans and Democrats came together in the House, overwhelmingly, to approve these bills. I think we owe it to the country to show we can do the same in the Senate, acting upon the advice of our better angels and acting in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation to keep our government funded.

Fourth, this is a path forward that was first introduced by none other than the distinguished majority leader himself. On Monday afternoon, Senator HARRY REID from Nevada, the Senate majority leader, asked for unanimous consent to pass a bill that ensured our Active-Duty military would be paid in the event of a shutdown. In a matter of minutes it was done.

So I ask my friends across the aisle: Was Senator REID playing games? Was that unserious? We did that then. Monday, just a few days ago, we passed something that did not fund everything, but it did fund something. It funded the government to the extent necessary to allow us to continue paying our Active-Duty military personnel.

Was that unserious? Well, of course not. Why is it unserious when we try to fund veterans' disability payments, cancer research, or our National Guard?

Why is it all of a sudden trying to play games trying to keep our national parks open?

What exactly has changed since Monday? Why can we come together to pass a bill funding military pay but not to fund veterans' benefits?

Finally, none of these bills has any connection to the implementation of ObamaCare.

I understand that my friends across the aisle support that law despite its numerous failings and indications that it is harming the American people and the economy, that it is hurting jobs and threatening the affordability of health insurance.

I understand that some of my friends across the aisle want to protect that law.

We are going to continue to have that debate about that law, especially in light of all of the problems people are having signing up with the exchanges, not to mention the ongoing problems of job losses, wage reductions, hours lost, and people losing their health coverage because of ObamaCare. Especially in light of all of those problems, we should continue

having that debate, but that debate isn't essential to every aspect of our government's funding.

Let me be clear. We will do everything in our power to protect the American people from the harmful effects of ObamaCare. That fight will most certainly continue.

My friends across the aisle are welcome to join that debate, as I am sure they will. But none of these bills, none of the bills that we are considering today relate in any way to the implementation of ObamaCare.

For this moment, at the very least, we should focus on keeping our promise to the people, those who have sacrificed the most to keep this country free.

I applaud the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives. I applaud the Republicans and the Democrats who have supported legislation to help keep our government funded in these critical areas. We can come together if we act in a step-by-step process, if we pursue a step-by-step process for funding our government.

It more closely resembles the way we should have been appropriating in the first place. This is the best way forward. It is the way to help minimize the pain that Americans are experiencing as a result of this unfortunate shutdown.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to talk about the need to reopen government—and not to reopen government in a piecemeal way, one bit this week and then another bit next week, which seems to be the newest gambit on the table. We need to reopen the government because the government of this country should have never shut down in the first place.

Few States are feeling the impact of the shutdown more than Virginia. I wish to tell two stories, a personal one and then a story about one community in my State.

In my State many Federal employees live in Virginia. About 150,000 Federal employees are jeopardized currently by the shutdown, and 70,000 of them are DOD civilians who were already furloughed earlier this year. One of the employees who is jeopardized is a major in the Air Force Reserve by the name of Eric Ryan. He lives in northern Virginia, is married, and has four children.

Eric had a distinguished career in the Air Force, retired, became a civilian, rejoined the Air Force Reserve, and is currently working at the Pentagon. At the Pentagon as a civilian, he is currently furloughed with a wife and four children to support.

Eric is a Presidential Management Fellow and has been loaned to my office for a period of time. He showed up at the Pentagon Tuesday to get furloughed, and then he came to my office to hear me deliver my furlough speech to all of my employees. He got the double dose that day.

This afternoon I have the honor of going and participating in the promotion ceremony for Eric Ryan from major to lieutenant colonel. I am going to talk about him and his qualifications, but it is going to be a bitter moment for all of us as I engage in that promotion for this wonderful person. He first served this Nation by flying dozens of missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and now serves the Nation in a new way, but has now been furloughed twice this year, once because of the sequester and next because of the shutdown. We have tens of thousands of veterans such as Eric Ryan who are going through the furlough experience.

The second is a community story. If you were to ask where in Virginia would you feel the impact of the sequester, I think most people might think the neighborhoods around the Pentagon or Hampton Roads, where there is naval power. But the effects are being felt everywhere.

I wish to speak about one community, Chincoteague, the barrier island off the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the subject of the famous children's book, ''Misty of Chincoteague.'' It is beautiful community, a tiny small town.

Chincoteague's economy is fundamentally about visits to the national seashore, Assateague and Chincoteague Islands. But those parks and national resources have been closed.

I got a call Tuesday morning right away from friends in Chincoteague saying: Chincoteague is motels, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and people who sell suntan lotion and sunglasses. Because of the closure, the entire economy has had its guts pulled out during the Federal shutdown.

Moreover, there is a historic lighthouse at the wildlife refuge that has been restored. It has taken 6 years to restore. This week was the opening and celebration of the lighthouse. They expected visitors to come from everywhere. That has been cancelled.

Chincoteague has one other industry that is very important. They didn't only want to be about tourism, so over the last 15 to 20 years they have worked to build up the capacity of NASA at Wallops Island, which is 5 miles from Chincoteague Island.

Kids who graduate from high school and are interested in science and math don't have to move away and never come home. They can get a science and math degree, come back, and work as rocket scientists. Eighty percent of the NASA employees at Wallops near Chincoteague have been furloughed as a result of this shutdown.

The experience of Col. Eric Ryan, who works in my office, and the experience of this small community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia demonstrates how serious these effects are.

The good news is we can solve this if Speaker BOEHNER would only allow a vote to reopen government.

The Presiding Officer knows this because we sat through it together. It bears a little bit of repetition.

The Senate passed a budget on March 23 that funds all of these issues at the level that the Senate thinks is right. The same week the House passed a budget funding government at levels they think is right.

Under the Budget Control Act of 1974, the right strategy at that point was to put the two budgets in conference and let conferees figure it out. For folks who aren't familiar with it—and there may be some who are listening—a budget conference is a pretty simple thing.

When I was Governor of Virginia, we had them all the time. The two Houses would pass different budgets. Each House takes their budget, goes into the negotiating room, sits down, and compares. One side wins on this issue, one side wins on the other, and on a third issue they might split it 50–50. The House budget and the Senate budget are very different.

But that is what we do. We sit down, listen, dialogue, compromise, and we solve the problems of the country. Nineteen times since March 23 we have stood on the floor of this body and said we want to go to conference with the House on this budget. Nineteen times, the last of which was yesterday, a small handful of Senators—and that was the phrase that the Senator from Utah used once on the floor in blocking this: We are a small handful of Senators—and the House Republicans have blocked a budget compromise.

For the last 6½ months we have not had the opportunity to sit down and dialogue. For folks who don't know how a budget conference works, if, in a conference a compromise is reached, it doesn't just become law like that. The compromise has to come back to both Houses. Both Houses debate the compromise, both Houses vote on the compromise, and everyone's interests are protected. They can look at the compromise and decide whether they like it or don't.

For 6½ months we have been blocked in an effort to go to budget conference. Imagine our amazement. In this body on Monday night, after the House shut down government, 3 hours later they passed a bill and said: We have an idea. Let's have a conference. Finally, 6½ months after they shut down government. But let's have it be a really particular kind of conference, not a conference about the budget of the United States. Let's have a conference about whether the Government of the United States should be open or closed.

I know I can speak for my colleagues who are here. Our view is we will negotiate, compromise, and listen to any policy issue. Budget negotiation is exactly how you do this or policy debates are how you do it. But what none of us in this body or in the House should ever negotiate is whether the United States exists or not, whether it is funded or not, whether it is open or closed.

I believe it has to be open. That is essentially what our oath of office says we have to do when we say we will

faithfully discharge all the duties of the office to which we have been elected.

We also won't negotiate whether the United States should pay its bills because the 14th Amendment to the Constitution in Section 5 makes very plain that the public debt of the United States and its validity shall not be questioned.

There is a way forward here, and it is such a simple way forward: that is, Speaker BOEHNER needs to allow a vote in the House. It is simple. Allow a vote and not only allow a vote, but allow a vote on a budget number that he has already agreed to.

The continuing resolution the Senator from Connecticut talked about that is currently pending, funds government for an interim period of time at a budget level that was the House's number. It is not a number I liked. We had a different number in the Senate, a higher number we want to fund it to. But we accepted the House's number for the short-term spending bill out of a spirit of compromise.

We sent it back to the House and we said: We are compromising. We are not even going 50–50. We are compromising by accepting your budget number. This is not as if the Senator from Utah said we want to fund everything or nothing, no. We have other things we would like to fund that we are not funding in this bill because we accepted everything the House wants to fund in their CR.

They only need to accept yes for an answer. The good news is this is not a partisan issue because many Senate Republicans want to do exactly what I am suggesting.

Based on current reports in the House, there are numerous House Republicans—four of whom are from Virginia—who are publicly on the record. They wish to do exactly as we are suggesting.

Speaker BOEHNER, bring your own spending bill up for a vote. If you do it will pass. If it passes, government will reopen. Once government has reopened, we can have a budget conference and talk about any issue the House wants to talk about, any issue that we want to talk about. But it is time to end hostage politics and reopen the doors.

The Speaker has it in his hands to do that, simply and immediately.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, people all around this country—and Montana is no exception—are looking at the actions in Washington, DC, and they are shaking their heads in disbelief. They are shaking their heads in disbelief because the government has shut down, but yet a bill has passed the Senate. If the Speaker of the House would offer it on the House floor, it would pass the House and the government wouldn't have to be shut down.

Then all the resolutions put forth on the other side, and some on this side, quite frankly, about opening different areas of the government, would all be settled because government would be open.

A previous speaker this morning said: We shouldn't be dealing with overall government. We should be dealing with this in piecemeal fashion.

Really? Who determines who gets help and who determines who doesn't? The fact is the government provides some pretty essential services to folks across the board. To stand on this floor and cherry-pick certain pieces of the government to fund and not to fund is totally unfair. Quite frankly, those groups know they are being used as political pawns in this process.

We started out these negotiations with a CR that was at $1.58 trillion. We compromised that down to a point of $986 billion, somewhere around a $70 billion reduction. This is real money, a significant compromise.

The House came back and said: No, that is really not good enough. We want that $986 billion figure, and then we also want to defund the Affordable Care Act.

Why? Because, my goodness, it is the most terrible thing. There are all sorts of reasons given on the floor why the Affordable Care Act is so terrible.

For example, I had a flat tire on my truck last week—it was the Affordable Care Act. I ran out of fuel in my fuel tank—that doggone Affordable Care Act.

Let's get the Affordable Care Act implemented and all of these bogus excuses about why it is so bad will go away. People will get the advantage of affordable insurance once again, not government health care, but affordable insurance so they can afford to get sick.

Aside from that, the repeal of it was turned back. Then they came back with a delay of 1 year and said: Oh, by the way, if you work for Congress or you are a Member of Congress, we are going to take away any sort of insurance benefits you get whatsoever.

This was interesting. Because, quite frankly, if Members of Congress don't want that benefit, they will turn it back, and I anticipate some will after the Affordable Care Act is put into place. I doubt that very much.

Instead, what happened was we turned that back, and now we are in a situation where we sent back a clean continuing resolution at $986 billion. In the House, if the Speaker would put that bill on the floor, it would pass and we could start doing the business of this country once again rather than sitting here in a government shutdown where things aren't working and we are not addressing the issues that need to be addressed.

But when we take a look at whether we are going to fund certain programs, I want to talk about a few very briefly before I kick it over to the Senator from Colorado.

We have intelligence folks who are not on the ground, but we have folks fighting in theater right now who need that intelligence. Whether they get it is up in the air. The folks who protect our clean water and air are off the job. Clean water is our most important resource, and they are not there to make sure it remains clean. Kids on Head Start, food inspectors, research into energy so we can have a 21st-century economy and affordable energy in that 21st century—they are all off the job. Domestic violence and folks who are impacted by domestic violence—there are shelters that are determining right now whether they will turn away those victims of domestic violence.

The list goes on and on and on. Whether we are talking about the Centers for Disease Control or we are talking about logging and salvage sales or talking about allowing wells to be drilled in the Bakken—that has all stopped. Why? Because of a Speaker of the House—who, by the way, a previous speaker just said they were very proud of. But why has it stopped? It is because of a Speaker of the House who doesn't have the internal guts to put this on the floor and let it pass the House of Representatives. That would put this country back to work so we could start doing the things we need to do in the halls of the Senate and the halls of the House that are important for this country, whether it is the farm bill or housing reform or a defense authorization bill—the list goes on and on. Instead, we are dealing with a totally self-inflicted crisis supported by people who want to shut this government down. Regardless of what they say on this floor, they are very happy because this government is shut down.

It is time, Members of the House of Representatives, that you demand that the Speaker put that bill up so you can vote on it and we can get back to doing the business of this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I would like to first say how much I appreciate the words of the Senator from Virginia and the words of the Senator from Montana. They are known to be commonsense people, to work in a bipartisan way day after day in this Congress, against all odds, to actually try to make something work around this place. So I thank them for their leadership and their comments this morning.

For 4 years I have come to this floor at about this time of the year and talked about how Washington has become the land of flickering lights where the standard of success is not how we are imagining the future and what we are doing for the next generation of Americans but that we are managing, after a little bit of aggravation and hostility, to keep the lights on for 1 more month or for 6 more months. Well, this time we are not the land of flickering lights. The lights are out in Washington. They have managed to shut down the government.

No mayor, no school superintendent, no city council in Colorado would

threaten the shutdown of their government over politics. Whether they are a Democratic mayor or a Republican mayor or a tea party mayor, we wouldn't stand for it in Colorado. They certainly would never threaten the credit rating of their community over politics. In fact, it is exactly the opposite. We just had these terrible floods in our State, and people are struggling to do everything they can to keep their governments open to provide people who have been displaced by the flood, who have lost everything they own, the services they need.

This shutdown is already hurting the U.S. economy and Colorado's economy, and it is not surprising why. There is a lot of rhetoric around this place about uncertainty and the damage it does to our economy. Nothing could create more uncertainty than shutting this government down and threatening the credit rating of the United States by saying: We are not going to pay our bills. We have an ideology that is so far outside the mainstream of American political thought that we can't find a way to actually win elections that align with our ideology, so we are going to use these kinds of tactics to bring this government to its knees.

The AP reported that the U.S. and European stock markets fell yesterday as investors and world leaders worried about the threat to the global economy. According to the Denver Post, the shutdown may cost the United States at least $300 million a day in lost output during a 1-week shutdown. What good is that doing anybody? How is that helping any American? Economists have estimated that a 3-week closing would cut economic production by 1 percent. It would cut our GDP by 1 percent. How does this self-inflicted wound help anybody?

In Colorado, to be clear, just as in the other States we have heard about today, it is not just the families who rely on Federal programs or Federal workers who are suffering because of this shutdown. The Denver Post reported that in a neighborhood near the Denver Federal Center, Rick Koerner, who owns Stack Subs sandwich shop in Lakewood, estimates he has lost about 5 percent of his normal business since the shutdown began on Thursday. He says he can't afford to lose any customers because, in his words, ''it's a thin-margin business to begin with.'' How are we helping him? In the same story, Deborah Giovingo, who owns a restaurant called Paradise Cove on West Alameda Avenue, just east of the Federal Center, said she is also witnessing a loss. ''We're not getting our regular lunchers. I think they're really trying to conserve their money.'' Right now, how are we helping these people?

One city perhaps hardest hit in our State is Colorado Springs in El Paso County. According to the Colorado Springs Gazette, the furloughs at our military bases include more than 1,000 workers at the Air Force Academy, 400 workers at Schriever Air Force Base, 2,200 at Peterson Air Force Base, and 700 at U.S. Northern Command. At Fort Carson another 1,000 workers are off the job. Is our job more important than their job? Is the job they do to protect this country, to defend this country, less important than the job of these elected representatives in Washington who are still taking a salary? I don't think so. Are these jobs less important than the people who are actually in theater right now in Afghanistan? I don't think so.

After 1 week of shutdown, the WIC Program—the Women, Infants, and Children Program—will have no funds for clinical services, food benefits, and administrative costs. Roughly 100,000 women and children in Colorado participated in the WIC Program last year and will lose their benefits.

The shutdown will delay SBA loans for Colorado's small businesses. Last year SBA processed 1,300 applications, for a total of $559 million in loans, and they are on the ground right now, thank goodness, working with people who have suffered through these floods.

Our national parks, wildlife refuges, and recreational lands—major drivers of Colorado's economy—are closed. They are shut down. Approximately 13,000 people visiting national parks in Colorado will be turned away each day this government is closed. It will result in nearly $800,000 of revenue a day for our local communities, which are already suffering because of the floods. Estes Park is one of the towns that have been terribly affected, and this is one of their peak times of the year for tourism because of the changing leaves. They are losing that opportunity, and we are making it worse because the government is shut down.

Thousands of Federal employees are out of work during this economic recovery. There is a delay in Social Security services. There will be a delay in veterans' benefits by the end of October. Colorado is home to almost 400,000 veterans. That is almost 10 percent of our State's population.

At risk is the funding for Head Start agencies and the Export-Import Bank's support for small companies.

But what is just so insulting at this moment is that we are trying to recover from this flood. The recent flooding damaged at least 17,000 homes and other structures, several thousand of which were outright destroyed. Millions of dollars' worth of public infrastructure has literally been swept away. More than 200 miles of Colorado roads and at least 50 bridges have been damaged or destroyed. Nine Coloradans lost their lives in the floods. The floods consumed an area of Colorado that is twice the size of Rhode Island. The devastation defies belief. Houses have been leveled and reduced to piles of debris, and some of these communities lie in ruins.

FEMA has pledged to go to great lengths, and they are working very hard to ensure that crucial disaster response and recovery services are not interrupted. To be clear, so far, emergency funds are still flowing and emergency workers are still in place. They are doing a phenomenal job, and I want to say on this floor, on behalf of everybody in Colorado, how grateful we are for their work. FEMA is going to make sure this work gets done, but nevertheless a number of FEMA employees—both based in Washington and at the FEMA Region VIII office headquartered in Denver—are vulnerable to furloughs if this shutdown continues.

Our economy is recovering in Colorado, and we are being led by innovative businesses that have been growing jobs despite the dysfunction in Washington. This year I visited many of them—companies that, in the depths of the worst recession since the Great Depression, were actually creating jobs by inventing our future. That is what innovators do, and that is what Coloradans do. We are letting them down profoundly here by failing to exercise our most basic responsibilities as legislators, as people who receive a salary from the taxpayer. They do not send us here to shut it down, they send us here to improve it. They send us here to come to agreement and to compromise and to imagine a better future for our children and for our grandchildren. That is what we are here to do.

Instead, a very radical faction in the House and some of their colleagues here in the Senate have shut this government down in support of an ideology that, as I mentioned earlier, is far outside the mainstream of American political thought. They are entitled to their opinion. Everybody is entitled to their opinion. But they are not entitled to shut the government down if they don't get what they want, and that is where we find ourselves.

It has been a privilege for me to work in this place, and the moments I have enjoyed the most have been the ones where we have worked in a bipartisan way, with colleagues on the other side, to dramatically improve the way the Food and Drug Administration works so that new drugs could be approved more quickly and so that the 600 bioscience firms in Colorado that came to me and said they could no longer raise venture capital because it was all going to Europe and Asia because of uncertainty with the FDA and to please help them fix that—with Republican colleagues, we were able to get that done.

In working the immigration bill we passed, with the Gang of 8—four Democrats and four Republicans—we solved each other's political problems to bring a product to the floor that actually could pass with nearly 70 votes—a supermajority of the Senate—and we still need to pass that bill in the House.

That bill, in stark contrast to the government shutdown we are going through right now, actually will drive GDP growth. The Congressional Budget Office tells us that immigration bill adds 3 points of GDP growth in the first 10 years and 5 points in the second 10 years.

By the way, at a moment when these people are saying they are shutting the government down, mostly because of the health care bill but also because of their concern about a growing government and widening deficits, the immigration bill reduces the deficit by $900 billion over a 20-year period. That is real money even in Washington, DC. They could be passing that bill over there. Instead, the government is shut down, and it has been a catastrophic failure of leadership that has brought us to this place.

I have absolutely no doubt, from all the press reports I have read and what I hear from my Republican colleagues in the Senate, my friends in the Senate who are Republicans, that if Speaker BOEHNER put on the floor of the House the Senate version of the so-called continuing resolution, it would pass with a broad majority of Democrats and Republicans, and the American people would cheer because that is what they want. They want us working together. And the standard of success needs to be something greater than that we kept the lights on, which in this instance we haven't. We haven't even done that. What is the signal we are trying to send to this complicated world in which we live by shutting this government down? Why is it that people here get away with things that no local elected official would ever get away with?

So we have to continue to fight to get this government open. We are going to have another fight to make sure that, for the first time in the United States, we don't fail to pay our bills and blow up the full faith and credit of the United States—which is one of our most important assets, right up there with the rule of law, right up there with our capitalist economy. From our founding, the full faith and credit of the United States has been a bulwark for us.

But once we get past that, what we need to fight for is the next generation of Americans. That is why we have been sent here. Whether we are Democrats or Republicans, that is why we are here. And they are waiting to see whether we are willing to be the first generation of American leadership to provide less opportunity—not more—to the people that are coming after us.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from Connecticut.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the period of morning business for debate only be extended to 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, the Founding Fathers set up a system of government which intentionally made social change in this country hard to achieve. They set up a pretty complicated legislative process with an innovative bicameral legislature in which you have to get the exact same bill with the exact same text passed through two different Chambers. They set up courts that could overturn those laws if they didn't abide by the Constitution. They set up an office down the street in the White House with a veto power that could cancel out actions of the majoritarian legislature. Then they built in pretty frequent elections so that if people didn't like what happened here, they could change the composition of the legislature to try to get something different to happen. So I imagine that is why it took 100 years since Teddy Roosevelt first proposed that this country make a commitment to universal health care that we actually got here. All the while, we watched as every other industrialized nation in the world decided that the compassionate thing to do was to make sure people didn't die because they didn't have enough money to get into the health care system, and they committed themselves to universal health care while the United States sat on the sideline.

What happened is a couple years ago when, after 100 years of debate and consternation and gridlock, we finally made a decision as a nation to move forward with a health care reform bill that finally puts us on the road to guaranteeing that everybody in this country at least gets some basic access to health care, no matter how much money you have in your wallet or pocketbook. What happened is the system was literally crashing down around us. We finally woke up to the reality that we were paying twice as much for health care as any other country in the world and getting so much less—not only in that there were tens of millions of people who were sitting on the sidelines, but also in that the outcomes we were getting weren't good enough for the amount of money we were paying.

Finally the American public sent Members of the House of Representatives to make a change. They elected Senators determined to make a change. They elected a President who campaigned on making a change. So in 2010, we overcame the barriers that had been set up by the Founding Fathers to major social change. Both Congresses passed that health care law. Two years later, it was upheld by the Supreme Court as constitutional. Later that year, in 2012, President Obama ran on his support of the law and his promise to implement it and was elected by a wide margin. I would note, every single Senator here who voted for it and stood for election got returned to the Senate.

But despite all of this—despite the fact that after 100 years of debate, the democratic process produced a health care reform bill that expands coverage to millions of Americans and lowers the cost of insurance for them, despite the fact that it withstood all of the challenges that can come to a major reform like that—including a constitutional challenge, including the question being put to the electorate again after the law was passed in 2010 and 2012—despite all that, Republicans have been coming to the floor of the Senate and the floor of the House saying we have got to shut down the government because the people don't want this health care law to be implemented.

And that is why they are doing this right now—because they know this is their last chance to try to get this law repealed. This law, which has already saved millions of seniors money, which right now as we speak is saving families thousands of dollars as they sign up for these exchanges, they know this is their last chance to get this bill repealed because it is about to go into effect, and all of their ridiculous arguments about how the sky is going to fall once this reform is implemented will be proven untrue. So Republicans come down here and say the American public wants this delayed.

First, let me make the point that my colleagues have been making all day: This is not the place to have that conversation. The people of this country do not support the government being shut down over Republicans' objection to the healthcare bill. There is no way this place can work if every single person adopts a ''my way or the highway'' approach, if it is a condition of running the government for just 6 weeks—which is essentially what we are arguing over here—that we have to get everybody's particular political points solved.

I get it the Republicans don't like the health care bill. But I come from Newtown, CT. I don't understand why we can't agree that before you buy a weapon, everybody should get a simple criminal background check. That is as important as anything in the world to me, coming from where I do. But I am not conditioning my support for the operation of the Federal Government upon Republicans agreeing to support me on background checks. And I bet I feel just as strongly about background checks, coming from a State which witnessed that kind of slaughter, as any Republican believes in the repeal of the health care law. But that is not how I am going to operate, nor is it how any other Democrat is operating.

When I listen to people say, well, neither side is willing to negotiate, we don't have anything to negotiate over,

because all we want is for the government to be operational. We are not attaching any conditions—no conditions, zero conditions—to the government coming back and operating. The only party attaching conditions to the operation of the Federal Government is Republicans. This isn't a negotiation. We just want the government to be back open for business, with no extras.

But I am OK to have a debate on what the people think about the health care law. I don't think it should be: Well, we have the government shut down. I don't think there should be a gun to our head involving the paychecks of thousands of both government and civilian employees as well as the safety of our Nation and of our food and of our water and of our air. But let's have that debate. Polls are going to tell you people are still kind of divided as to whether they like the particulars of the law that we passed to reform our health care system, but they do not want it repealed. In fact, one of the most recent polls I looked at, which has been consistent with most everything I have seen, said that only 33 percent of Americans, just 1 out of 3, want the law repealed or delayed or defunded. By a 2-to-1 margin, people want the health care law implemented because they get that the current system is totally broken and they want a chance to try to fix it.

Second, by absolutely astounding, overwhelming margins the American people oppose the tea party's attempt to shut down the government unless the health care bill is repealed. Those numbers are even bigger. It is not 2-to-1, it is more like 3-to-1 or 4-to-1. The most recent Quinnipiac University poll said the American public opposes Republican efforts to shut down the Government over the defunding of the health care law by a 72-to-22 margin. And of course the next hostage that Republicans are going to take is the full faith and credit of the American government because they are not going to raise the debt ceiling unless they get a whole other set of conditions agreed to, and guess what. The American public does not want that either. By a slightly smaller margin of 64-to-27 percent the American public says pay your bills. Don't put a bunch of conditions, a bunch of political riders on just paying your bills.

When Americans fill the gas tank, they put their credit card in and pay the bill. They don't fill the tank and drive away, which is essentially what we would be doing if we agreed to a budget and then refused to pay the bills we incurred.

Third, beyond the polling on the specific repeal or delay, beyond the polling on the shutdown tactics that Republicans are using, do you want to know what people think of this health care law? Then just look at what happened over the last 48 hours after these exchanges opened. The volume at healthcare.gov continues to be astronomical. Even today on I think the third day of implementation, 6.1 million unique visits in the first 24 hours; 190,000 calls into the HHS call center; 104,000 Web chats were requested.

I think the estimate is that about 15 million people are going to sign up for either the expanded Medicaid portion of the law or private insurance through the exchanges in the first year or so; 15 million are going to sign up over the entirety of the first year. On the first day, 6.1 million people went to check out whether they are going to get a better product. It is going to take a little while for all those people to sign up, but if 6 million people are just showing up on the Web site on day 1, admittedly shutting the thing down for a little while and making the Web site slow down significantly, that tells you people out there are desperate for cheaper insurance. And they are going to get it.

I saw someone who was quoted in the paper who looked at the rate they were going to get in the exchange versus what they were paying and they called it a ''pocketbook changer.'' This changes people's lives. Not only will they get insurance for the first time but to the extent that today people are paying 20, 30, 40 percent more than they may have to pay on the exchange, that helps them and helps our economy because that money goes right back out into Main Street.

Mr. President, 6.1 million people went on the site in the first 24 hours because all of these sick people or parents with sick kids who have been waiting their entire lives to be able to get health care finally get it, because on the exchanges insurance companies cannot tell you ''no'' just because you are sick. I hate to tell my friends on the other side of the aisle but there is an enormous amount of really sick people out there who have been getting sicker because they cannot afford to go to a doctor. Why are there 6 million people showing up on the Web site on day 1? It is because there are a lot of people in trouble, in dire straits, who want insurance.

The reason there is a flood of interest in these exchanges is because people want cheaper and better health care and they are sick and tired of waiting around for it. But what they are even more sick and more tired of is this place playing games with life and death, because that is what this is to people out there. If they get access to health care, then they have a chance at a quality life. If they do not, they are going to get sick and a lot of people are not going to make it.

We should fund the Government, get it back up and operating. Speaker BOEHNER has the votes to pass a clean continuing resolution in the House tonight, today. He should call it up for a vote. He can pass it. We can pass it. The government can get back up and operating and then we can have a debate about whether people in this country want the health care law implemented. It may be that people from a certain Senator's State or a certain congressional district may have different feelings. But the people of this country, both in the polling and in their response to the first 3 days of its implementation, have made it perfectly clear: They don't want this place to play games with the operation of the Federal Government. They do not support the tea party shutting down the Federal Government over their political beliefs and they want access—for the first time in many of their lives—to affordable health care.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Are we under a 10-minute time limit? Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

TRIBUTE TO ERIK FATEMI

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Erik Fatemi, the clerk of my appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, is leaving the Senate this week after 12 years of sterling service. On behalf of Senators from both sides of the aisle who have had the good fortune to work with Erik over the years, I would like to take a few minutes to express our gratitude.

Knute Rockne was probably the all-time great coach at Notre Dame, and he knew that the Almighty had a special feeling for that team. But Rockne was fond of saying: ''I've found that prayers work best when you have big players.''

Successful committee chairs in the Senate have the same approach. We know that it is not enough to be on the side of the angels; we have got to have big players. Here in the Senate, that means big intellect, big heart, big work ethic. And those are qualities that Erik Fatemi possesses in superabundance.

Erik joined my Appropriations staff in early 2001, a few months before Senator Jim Jeffords switched from Republican to Independent, giving Democrats back the majority in the Senate. So Erik has been in the minority with me, then the majority, then back to the minority, and now in the majority again.

Over the years, Erik has acquired a profound knowledge of the appropriations and legislative processes that is widely respected not just by Members and staff in this Chamber, but also in the administration. And with Erik, it's not only a matter of know-how, it is also a matter of know-who. Over the years, Erik developed important relationship of trust and respect, especially

with top researchers and institute directors at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health since 2009, recently said about Erik: ''Erik Fatemi stands out in my mind as one of the most effective staff members I have worked with on Capitol Hill. Erik is the exemplar of an effective appropriations staffer: he has always mastered any of the issues he's been involved in and he has always demonstrated the 'passion for anonymity' of a loyal staff member. An expert on NIH, Erik has always been tough, fair and compassionate. He always asked the tough questions and would not give up until he got straight answers—wether it was from the NIH or the broader biomedical research community. And in all of his dealings with NIH and me, he has always kept uppermost in his mind the millions of patients and their families who count on the treatments, cures, and preventive measures that publicly-funded biomedical research makes possible. Throughout his career, in his dedication to his boss, Tom Harkin, and in his commitment to patients and their families, Erik Fatemi has been a superb Appropriations staffer and a model public servant.''

As notable as Dr. Collins praise is, I long ago lost track of the number of times people have thanked me for things that Erik played a huge role in getting done. Let me mention a few of his many accomplishments.

One signal achievement of my time as chair of the Appropriations subcommittee was collaborating with Senator Arlen Specter to double funding for the National Institutes of Health over a 5-year period. Erik played a very significant role in making that possible in 2001, 2002, and 2003—and that is something that he can be very proud of.

In the late 2000s, I was chief Senate sponsor of the Stem Cell Enhancement Act, to remove the administration's arbitrary restrictions on stem cell research and Erik was my lead staffer on the bill. With Erik's invaluable assistance, we passed the Stem Cell Enhancement Act twice in Congress with large bipartisan majorities. Unfortunately, the bill was also vetoed twice by President Bush. And do you know what. That is about the only thing that can stop Erik Fatemi: A veto by the President of the United States. The good news, of course, is that we ultimately prevailed, with President Obama's executive order in early 2009.

During and after the great recession, Erik took the lead in identifying and responding to the impact the downturn could have on our Nation's education system. He illustrated for me and other Members of Congress the devastating impact educator layoffs would have on our children's education and our Nation's future. The historic Recovery Act and the later Education Jobs Act kept hundreds of thousands of teachers and other educators in our schools, and Erik helped me shape the debate and passage of those critical laws.

Erik played a key role in the creation of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at NIH, which is accelerating the pace of getting new cures and therapies to the patients who need them.

He also oversaw production of the 2012 report ''Under Threat: Sequestration's Impact on Nondefense Jobs and Services.'' This was the first comprehensive State-by-State projections of the destructive impacts of sequestration on nondefense discretionary programs.

All of these accomplishments amply demonstrate Erik's skills and talents as a top Senate staffer. But Erik is more than that. He is the quintessential humble public servant who works long hours on behalf of this institution and the people of the United States.

Let me cite just one aspect of that humble service. Over the years, Erik has spent countless hours explaining to thousands of constituents and advocates what was happening on Capitol Hill at any given moment. I can't imagine how many times and to how many audiences he has patiently explained how the legislative process works, especially the arcane and sometimes bizarre workings of appropriations.

As a Senator, I have always appreciated that when Erik couldn't tell my constituents the answer they wanted to hear—which, unfortunately is most of the time, especially these last few years—he would respond to every question and e-mail promptly and honestly. In dealings with Erik, people always know that he is listening and taking their concerns seriously.

Finally, I also want to express my appreciation to Erik's family members, especially his wife Alisann and their beloved daughters, Caroline, Kathryn, and Anna Christina. They, too, have sacrificed as Erik has spent many late nights and weekends toiling in the Dirksen Building. It was not easy to experience those absences, but I hope you realize that Erik's work has made a powerful difference for the American people.

Erik, I join with the entire Senate family in thanking you for your outstanding service. We wish you, Alisann, Caroline, Kathryn and Anna Christina much happiness in the years ahead.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, more and more interesting figures are coming in to my health committee from around the country with regard to what is happening around the Nation in terms of the health care marketplace, ObamaCare. The Republicans said it was going to be a failure and all that kind of stuff and how it was going to cost so much more money. I do not have it for every State. It is starting to come in. But I have it for some States and I want to give this body and people watching some of the initial figures that have come in on the savings to families. For example, in Alabama, $2,013 premiums for a family of four—median premium for month. This is just the average, take the median. In Alabama, for a family of four this year the premium was $557.58 a month. We now know the marketplace premium, family of four making $50,000 a year with the tax credits, their monthly premium will be $112 a month, a savings of $445.58 a month for a family of four making $50,000 year in the State of Alabama.

In my State of Iowa, that median premium per month for a family of four this year was $549.58. The marketplace premium for that family of four at $50,000 with tax credits is now $103 a month, for a savings of $446.58 per month for that family of four.

I was looking at Oklahoma. Their median premium this year was $684 a month. The marketplace premium for that family of four—again, $50,000 a year—with their tax credits, believe it or not, is $63 per month. They will go from $684 to $63 a month. Those families will have a savings of $621 a month in the State of Oklahoma.

The median premium per month for a family of four in Texas this year is $504.50. Their marketplace premium for a family of four making $50,000 a year, after the tax credits, $57 a month, for a savings of $447.50 a month. It is an amazing savings.

Many of these people are getting insurance for the first time. Many of these people may have had a preexisting condition or perhaps they worked in a job that did not give them health care coverage or perhaps they simply couldn't afford $500 a month in Texas, but now they can afford $57 a month and get coverage for their family of four, and they will get a subsidy for buying that marketplace insurance.

Is this what the Republicans want to stop? Is this what they want so desperately to stop that they are willing to shut down government? They ought to talk to some of these families in Texas, Iowa, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Michigan.

The premium for a family of four in Michigan is $381 a month this year. In the marketplace it will be $80 a month.

Georgia's premium for a family of four is $448 a month this year and will go down to $132 a month under the marketplace. That is what the Republicans want to stop? Well, I think we are seeing that what the Republicans really wanted to do was to keep the same old system we have where health insurance companies call the tune, you pay the price, and if you couldn't afford it, tough luck, go to the emergency room. Now we are going to cover all Americans.

More and more information will come in, and as it comes in, I will take the floor to give more and more information about the call centers. Right now—in the last 2 days—over 7 million Americans have visited healthcare.gov

to get more information on what they can do to sign up. Again, the marketplace call center—these are calls, not the Web site—received over 295,000 calls since midnight on October 1. The wait time has been cut in half so now the wait time is only 2 minutes. The wait time is only 2 minutes if you call in to the call center.

Again, I want to repeat what I said yesterday—and I know the majority leader said it this morning—about the dangers of continuing this government shutdown. I quoted a Congressman from Iowa who said in Politico:

> We passed the witching hour at midnight last night and the sky didn't fall and the roof didn't cave in.

Is that what has to happen? Does the sky have to fall and the roof have to cave in before we do something? I pointed it out yesterday, and I will point it out again today: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is closed down. Why is that important? Well, we are now in the flu season. More than 200,000 Americans are hospitalized due to the flu each year. In a mild year 3,000 people will die from the flu, and in a severe year that number could rise to 50,000.

The CDC monitors which strains are circulating around the country and which communities are being hit the hardest. They are the ones who look at how to contain it and keep it from spreading. They are not doing that now because they are shut down.

Food safety: Twelve days ago, 162 people in 10 States became ill with hepatitis A because of eating frozen berries. Right away the CDC got on the job, sent their epidemiologists out there, tracked it down, isolated it, recalled it, and found out it was pomegranate berries from Turkey. Well, 162 people got Hepatitis A, but nobody else did. CDC is not out there doing this now because they are shut down. That was just 12 days ago.

What if we have another outbreak of food poisoning? How fast will it spread? How many people have to get sick? Is that what this Congressman from Iowa is saying, that we have to have more people get sick? Is that what he means when he says the sky hasn't fallen or the roof hasn't caved in?

In August, cyclosporine infected 643 people from a salad mix. It started in my home State of Iowa. They immediately called the Centers for Disease Control. The CDC got on it right away and found that this salad mix was sent to 25 States. They recalled it all, traced it to salad that had come from Mexico, and they stopped it.

How many people have to get sick? Do we have to have a West Nile virus, hepatitis, e. coli, or a vast outbreak of the flu virus before they say: Well, that is enough, I guess we can start the government up again. It is totally irresponsible to say: Well, we can shut down the government because the sky hasn't fallen and the roof hasn't caved in.

Members of Congress are getting their paycheck. They are coming to work every day. We are here and we are getting our pay. How about all of those government workers who work on our staffs, on our committees, and run the Senate? They are good, hard-working public servants, and they are out of work and not getting a paycheck.

I have staff people who don't make a lot of money. They have families, a mortgage, and maybe a car payment to make, but they don't have any money coming in. If they wanted to go to the credit union here to get a bridge loan to get them through the crisis, they can't because the credit union is shut down. Now where do they go? Do they get the money from their credit card? I say to the Congressman from Iowa that for these people the roof has caved in and the sky has fallen.

There are thousands of Head Start kids who will be sent home from Head Start this month and working parents will have to find something else for them. What are they going to do? For them the sky has fallen and the roof has caved in. Don't we care about them?

I mentioned Social Security too. Social Security will still take your claims and your application for a Social Security card, but that is it. You won't get it because the backlog is backing up. They will take it, but they won't process it.

I mentioned that 445,000 people call their Social Security office every day in this country. They will not get an answer now. There are 180,000 people who visit a Social Security office every day in this country, but they can't now because they are closed. They lost their Medicare card or Social Security card or they need a new Medicaid card.

There are 22,000 Americans who file for retirement benefits every day and 12,000 apply for disability benefits. They can still apply, but they are not going to get any help. For them the sky has fallen and the roof has caved in.

What is this Congressman saying, that the sky has to fall on him and the roof has to cave in on him before he will do something to help open the government? And to hear them talk about it—a representative said ''this is about the happiest'' she has been. This is a Congresswoman from Minnesota. ''This is about the happiest I've seen members in a long time,'' she said.

> ''We are very excited,'' said Representative Michele Bachmann. ''It's exactly what we wanted, and we got it.''

Shutting down the government is exactly what they wanted and they got it.

> ''It's wonderful,'' said Representative John Abney Culberson of Texas, clapping his hands to emphasize his point. ''We are 100 percent united.''

So this is where we are. The tea party group in the House is happy to shut down the government. It is the happiest they have been, they said. They want this discord, disunity, chaos, and confusion. The American people don't want that.

The American people don't want to turn their back on ObamaCare either because they see that now they are able to get coverage. Even if they have a preexisting condition, they can get a good rate for themselves and their families which they could not get before.

Now it is time to open the government again, put people back to work so we can meet our responsibilities to the American people.

I call upon Speaker BOEHNER to take the continuing resolution that is sitting over in the House now—it is a continuing resolution that will open the government. He says we wouldn't negotiate. We already negotiated because before that we had one level of spending in the bill, they had a lower level of spending, and we agreed with them. We took the lower level. We took the Republicans' level.

All he has to do is bring that to the House floor and it will pass in the next 10 to 30 minutes. It will pass, and then we can open the government so people can get back to work. The Centers for Disease Control can get their people back out in the field. The National Institutes of Health will open once again. Head Start kids will be able to stay in their Head Start Programs. The Women, Infants, and Children feeding program will be able to get the necessary nutritious food for poor kids and kids who are homeless.

All Speaker BOEHNER has to do to end this is to bring that bill on the floor. He doesn't even have to vote for it. Congressman BOEHNER doesn't have to vote for it. Just throw it out, and I will bet that enough moderate Republicans and Democrats will vote to pass it. I challenge him to bring it out. Let's see what happens. That is the way to end this debacle right now.

With that, I yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have been informed that I spoke incorrectly a few minutes ago when I said the credit union was closed. I guess one office is closed someplace, but another office is open and they will take calls. So I guess the office in the Hart Building is still open. I guess another office someplace else is closed. So I spoke incorrectly.

But I will continue to make this point: Isn't it a shame that our staffs, who work hard, have to go to a credit union to borrow money to get them through this period of time, to meet a mortgage payment or a car payment or whatever it is? We don't have to do that; we continue to get paid while we are here.

Again, in response to the remarks that, well, the sky hasn't fallen and the roof hasn't caved in, according to this Congressman from Iowa, for someone who now has to borrow money, even from a credit union—I belong to the credit union—for someone who has to borrow money from the credit union, it is just not right. This is simply not right and another reason why we have to call off this government shutdown, which, as I said, we could do in the next few minutes if Mr. BOEHNER would just put on the floor the continuing resolution he has over there and let his people vote on it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, we are now 3 days into a completely unnecessary, completely avoidable Republican shutdown, and there is more talk than ever about the inability of our leaders to find common ground on central, economic, and fiscal issues of our time.

This government shutdown is throwing a major wrench into a fragile economic recovery. Nearly 1 million Federal employees are sitting at home for no reason, and other public servants are working but not earning a paycheck. Cancer patients are being turned away from clinical trials at the NIH. Veterans' benefits are at risk. Basic nutrition services for pregnant women and new moms will be disrupted. Small businesses won't be able to get Federal loan guarantees. And all this is happening on top of the idiotic sequester—drastic, across-the-board spending cuts that have crippled Meals On Wheels, Head Start, and investments in medical research.

We all know how we got here. For years now we have heard a small minority in this country rail against government. When I hear the latest tirades from some of the extremists in the House, I am struck by how vague these complaints are. From their rhetoric, one would think they believed that anytime we, the people, come together to improve our lives, the Nation is committing some terrible wrong. From their rhetoric, one would think they believe that the government that functions best is a government that doesn't function at all. So far, they haven't ended government, but they have achieved the next best thing—shutting the government down.

But behind all the slogans of the tea party and all the thinly veiled calls for anarchy in Washington, behind all that there is a reality. The American people don't want the extremist Republicans' bizarre vision of a future without government. They don't support it. Why? Because the American people know that without government, we would no longer be a great nation with a bright future. The American people know that government matters.

The anarchy gang is quick to malign government, but when was the last time anyone called for regulators to go easier on companies that put lead in children's toys or for food inspectors to stop checking whether the meat in our grocery stores is crawling with deadly bacteria or for the FDA to ignore whether morning sickness drugs will cause horrible deformities in little babies? We never hear that—not from political leaders in Washington and not from the American people. In fact, whenever the anarchy gang makes headway in their efforts to damage our government, the opposite happens. After the sequester kicked in, Republicans immediately turned around and called on the technical funding for our national defense and to keep the air traffic controllers on the job.

Now that the House Republicans have shut down the government, holding the country hostage because of some imaginary health care bogeyman, Republicans almost immediately turned around and called on us to start reopening parts of our government. Why did they do this? Because the bogeyman ''government'' is like the bogeyman under the bed. It is not real. It doesn't exist.

What is real and what does exist are all the important work we as Americans have chosen to do together through our government. In our democracy, government is not some make-believe thing that has an independent will of its own. In our democracy, government is just how we describe what we, the people, have already decided to do together. It is not complicated. Our government has three basic functions: provide for the national defense; put in place rules of the road, such as speed limits, and bank regulations that are fair and transparent; and build that which none of us can build alone—roads, power grids, schools—that which gives everyone a chance to succeed.

We are a nation of innovators and entrepreneurs, growing small businesses and thriving big businesses. But our people succeed, our country succeeds because we have all come together to put public institutions and infrastructure together. We all decided to pass laws and put cops on the beat so that no one steals a purse on Main Street or a pension on Wall Street. We all decided to invest in public education so that businesses have skilled workers and a kid with an idea can create the next breakthrough company. We all decided to invest in basic science so there is a great pipeline of ideas to create our future. These achievements aren't magic. They didn't simply occur on their own or through dumb luck. In each instance we made a choice as a people to come together.

The Food and Drug Administration makes sure the white pills we take are antibiotics and not baking soda. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration oversees crash tests to make sure all new cars have effective brakes. The Consumer Product Safety Commission makes sure babies' car seats don't collapse in a crash and toasters don't explode. We don't know who they are, but there is no question that there are Americans alive today, Americans who are healthier, Americans who are stronger, because of these and countless other government efforts—alive, healthier, stronger because of what we did together.

The anarchy gang in the House can dump on their make-believe version of government all they want, but when the real government fails to live up to the high expectations we have all set for it, politicians in both parties rush to outrage. Why? Because the American people know government can work and believe government should work.

Today—that is right, today—marks the fifth anniversary of President Bush signing the bank bailout into law. That financial crisis cost us upwards of $14 trillion—that is trillion with a ''t.'' That is $120,000 for every American household—more than 2 years' worth of income for the average family. Billions of dollars in retirement savings have disappeared, millions of workers lost their jobs, and millions more families lost their homes.

In April 2011, after a 2-year bipartisan inquiry, the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations released a 635-page report that made it plain: Regulators could have and should have used their existing tools to prevent the crisis. Republicans and Democrats, a bipartisan group, found strong agreement that—we better believe it—government matters.

The attacks on government are abstract, but the consequences of this shutdown are real: less accountability for cheaters and rule-breakers, less opportunity for our children, cracks in the foundations that businesses need to succeed, and a tilted playing field that limits opportunities for all of our people.

We know that government doesn't always work. We know no institution is infallible. People make mistakes, ideas fail, and sometimes we get it wrong. But our response isn't to give up. Our response isn't to sit back and say: I told you so. We are not a nation of quitters. Our response, the American response, is to fix it, to make government work better.

Our democracy is an experiment, and it is always evolving. We constantly redesign and reimagine and improve on what we do together. But time and time again throughout our history we have reaffirmed the simple truth that government matters. Right now, right at this moment, if we look closely, we will see that we are reaffirming it once again. It is not an accident that the desire to shut down government is confined to one extremist faction of one political party of one Chamber of Congress of one branch of government. It is not an accident that this extremist faction must resort to absurd hostage tactics—threats to turn off the government, threats to default on our debt, threats to tank the economy—to force their views on everyone else. It is not an accident that this faction is doing everything in its power to make government appear dysfunctional.

In a democracy, these hostage tactics are the last resort for those who can't win their fights through elections, can't win their fights through Congress, can't win their fights for the Presidency, and can't win their fights in courts. But these threats are not working and they will never work because this is a democracy, and for more than 200 years our democracy has defeated extremists and rejected the idea that government does not matter.

So to those who have forced us to the brink, to those who rail against a make-believe government, to those who seem to rejoice in anarchy, to those who have salivated at the chance to shut down our government because their extremist views have left them disconnected from the experiences of the American people, it is time to hear a simple message:

You can do your best to make government look like it does not work when you stop it from working, you can do your best to make government look paralyzed when you paralyze it, you can do your best to make government look incompetent through your incompetence and through your ineffectiveness, but sooner or later the government will reopen because this is a democracy and this democracy has already rejected your views.

We have already chosen to work together because we all know we are stronger when we come together. And when this government reopens, when our markets are safe again, when our scientists can return to their research, when our small businesses can borrow, when our veterans can be respected for their service, when our flu shots resume and our Head Start programs get back to teaching our kids, we will have rejected your views once again.

We are not a country of anarchists. We are not a country of pessimists and ideologues whose motto is ''I got mine. The rest of you are on your own.'' We are not a country that tolerates dangerous drugs, unsafe meat, dirty air, or toxic mortgages. We are not that nation, we have never been that nation, and we will never be that nation.

Today, a political minority in the House that condemns government and begged for this shutdown has had its day. But like all the reckless and extremist factions that have come before it, their day will pass and our democracy will return to the important work we have already chosen to do together.

I thank the Chair.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I did not really expect to come down here and speak. I was just checking on a judge vote, which I understand has been postponed. But I do say this: It appears to me that the CR discussion and the debt ceiling discussion are going to be combined maybe into one effort, and I just want to say that I think that is a great opportunity for all of us. I was down here yesterday talking about the same.

Typically, when we have dealt with issues such as this, what we have tried to do together is figure out a way to strengthen our country through making those kinds of reforms that lessen the amount of deficits we are going to have in the future. That is typically what debates such as this have been about.

So I think the realization that people have right now—that we could well try to deal with the CR and the debt ceiling at the same time—could move us back into the kind of constructive conversation we have had for so long around mandatory spending reforms, figuring out a way to keep spending reductions where they are but build upon them, but do it in a way that is more sensible than what we have done in the past.

So, again, I was beginning to get worried. And I will stop in a minute. It looks as if the senior Senator——

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, will my friend from Tennessee yield for a question?

Mr. CORKER. I would be tremendously honored to take a question from the distinguished Senator.

Mr. MCCAIN. Has the Senator seen the polls of American public opinion about what we are doing here? Has the Senator had a chance to see that?

Mr. CORKER. I do not pay as much attention to polls possibly as I should. My understanding, in listening to the senior Senator from Arizona, is they are not particularly favorable.

Mr. MCCAIN. To all of us. To all of us.

Mr. CORKER. Yes. I did not mean to individuals.

Mr. MCCAIN. To both sides of the aisle. And they do not understand, isn't it true, why we have not been able to come to some conclusion?

As the Senator from Tennessee just said, we now are going to have this merged into the debt limit.

Mr. CORKER. Right.

Mr. MCCAIN. The Senator from Tennessee has an extensive background in finance. Isn't it true that the world markets would react in a very, very severe fashion if we allowed the debt limit to expire?

Mr. CORKER. I think everyone understands that is very problematic for markets. Actually, we are beginning to see some volatility now that we have not seen in the past.

I would like to respond, if I could, a little more fully to say that I think we have an opportunity—look, we have been in a place that I think people have known. We have known exactly where the discussions in the past were going to lead; that is, to this box canyon.

I think the fact that we have ended up in a place now where these two things may merge—and I know the senior Senator from Arizona has been involved in multiple conversations about this—I think we have an opportunity now to begin talking again about those things that strengthen our Nation and looking at some reforms, not to do so in a chicken way, in a way where you have two cars heading at each other, but to use this like previous debt ceilings have been used where adults sit down, they look at the problems our Nation is facing, and we do some things that, candidly, in a bipartisan way, people have been trying to do for a long time.

I would like to mention one more time—I know I did this yesterday, and I know the senior Senator from Arizona and myself have spent a lot of time together on this issue—the President, in his budget in April, put forth some mandatory reforms. Many of those are pretty good. I would like to make them better, but they are a pretty good start. We have a few days—a week, 2 weeks—here where we could actually sit down maybe and cobble something together that would mean that while all this acrimony has existed for some time, we might get back on target and back to focusing on making our country stronger.

I know today we were in this incredible hearing on Iran, and I certainly appreciated the comments of the senior Senator from Arizona about our concerns there. One of the biggest issues we have around the world right now is just people look at us—as the Senator was alluding to a minute ago—as unable to deal with our fiscal issues.

So I look at what has happened. I know it can be viewed in whichever way you want to view it. I look at it as being a glass half full. We have an opportunity over the next short period of time to do some good policy, put some good policy in place, to pass a CR, to pass the debt ceiling, and again move our country ahead toward being stronger.

I am sorry to respond with such a long answer.

Mr. MCCAIN. May I ask just one more question of my friend from Tennessee.

We know that sooner or later the government will begin to function again—sooner or later.

Mr. CORKER. It will function again.

Mr. MCCAIN. Sooner or later we will address the debt ceiling because the United States is not going to renege on its debts.

Mr. CORKER. That is right.

Mr. MCCAIN. It is going to meet its obligations. So we know those are facts. We know that at some point there is going to have to be a resolution. It is not going to go on forever. Nothing does. So if it argues for a solution, shouldn't we ask all parties to sit down and start discussions that the Senator and I and others have had kind of on an ad hoc basis, sort of, with people here and there and then conversations here and there, to start laying the groundwork?

I also want to point out that I think it is important that the President of the United States, rather than saying ''I will not negotiate with anybody under any circumstances,'' say ''I am willing to sit down and negotiate. I am willing to join with all parties in trying to find a way through this.''

We will sooner or later. The question is not whether we will solve these issues. The question really is—and I ask my friend from Tennessee—how much damage will be done before we solve it. Right now, there are people beginning to hurt all over America, and maybe it is not so bad right now, but it is going to get worse every single day that goes by. Frankly, I think we owe the American people more than that. Now, if somebody wants to blame me, fine. I will take the blame. If they want to blame the Senator from Tennessee, put the blame on him—on the President, on anybody. But shouldn't we remember what our duties are here?

Mr. CORKER. Absolutely. As a matter of fact, I am just looking down to see what the date is, but it seems to me that we have 2 weeks here, and to get to the Senator's comments, hopefully a week. In other words, the quicker we resolve these issues, the better it is for our Nation, the better it is for the world, because at the end of the day, let's face it, what we care about most is the well-being of our citizens back home. We know that uncertainty creates uncertainty in the economy. It affects people's jobs. I would agree.

Look, we are at that moment in time where we have all realized the CR and the debt ceiling are probably going to be linked together. They are linked together in essence, and, as the senior Senator from Arizona just mentioned, there is no question we are going to resolve those. So what we ought to do is sit down right now, the President of the United States, the appropriate leadership here in the House and Senate—and whether it is they or their proxies—but to sit down, and let's figure out if there are some reforms we can put in place to make our country stronger and to again get back on the right topic, which is our financial strength. I think we could do that.

The fact is that there are no new issues. Every single issue has been litigated. There is legislative language. They are scored. There is not a new issue for us to talk about relative to putting some good policy in place to move ahead.

The Senator from Arizona has been so involved in these issues. I just could not agree more. I know the junior Senator from Arizona is sitting in the back, and I know he has been incredibly responsible fiscally.

I think we have an opportunity. I think this body should take advantage of it. I think the President should come to the table, take advantage of it, the leadership of the House. Let's do something good for our country. Let's do it in an appropriate amount of time. Let's put this behind us and move on—move on as a nation.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my friend.

Does the Senator yield the floor?

Mr. CORKER. I do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I want to thank my friend from Tennessee, whose commitment to achieving solutions and resolution of this bitter environment in which we find ourselves is admirable. I am grateful for his participation and his leadership. I also thank my young, handsome colleague from Arizona, who also has had a many yearlong commitment to fiscal sanity and balance. I thank my colleagues.

SYRIA

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk for a short period of time about Syria, which is, although not dominating our conversation here—lead stories in both the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal are deeply disturbing.

First, I would like to point out that on the front page of the Wall Street Journal today there is an article titled ''Syrian Regime Chokes Off Food To Town That Was Gassed.'' I repeat: ''Syrian Regime Chokes Off Food To Town That Was Gassed.''

Government forces are tightening the noose around one of the suburbs gassed by chemical weapons in August, raising concerns of a fresh humanitarian crisis as residents forage for olives, grapevine leaves and other basic foods.

Pro-regime fighters—

That is Bashar al-Assad's killers—

have encircled about 12,000 people, mostly civilians but also including some rebel fighters, in the town of Moadhamiya, according to local and international aid workers, opposition activists and people interviewed on Monday in a government-controlled section of the town.

This is a town that is strategically important to both sides because the flow of humanitarian and military aid flows through this particular area for those who are fighting in Aleppo and in Damascus.

The story goes on:

''We won't allow them to be nourished in order to kill us,'' said a 24-year-old pro-regime paramilitary in the government-controlled section. . . . ''Let them starve for a bit, surrender and then be put on trial.''

These are the same people, apparently government forces, that are ''cooperating'' with us on chemical weapons, that are allowing inspectors to come in to gather the chemical weapons. So they have 12,000 people encircled, that they have already gassed, 1,400 of them, 400 children in the same town. So now they are going to starve them. Like the fighters said, ''Let them starve for a bit, surrender and then be put on trial.''

It is remarkable. An opposition activist inside the rebel-held side of the town who was reached by Skype said the situation is so dire now in the rebel-controlled area that people are subsisting on whatever they can forage locally, including olives, grapevine leaves, fresh mint, and figs.

So here we have the latest result of our wonderful and much heralded agreement on chemical weapons. They killed, in this town, 1,400 people, 400 of them children, with gas. Now they are going to kill 12,000 more with conventional weapons: bombs, guns, tanks, knives. Brutality and torture has characterized their behavior for a long period of time.

It seems to me it is a little bizarre. It is a little bizarre that we are hailing this cooperation from Bashar Assad on chemical weapons, and meanwhile the slaughter goes on: 110,000 dead, 1 million children refugees, the surrounding countries being destabilized, and, of course, the refugee camps are terrible situations to which we have not given the assistance that we should.

I urge all of my colleagues, if they had the opportunity, to visit one of these refugee camps and hear the stories of the murder, the gang rapes, the torture that is the official doctrine of Bashar Assad, not random acts of violence. The defectors from Bashar Assad's military will tell you that is their training and indoctrination and instructions.

So the second article today is from the Washington Post. ''CIA ramping up covert training program for moderate Syrian rebels.''

The CIA is expanding a clandestine effort to train opposition fighters in Syria amid concern that moderate U.S.-backed militias are rapidly losing ground in the country's civil war.

But the CIA program is so miniscule that it is expected to produce only a few hundred trained fighters each month even after it is enlarged, a level that officials said will do little to bolster rebel forces that are being eclipsed by radical Islamists in the fight against the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Here is the interesting part.

The CIA's mission, officials said, has been defined by the White Houses's desire to seek a political settlement, a scenario that relies on an eventual stalemate among the warring factions rather than a clear victor. As a result, officials said, limits on the agency's authorities enable it to provide enough support to help ensure that politically moderate, U.S.-supported militias don't lose but not enough for them to win.

Picture these young people who are fighting in Syria today. The official U.S. policy is that they will provide weapons but only enough so they cannot win. Those people are being slaughtered. They are being murdered. They are dying. Some 110,000 have died. I am not sure how many of them were actual fighters. The official U.S. policy, according to the Washington Post, is that they want them not to win.

It is hard to motivate people to fight for a cause that we are not willing to help them win.

The agency has trained fewer than 1,000 rebel fighters this year, current and former U.S. officials said. By contrast, U.S. intelligence analysts estimate that more than 20,000 have been trained to fight for government-backed militias by Assad's ally Iran

and the Hezbollah militant network it sponsors.

So we have trained 1,000. We are going to do about 100 a week, I guess, something like that. More than 20,000 have been trained by the Iranians, who are all in, and we expect them to be able to continue fighting.

The CIA is ramping up its effort . . . it was clear that the opposition was losing, and not only losing tactically but on a more strategic level.

Congressman MIKE ROGERS, whom I respect a lot, Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said there is a—

. . . high degree of frustration . . . with the Syrian strategy. The situation in Syria is changing faster than the administration can keep up. U.S. support for moderate opposition groups is less than robust and has been hobbled by inconsistent resource allocation with stated goals.

CIA veterans expressed skepticism that the training and weapons deliveries will have any meaningful effect. In Jordan, operatives involved in training and arming rebels lament that we're being asked to do something with nothing.

I would like to quote some articles:

''Al-Qaeda expands in Syria via Islamic State.''

A rebranded vision of Iraq's al-Qaeda affiliate is surging onto the front lines of the war in neighboring Syria, expanding into territory seized by other rebel groups and carving out the kind of sanctuaries that the U.S. military spent more than a decade fighting to prevent in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We left Iraq. Iraq is now deteriorating. Thousands of people are being killed literally every month. Now we see Al Qaeda coming from Iraq in larger and larger numbers.

Finally, I would like to mention the Wall Street Journal article from some time ago:

''Iranians Dial Up Presence in Syria. Shiite Militiamen From Across the Arab World Train at a Base Near Tehran to Do Battle in Syria.''

At a base near Tehran, Iranian forces are training Shiite militiamen from across the Arab world to do battle in Syria—showing the widening role of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps in Syria's bloody war.

The busloads of Shiite militiamen from Iraq, Syria and other Arab states have been arriving at the Iranian base in recent weeks, under cover of darkness, for instruction in urban warfare and the teaching of Iran's clerics, according to Iranian military figures and residents in the area. The fighters' mission: Fortify the Syrian regime of President Bashar al-Assad against Sunni rebels, the U.S. and Israel.

So here is what we should take away from all this recent reporting: Despite the recent agreement on chemical weapons, that agreement does nothing to address the underlying conflict in Syria, which not only continues but is getting worse and worse.

So, my friends, as the administration trumpets this deal of chemical weapons, the fact is that the slaughter goes on. It is clear to these people whom I have spoken with personally, tragically their morale is badly damaged. They believe they have been abandoned. The ongoing tragedy and massacre continues in Syria. The United States will pay a very heavy price in the future unless we do something rather dramatic.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that after the quorum call I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:33 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 4:12 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. COONS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CAPITOL HILL SHOOTING

Mr. REID. Today was a sobering reminder of how Federal law enforcement officers keep all of us safe—not us, the Members of Congress, but the American people. We have millions of people who visit this Capitol every year, and they work so hard to protect this Capitol, this city, and the citizens of the United States from harm.

The brave men and women on the Capitol Police force are so well trained. The Capitol police officers put their lives on the line every day for us. I thank them for their service and their sacrifice—and it is a sacrifice. There was no better example of that than today. Chief Gainer and others will have more about the details.

I will only say this: I spoke just a few minutes ago to one of the police officers who was injured in this situation that took place. It was so inspiring to talk to this man. He has been hurt, but he said—and I am paraphrasing but not much—I work every day to make sure you are safe. When he says ''me,'' he is not talking about me, he is talking about us. My thoughts are with him for a speedy recovery, and again my admiration goes to all Federal law enforcement but especially our Capitol Police.

PROMOTION OF ROBERT HERBERT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Bob Herbert on his recent promotion to Brigadier General in the United States Army National Guard. Today I had the honor to preside over his promotion ceremony in the Mansfield Room. Bob has been a loyal member of my staff for the past 14 years. But he had also given 38 years of loyal military service to Nevada and our Nation.

Bob Herbert grew up the son of a military man, retired MSG Robert W. Herbert. From an early age Bob had a great fascination with military aviation. Before he graduated from high school in Slinger, WI, Bob joined the Army to fly in a unique program known as ''High School to Flight School.'' Once he completed flight school, Bob was posted in Germany, where he flew patrols along the borders between East and West Germany during the Cold War era. After a successful 3-year tour in Germany, Bob completed his undergraduate work at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Shortly after graduation, he attended test pilot school and earned the title of Army test pilot.

As a test pilot, he flew both fixed-wing and rotary aircraft, including helicopters, which we all know are important to both modern military missions and for fighting fires and responding to emergencies in the civilian world.

After 6 years of active duty with the Army, Bob moved to Reno, where he transitioned to the Nevada Army National Guard. As a member of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, I had the opportunity to meet with Bob Herbert about the needs of the Nevada Guard. I quickly found that Bob was not only an outstanding military officer but was excellent with numbers and figures surrounding the Military's budget and equipment.

At my request, Bob arranged to come to Washington where he worked as a fellow with the Brookings Institution. During that time, he was assigned to me, and worked closely with my staff on Nevada military issues as well as national defense policy and appropriations. During his time as a fellow, Bob was promoted by the military and I had the privilege of pinning Bob with his Lieutenant Colonel insignia.

When his fellowship concluded, I asked Bob to join my staff here in Washington, D.C. Bob had become an important part of my office and his expertise would have been hard to replace. Over the years I have grown to depend on his judgment and advice, not just about military matters but about many other issues. He has always made sound decisions and is able to bring simple common sense to complex issues.

I was pleased when Bob decided to work for me full time on military and veterans' affairs, as well as transportation and technology issues. Throughout his time on my staff, Bob has also remained committed to the Army and continued to serve his National Guard unit in Nevada. While working full-time on my staff, Bob earned a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University, my alma mater.

After working in Washington D.C. for 4 years, I asked Bob to return to Nevada to work in one of my district offices. Bob had a nice home in Reno and I think he was excited to return to his house and his motorcycle. Little did he know, I needed him to work out of my Las Vegas office. But Bob never flinched and moved from Reno to Las Vegas.

After my elevation to the position of Democratic Leader, I once again asked Bob to return to Washington to help with my defense and military portfolio. I know that Bob was disappointed to leave Nevada, but he has more than made up for that disappointment by purchasing three additional motorcycles while working here in Washington, for a total of four motorcycles. His most recent motorcycle is a Harley-Davidson custom softail. Like a good parent he ensures that he spends quality time with each bike and enjoys riding nearly every weekend on the backroads of West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. He ultimately plans to have one BMW and one Harley-Davidson on each coast to optimize his motorcycle adventures.

For almost 38 years, Brigadier General Herbert has honorably served our Nation in the enlisted, warrant officer, and officer ranks. As Brigadier General he is currently assigned as the Assistant to the Adjutant General for the Nevada Army National Guard. And he has flown more than 7,000 hours as a pilot, splitting time between helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

I am very so grateful for Bob's service—for his service to his country, to the state of Nevada and to me. I appreciate his loyalty so much. Congratulations, General Herbert, on this well-deserved promotion.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SUZANNE SCOTT

• Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, Stephanie and I wish to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Suzanne ''Sue'' Scott. Sue passed away on September 9, 2013. Her husband, Walter, and the entire Scott and Singer families remain in our thoughts and prayers during this sad time. Her loving family, special circle of friends, and many admirers throughout the State of Nebraska and this great Nation are mourning her passing and reflecting on her remarkable life of service.

Sue truly embodied compassion in action, lending her time and talents to many community organizations. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy. One could list the many brick and mortar improvements attributed to Sue and identify them as her legacy. This is true and itself worthy of acknowledgement. But, there is a much more profound aspect of her legacy. It is the remarkable example of selfless and tireless service to others, which will inspire generations to come. She gave of herself: not only in name, but in genuine service to others. Sue was not afraid to roll up her sleeves and do the real work of volunteering. Her remarkable leadership extended to: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Omaha Zoological Society, and Joslyn Art Museum, among others. With Walter, she delighted in supporting the Kingdoms of the Seas Aquarium at the Henry Doorly Zoo and the Recital Hall at the Holland Performing Arts Center, bearing their names, in addition to numerous other philanthropic contributions. I am confident I speak for all Nebraskans in thanking the Scotts—indeed, Sue and Walter made an outstanding team—for their commitment to the community and willingness to help neighbors in need.

Thanks to the Scotts, ''The Good Life'' in Nebraska has been made even better and will surely remain vibrant for years to come. Sue's volunteerism and her can-do attitude will continue to serve as a worthy example for others to follow. Though Sue is no longer with us, her spirit will surely live on through those who follow her example and answer the call to community service and share their time, talents and treasure with fellow citizens.

We are saddened by her passing and wish to again extend our heartfelt sympathy to Walter and the Singer and Scott families. May God bless them.•

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolutions, without amendment:

H.R. 3233. An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable non-immigrant visas.

H.J. Res. 70. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 71. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2014.

H.J. Res. 73. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3233. An act to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolutions were read the second time, and placed on the calendar pursuant to the order of October 2, 2013:

H.J. Res. 70. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 71. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2014.

H.J. Res. 73. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following joint resolutions were read the first time pursuant to the order of October 2, 2013.

H.J. Res. 70. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 71. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations of local funds of the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2014.

H.J. Res. 73. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3289. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Air Force and was assigned Air Force case number 11–08; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3290. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3291. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to Make the Commerce Control List (CCL) Clearer'' (RIN0694–AF37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3292. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System; Yellowstone National

Park; Winter Use'' (RIN1024–AE15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3293. A communication from the Director of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (8) eight reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3294. A communication from the General Counsel, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas'' (RIN3014–AA22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3295. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the biennial report relative to the impact of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3296. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; FY 2014 Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems: Changes to Certain Cost Reporting Procedures Related to Disproportionate Share Hospital Uncompensated Care Payments'' (RIN0938–AR53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 1, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3297. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination Obligations of Contractors and Subcontractors Regarding Individuals with Disabilities'' (RIN1250–AA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3298. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination Obligations of Contractors and Subcontractors Regarding Special Disabled Veterans, Veterans of the Vietnam Era, Disabled Veterans, Recently Separated Veterans, Active Duty Wartime or Campaign Badge Veterans, and Armed Forces Service Medal Veterans'' (RIN1250–AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3299. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report related to the Food and Drug Administration's implementation of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3300. A communication from the Chairman of the National Health Care Workforce Commission, transmitting, a report relative to the status of the Commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3301. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Department of Labor's 2012 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3302. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–70, Introduction'' (FAC2005–70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3303. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Allowability of Legal Costs for Whistleblower Proceedings'' (FAC2005–70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3304. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections'' (FAC2005–70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–150. A resolution adopted by the City Council of South Bend, Indiana petitioning for use of the Vice-Presidential Seal; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM–151. A resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to protect the Social Security benefits that aid our most vulnerable citizens; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, Social Security cost of living adjustments are currently based on the Consumer Price Index released annually by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The United States Congress is considering changing the annual cost of living adjustments calculated for Social Security recipients; and

Whereas, The Chained Consumer Price Index finds smaller increases in consumer prices than the traditional Consumer Price Index by estimating how consumers may change their buying habits as prices change; and

Whereas, According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, changing to the Chained Consumer Price Index would result in significant cuts to Social Security benefits: a cut of roughly three percent after 10 years, about six percent after 20 years, and close to nine percent over 30 years. For the average worker retiring at age 65, this would mean a cut of about $650 each year by age 75 and a cut of roughly $1,130 each year at age 85; and

Whereas, AARP estimates that this change would cut Social Security benefits by $112 billion over the next 10 years, leaving seniors struggling to keep up with the rising cost of utilities, health care and prescription drugs. Cuts would start now and get bigger every year; and

Whereas, The AARP estimates that ninety-two percent of West Virginians 65 or older, approximately 277,734 people, receive Social Security benefits. The average annual benefit is $13,500. Social Security makes up 70 percent of the annual income for a typical older West Virginian and 77 percent of annual incomes for low- and middle-income seniors: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the West Virginia House of Delegates, That the West Virginia House of Delegates urges the United States Congress to protect the Social Security benefits that aid our most vulnerable citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That the West Virginia House of Delegates requests that the West Virginia Congressional Delegation support protecting Social Security for West Virginia seniors and vulnerable residents by voting against any legislation that would base cost of living adjustments to the Chained Consumer Price Index; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the West Virginia House of Delegates mail a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of both Houses of Congress, and to each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

POM–152. A resolution adopted by the House of the Representatives of the State of Arkansas memorializing opposition to any action that would limit the right to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1003

Whereas, the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads as follows, ''A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed''; and

Whereas, the right to keep and bear arms has benefited the State of Arkansas, its economy, and its citizens; and

Whereas, generations of Arkansans have enjoyed and benefited from the lifestyle fostered by the freedoms and protection granted by the Second Amendment; and

Whereas, the right to keep and bear arms should not be abridged, infringed upon, or in any way limited by the action of any branch of the federal government or a state or local government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Ninth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That the House of Representatives encourages all branches of federal, state, and local government to respect and preserve the rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, and opposes any action that would abridge, infringe upon, or limit the right to keep and bear arms; and be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the House of Representatives distribute a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the chief executive officer of each legislative chamber for each of the fifty (50) state legislatures within the United States, and each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

POM–153. A resolution adopted by the House of the Representatives of the State of Arkansas memorializing its support for traditional marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1049

Whereas, marriage is a fundamental social institution that has been tested and reaffirmed over thousands of years; and

Whereas, historically marriage has been reflected in our law and the law of all Jurisdictions in the United States as the union of a man and a woman, and the everyday meaning of marriage and the legal meaning of marriage has always been defined as the legal union of a man and a woman as husband and wife; and

Whereas, families consisting of the legal union of one man and one woman for the purpose of bearing and raising children remains the basic unit of our civil society; and

Whereas, in 1996, Congress overwhelmingly passed, and President Bill Clinton signed, the Defense of Marriage Act under which Congress exercised its rights under the effects clause of Section 1 of Article IV of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, Section 2(a) of the Defense of Marriage Act clearly spells out that ''No State, territory, or possession of the United States, or Indian tribe, shall be required to give effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State, territory, possession, or tribe respecting a relationship between persons of the same sex that is treated as a marriage under the laws of such other State, territory, possession, or tribe, or a right or claim arising from such relationship.''; and

Whereas, Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, defining marriage, states that ''the word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.''; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States will hear oral arguments in U.S. v. Windsor on March 27, 2013, asking whether the Defense of Marriage Act—passed under the effects clause of Section 1 of Article IV of the United States Constitution—violates the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, in February, the Justice Department of President Barack Obama filed a brief with the Supreme court of the United States, asking the Supreme Court to invalidate Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act; and

Whereas, on November 2, 2004, 753,770 Arkansans voted to pass Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 3 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, representing 74.95% of the votes cast; and

Whereas, the total amount of votes cast in favor of Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 3 was higher than the total amount of votes cast for the re-election of President George W. Bush; and

Whereas, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 3 became Amendment 83 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas; and

Whereas, Section 1 of Amendment 83 reads, ''Marriage consists only of the union of one man and one woman.''; and

Whereas, Section 2 of Amendment 83 reads, ''Legal status for unmarried persons which is identical or substantially similar to marital status shall not be valid or recognized in Arkansas, except that the legislature may recognize a common law marriage from another state between a man and a woman.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Ninth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, That the House of Representatives reaffirms its support for traditional marriage as the union of one man and one woman, as expressed in Amendment 83 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and the Defense of Marriage Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the House of Representatives distribute a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the United States Supreme Court, the chief executive officer of each legislative chamber for each of the fifty (50) state legislatures within the United States, and each member of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

POM–154. A resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to preserve and protect the Second Amendment rights of all law abiding Americans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, Our nation has recently suffered from various acts of mass murder, most notably the tragedy of December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School; and,

Whereas, Law abiding citizens are not an issue; and

Whereas, Millions of Americans own firearms and do so safely, responsibly and legally; and

Whereas, Law abiding citizens should not be punished for the crimes of evil people; and

Whereas, The investigative research of these tragic events most often leads us to the underlying cause being linked to mental illness and not law abiding gun ownership; and

Whereas, The real issue, the real threat, is dangerous criminals and the seriously men tally ill who need supervision and treatment; and

Whereas, Violent behavior by individuals suffering from various forms of mental illness is the true issue that warrants the focus of our nation's President and Congress; and

Whereas, West Virginia is a slate that strongly supports the Second Amendment rights of the United State's Constitution and the rights found in Article Three, Section Twenty-two of its own Constitution, and believes that all efforts should be undertaken to preserve such rights to the fullest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, That the West Virginia House of Delegates conveys to the Congress of the United States that it supports efforts to preserve and protect: our freedoms especially preserving the Second Amendment rights of all law abiding Americans; and be it further

Resolved, That the West Virginia House of Delegates urges the United States Congress to focus on strengthening the areas of mental health diagnosis and treatment; and be it further

Resolved, That the West Virginia House of Delegates requests that the West Virginia Congressional Delegation support actions that preserve Second Amendment Rights and efforts to address mental health diagnosis and treatment in the hope that our nation will never again experience these senseless acts of mass murder, and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the West Virginia House of Delegates deliver a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the both Houses of Congress, and the each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

POM–155. A resolution adopted by the House of Delegates of the State of West Virginia memorializing support for an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations and unions are not entitled to the same rights and protection as natural persons under the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, In 2010, the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission that enabled corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence the outcome of our elections; and

Whereas, A subsequent ruling Speechnow.org v. Federal Election Commission, opened the door for individual donors to spend unlimited amounts as well; and

Whereas, The use of so-called Super PACs by wealthy individuals and special interests nationally has driven up the cost of elections to over $6 billion in the federal elections alone and reduced local voices in the democratic process; and

Whereas, In 2012, based upon Citizens United, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a century old long-standing Montana campaign finance law, denying states the right to regulate their elections in accordance with their experience of the corrupting influence of money in politics; and

Whereas, The people of West Virginia and all other states should have the power to limit by law the influence of money in their political systems; and

Whereas, On Election Day, 2012, over six million voters across the United States had the opportunity to vote on state and local ballot measures, including the states of Montana and Colorado, calling for a constitutional amendment to limit money in politics, including the entire states of Montana and Colorado, and all proposed resolutions passed with overwhelming and bipartisan support, averaging seventy-five percent of voters in favor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, That the West Virginia House of Delegates supports an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations and unions are not entitled to the same rights and protection as natural persons under the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That such an amendment should assure the power of the federal, state, and local governments to limit, regulate, and require disclosure of sources of all money spent to influence elections; and be it further

Resolved, That the West Virginia House of Delegates requests that the West Virginia Congressional Delegation support such an amendment, work diligently towards its passage, and vote at all stages to advance such legislation in the Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the West Virginia House of Delegates deliver a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of both Houses of Congress, and to each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

POM–156. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida memorializing support for the creation of a coalition in support of the initiative to reduce gun violence and illegal firearms trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–157. A resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Albion, New York memorializing opposition to any legislation which infringes upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM–158. A resolution adopted by the Town Board of Sumner, WI memorializing support of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating that only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights and money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is

not equivalent to limiting political speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 55

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 55, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress and the President from receiving pay during Government shutdowns.

S. 116

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 116, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 1335

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1537, a bill to ensure that any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of individuals operating commercial motor vehicles for sleep disorders is adopted through a rulemaking proceeding, and for other purposes.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1567, a bill to provide for the compensation of furloughed Federal employees.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the sessions of the Senate on October 3, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 3, 2013, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled, ''Reversing Iran's Nuclear Program.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND GLOBAL NARCOTICS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 3, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a Western Hemisphere and Global Narcotics Affairs subcommittee nomination hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 188 and 198, resolutions relative to the authorization of committee funding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the resolutions en bloc?

Without objection, the clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 228) authorizing the reporting of committee funding resolutions for the period of October 1, 2013, through February 28, 2015;

A resolution (S. Res. 253) authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014, and October 1, 2014, through February 28, 2015.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

(The resolution (S. Res. 228) is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, September 17, 2013, and the resolution (S. Res. 253) is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, September 24, 2013, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, October 4; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:15 p.m., adjourned until Friday, October 4, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PATIENTS, FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS COPING WITH FTD

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patients, families and caregivers in Pennsylvania's Seventh coping with frontotemporal degeneration, a disease process with devastating effect on the areas of the brain that give us our personality. One unique characteristic of FTD is that it is a young person's dementia—with the onset of symptoms typically beginning between the ages of 40 and 60. These symptoms include a complicated mix of language impairments, changes in personality and behavior, and the loss of muscle control and movement problems.

National news outlets have covered this awful disease in recent years. The New York Times recently highlighted Michael French's experience with FTD. Michael was a good cook, but he suddenly started burning every pot he cooked with. He would throw away important tax documents make financial decisions that didn't make any sense. Michael's wife encouraged him to seek medical help, but it took over a year before Michael was properly diagnosed with FTD and could receive appropriate treatment to manage his behavioral symptoms. Michael now resides in a nursing home.

FTD robs far too many Americans like Michael of the ability to work, care for himself, and be a loving family member. However, there is no known cure for FTD, and many clinicians miss the diagnosis, especially as FTD is rare and dementia is primarily considered a problem of the elderly. Consequently, patients, families, and caregivers may endure years of confusion and ineffective treatment.

Michael's story was brought to my attention recently by a constituent who lost his father to FTD, and is now on the board of the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, a nonprofit in Pennsylvania's Seventh District. This nonprofit is doing critically important work to raise public awareness and support medical research on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of FTD. I urge my colleagues to learn more about FTD and what they can do to help their constituents access quality medical care and services, and to support the medical research that is needed to cure FTD and related neurological diseases.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND THE CARTER WORK PROJECT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Rep. Anna Eshoo, Rep. Sam Farr, Rep. John Garamendi, Rep. Michael Honda, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Jerry McNerney, and Rep. George Miller, to express our most sincere appreciation to Habitat for Humanity and the Carter Work Project.

For 30 years, former President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Rosalynn Carter have spent a week a year on a building project with Habitat for Humanity. Their annual commitment to Habitat is called the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project and brings attention to Habitat's work across the globe and in our local communities. This year the Carters are in Oakland and San Jose for the 30th annual event.

President Carter first became involved with Habitat for Humanity in 1984 when he used his carpentry expertise to help renovate an apartment building in New York City. Ever since, President Carter and Mrs. Carter have been building homes every year with Habitat. The Carters have built homes in New York, Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Miami, D.C., South Dakota, Southern California, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, and now in California.

The Carters have also helped build homes abroad in Mexico, Canada, Hungary, Philippines, Korea, South Africa, India, Thailand, China, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Haiti.

The housing market in the San Francisco Bay Area continues to be among the least affordable in the United States. Less than half of families in the area can afford to buy a home and for low–income families it is nearly impossible. There is a strong need and demand for affordable housing in the Bay Area and the lack of affordable housing is damaging our communities. Our community needs strong solutions to this crisis.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley has helped revitalize neighborhoods, build sustainable housing solutions, and assist families in becoming successful homeowners.

Since 1986, Habitat has helped strengthen communities and empowered over 360 low–income families in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties.

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley deals with the challenge of affordable housing by using volunteer labor and donated funds and materials to build affordable homes for families in need. These families contribute "sweat equity" by contributing hundreds of hours of labor in building their own homes.

Habitat for Humanity helps build communities by strengthening neighborhood ties. Habitat recruits volunteers to help build its homes, with nearly 60,000 volunteers having contributed over one million hours to help build homes in the East Bay and Silicon Valley.

These community–built homes are also sustainable and environmentally friendly. Habitat uses green design by taking into account energy efficiency, smart use of building materials, and water usage to better protect the environment and Habitat homeowners. Over 60 green homes have been built in the Bay Area using these environmentally–conscious building principles.

We thank President and Mrs. Carter and Habitat for Humanity for this important work. We hope their legacy of public service will serve as an inspiration to others to support and serve their communities.

HONORING RICARDO ICAZA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Ricardo F. Icaza, a revered labor leader whose lifelong work and dedication has resulted in the success of Southern California's workforce.

For more than 50 years, Ricardo has been a loyal and effective member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union Local 770, which currently has over 30,000 members in the food, retail and healthcare industries.

Ricardo has held numerous positions in Local 770 including, research assistant, organizer, business representative and secretary-treasurer. In 1981, Ricardo became the first Latino president of Local 770 because of his commitment to preserving middle class values.

Under Ricardo's resilient and unwavering leadership, Local 770 has become the largest local union in California and one of the largest in the entire nation. Ricardo demonstrated his adept negotiation skills numerous times in order to ensure that his members are fairly compensated with the pay and benefits that they have worked so hard to earn.

In 2003, Ricardo stood up for the middle class and successfully led his members through a difficult 142 day lockout and strike resulting in the preservation of the health care benefits that he worked so hard to create throughout the course of his presidency. The tenacity Ricardo displayed during the lockout illustrated his dedication to improving the lives of working men and women.

In addition to Ricardo's determined efforts for our region's workers, he is an outstanding citizen who defines philanthropy. His generosity and commitment to charitable causes demonstrate Ricardo's passion for the betterment of our community and country. In 2001, Ricardo established the UFCW Local 770 Icaza Foundation, a unique non-profit organization that raises funds for leukemia research and other worthy local charities.

Ricardo's contributions to our community surpass his duties with Local 770. He is currently the Vice President of the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), a current board member of the National Association for Hispanic Elderly and a former trustee of the California State University system. He also serves as the President of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, which is the largest labor federation in the country.

Ricardo's remarkable and longstanding career exemplifies his passion and commitment to our community's working people. I am pleased to join the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council in honoring Ricardo F. Icaza.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE CAREER OF DR. LEVI WATKINS, JR.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great appreciation and respect to recognize a true pioneer in the field of health care and in the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. has distinguished himself as one of the nation's most highly regarded cardiac surgeons. He has been an inspirational figure for the medical community, African Americans and the entire nation. After 40 years in medicine, Dr. Watkins has announced that he will retire from Johns Hopkins Medicine located in my congressional district.

Dr. Watkins attended Tennessee State University and graduated with a degree in biology with honors. Inspired by his experiences during the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Watkins, who had set his sights on medical school, decided that "it was time Vanderbilt was integrated." In May of 1966, Dr. Watkins became the first African American to be admitted into Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine. This was just the beginning of the many "firsts" that Dr. Watkins would amass as he blazed his trail of success. When he subsequently graduated from Vanderbilt School of Medicine in 1970, Dr. Watkins became the first African American to do so.

In late 1970, Dr. Watkins began a surgical internship at Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore, becoming the first African American in that program. He interrupted his internship in 1973 to complete two years of cardiac research at Harvard Medical School. It was at Harvard where Dr. Watkins experienced his first scientific breakthrough with his research into the connection between the renin angiotensin system and congestive heart failure. This discovery later led to the use of angiotensin blockers in the treatment of heart failure.

After returning to Johns Hopkins and completing his residency, Dr. Watkins became Johns Hopkins' first African American chief resident in cardiac surgery. Three years later, in 1978, Dr. Watkins became an assistant professor in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Some months later, in February 1980, Dr. Watkins performed a ground breaking procedure. He implanted an automatic implantable defibrillator into the human heart, saving a woman's life and becoming the first surgeon to perform the operation. This operation has saved many lives by shocking the heart back into its normal rhythm when the heart starts to go into arrhythmia.

Critically, Dr. Watkins didn't just save lives, he also changed them. An active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Watkins was a member of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor. Dr. Watkins drove the church station wagon on Sunday mornings and was active in the Montgomery bus boycotts. When Dr. Watkins joined the Johns Hopkins University's admission committee, he made it his mission to diversify both the admitted students and the faculty. He assisted many future Black doctors in entering and graduating from medical school. Dr. Watkins actively wrote letters to qualified candidates encouraging them to apply to the school. His relentless determination and hard work increased minority representation at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine by 400% in four years.

Dr. Watkins created the Johns Hopkins' Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration in January of 1982 and has held the event every January since that time. The event honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his ideals and has brought an array of speakers to the hospital to address students and faculty members, including Reverend Jesse Jackson, actor Danny Glover, and the late Coretta Scott King. Thankfully, even after his retirement, Dr. Watkins will continue to play an integral role in the annual commemoration.

In 1991, Dr. Watkins was promoted to be a full professor of cardiac surgery, becoming the first African American at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to hold this position. He was later appointed Associate Dean in the School of Medicine and Dean of the university's postdoctoral programs and faculty development.

It is with a sense of great appreciation and admiration that I thank Dr. Watkins for all he has done for the medical field, the Black community and the entire nation. Baltimore is very fortunate to have such a dedicated pioneer to call its own. I wish Dr. Watkins all the best in his retirement and thank him for his visionary work that has made a profound impact on our country.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom Dr. Watkins knew well, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." By this or any measure, Dr. Watkins is truly a great man.

SHORT-TERM EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters on H.R. 3233, between myself and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2013.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your consultation with the Foreign Affairs Committee on H.R. 3233, which temporarily extends the period during which certain Iraqis previously employed by the United States Government may be granted special immigrant status. I agreed to the Foreign Affairs Committee being discharged of our referral so that the bill could be promptly considered on the House floor this evening. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding regarding the Foreign Affairs Committee's continuing Rule X legislative jurisdiction over portions of H.R. 3233, which is not affected by that waiver decision.

I appreciate your assistance in expediting this important legislation for floor consideration.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2013.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3233, to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.

As you noted, the Committee on Foreign Affairs was granted an additional referral of the bill. I am most appreciative of your decision to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from further consideration of H.R. 3233 so that it could proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on the Foreign Affairs is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged to hear my Republican colleagues stand in support of the District of Columbia's ability to expend its own local funds. I agree. As a member representing a district that neighbors DC, I have been a long-time supporter of budget autonomy for our nation's capital. It should be able to spend its local dollars without waiting for approval from this Congress. I hope my colleagues will remember this debate and work towards a long-term legislative fix for this issue.

However, we have a way to solve the immediate problem for the District of Columbia

today. If we take up the Senate's clean continuing resolution, we can send it to the President for his signature tonight, giving DC the necessary authority and letting those federal employee residents of DC and all our Congressional districts go back to work tomorrow. We could reopen the National Institutes of Health, our national parks, and the Veterans Administration. And we could ensure that all Americans have access to the government services they need. I call on my colleagues to bring up the clean CR and end this shut down today.

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF WINCHESTER ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Winchester, one of the oldest communities in Riverside County. On October 5, 2013, the town will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Winchester has a rich and colorful past, and will continue to contribute to the landscape, diversity and history of our county and the State of California.

Settlers came to Winchester in the late 1800s for its warm weather and open space abounding with potential for growth. Rich and fertile farm lands and natural resources kept the early settlers in Pleasant Valley and helped create the thriving community it is today. The Angelo Domenigoni and Gaudenzio Garbini families first settled in the area in 1879.

These early settlers established a town site, which they named Winchester, after the widow of Horace Winchester, Mrs. Amy Winchester. Shortly thereafter, in 1880, the first post office was established, and original settler, Angelo Domenigoni appointed the first Postmaster. Soon, other families including the Patterson, Rice, and Haslam clans joined the community. These early families agreed that a Methodist Church should be established, and after much support from the town, in 1887 a church was built at the site of Rock House.

In pursuit of establishing a town of likeminded people, landowners Amy Winchester, Elizabeth Rice, Dennis O'Leary and Reverend J.G. Miller hired T.M. Parsons to draw a map of their proposed town site, which was submitted to the County of San Diego on January 23, 1888, and is still used to this day. In 1893, the County of Riverside was formed and Winchester became a census-designated place of the new community. F.L. Loveland of Winchester was given the honor of serving as the first supervisor for Riverside County.

The citizens of Winchester continued to make significant contributions to the county throughout its development. In 1896, F.T. Lindenberger of Winchester was elected to the California State Assembly. Mr. Lindenberger had been a long standing fixture within the town, owning a farm known as ''Olive Green,'' located at the cross of Lindenberger and Newport roads. Dr. Charles S. Dickson, M.D., the neighborhood doctor, became one of the first Coroners of Riverside County in 1898. From 1890 to 1929, Tilla Patterson Hudson served as a station agent for the Santa Fe Railroad. Concurrently, Ms. Hudson served as a Wells Fargo agent from 1890 to 1919, making her the longest serving female Wells Fargo agent in California.

I salute the community of Winchester on their 125th anniversary, a community that has significantly contributed to the active, historical, and thriving nature of Riverside County. Though small in size, it has added mightily to the county and state in which it resides. I am honored to represent Winchester in the House of Representatives and look forward to continuing to serve its residents as the Member of Congress for the 42nd District of California.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF REDINGTON MEMORIAL HOME

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Redington Memorial Home as it celebrates its 75th year of providing quality, affordable, assisted living to Maine's seniors.

More than 75 years ago, John R. McClellan bequeathed his will funds to transform the former home of Civil War General Russell B. Shepard into an affordable and safe retirement residence for the elderly women of the Skowhegan community. Since Redington Memorial Home first opened its doors on October 15, 1938, it has grown and prospered, offering a wide range of support and care for many senior citizens of Skowhegan, Maine.

Redington Home supports the individuality and independence of its residents, encouraging recreational fitness and social activities, as well as facilitating engagement in community affairs. It also provides a dining experience unmatched by most retirement homes, as the culinary staff offers a nutritious, diverse menu and accommodates the individual preferences of residents. Additionally, in 2007, Redington Home completed a significant expansion to provide state of the art facilities for its residents and to accommodate more of Maine's seniors.

On October 10, 2013, Redington Memorial Home will commemorate the 75th anniversary of its opening by hosting a reception with residents and members of the greater community. I am delighted to recognize the accomplishments of this wonderful facility and look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Redington Memorial Home on 75 years of exceptional service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LAWRENCE ''LARRY'' OCHSTEIN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Lawrence ''Larry'' Ochstein, a resident of South Florida who turns 80 today.

Mr. Ochstein, a proud veteran, has been a South Florida resident since 1976. He has worked for a variety of non-profits, including the American Red Cross and B'nai B'rith International. He is an extremely active member of the community, having served the Jewish Community Center of the Palm Beaches and as a Palm Beach County Poll Worker.

In addition to all of his accomplishments, Larry is a proud grandfather and great-grandfather and an avid golfer.

I know I join with his friends and family in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I wish him good health and continued success in the coming year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 484, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 2, 2013 with Honor Flight Chicago. Since 2008, this honorable program has given World War II veterans from the Chicago area the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. for a day of honor, remembrance and celebration.

For many, this will be the first time they have the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial, which was built to honor their courage and service to this great nation. These brave Americans sacrificed and endured so much so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today and for that, we owe them our eternal gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming each of these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial:

Marvin R. Aardema; Norman A. Ackerman; Laurence L. Andersen; Ben H. Arkes; Edward P. Arlis; Berton Becker; Kenneth Beelen; George A. Behling Jr.; Anthony Bouman; James Cheatham; Emanuel J. Cizek; Anthony Cook; Robert D. Easoz; Melvin F. Ehrenreich; D. Wayne Emigh; Theodore Faber; Anthony Faklis; James Louis Fattore; Chester J. Filipowicz; Lloyd C. Funk; Albert Gencur; Angelo Giannone; Gerry A. Goldman; Lawrence F. Gusman; Robert V. Haas; Harry L. Hanson Sr.; Ervin W. Hentsch; Morris Isaac; William R. Johnson; Julian H. Johnson; Robert J. Kaiser; Richard P. Katello; Arnold Kincaid; Earl W. Kochan; John Koepsell; Sheldon H. Konowitz; Orville Kruse; Reginald Z. Krzeminski; Warren E. Kuehl; Sam Lafata; Robert I. Lamken; Henry Larsen; Jerome Levin; Aaron B. Levin; Frank M. Lieber; Louis Limper; Frank Jr. Lutz; Michael Lynch; Marie Lynch; Blanch M. Mason; Joseph A. Massura; James J. McClure Jr.; John M. McDonald; John F. Moran; John F. Muldoon; David T. Neems; James F. Nerad

Jr.; Gus Nicholas; Richard Oates; Louis A. Paries; William J. Parrillo; Arthur E. Rawers; Robert J. Real; Edward W. Rethford; Morton Rich; Robert A. Rose; Leo Ryan; Peter F. Sammarco. Bennie L. Sarff; Francis M. Schaben; Robert Schinz; Paul E. Schneider; John Scigousky; Donald C. Shannon; Charles F. Shenoha; Henry Sidof; Estley K. Surridge; George E. Tejcek; Melvin Torch; John A. Tumpich; Herman G. Van Stedum; Maurice D. VonAlmen; Harry Vosburg; Robert Voss; Henry E. Webb; Robert F. Wenger; Elmer A. Wills; Robert J. Winicki; Fred S. Yanow; Rose E. Yauk; and Harold Zarky.

HONORING JOHN BEAUMONT

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize John Beaumont, an influential and respected individual whose work on behalf of California's labor community is not only remarkable, but truly commendable.

John began his long-standing career as a labor leader in Ventura County. It was here where he joined Branch 2902 of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and began his commitment to the organization and the thousands of individuals it represents. Since its establishment in 1889, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) has been safeguarding the rights, liberties and well-being of the United States Postal Service employees.

Over the trajectory of his career, John has successfully climbed the professional ladder on multiple occasions. He served as the NALC Branch 231's Financial Officer and was also elected as the Director of Education for the California State Association of Letter Carriers (SCALC). He served as the California State Association of Letter Carriers Vice President and subsequently became the organization's first, full-time President.

John's perseverance and overarching dedication to our labor force has been instrumental in the fruition and strengthening of California's working families. Under John's unwavering leadership, dozens of NALC branches across the state of California have prospered and successfully executed numerous labor campaigns and initiatives.

John exemplifies the finest in California's workforce. His dedication to our community and state is one that I applaud. It gives me great pleasure to join Tri-Counties Central Labor Council in honoring John Beaumont's work.

SUPPORT FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since 1985, October has been designated as the month in which we campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer and celebrate the victories in research and innovation in treatment.

In 2013, an estimated 300,000 new cases of invasive and non-invasive breast cancer in women will arise and almost 40,000 women will die of breast cancer. In men, more than 2,000 cases of invasive breast cancer will be detected and about 400 men will die from breast cancer. Though the numbers are disheartening, breast cancer research has made significant strides.

Early detection of breast cancer through mammograms improves survival rates. Regular screenings remain the best way to detect breast cancer and women should be encouraged to get regular exams. While 70 percent of women receive regular mammograms, this number can still be higher to increase prevention.

Unfortunately, we all know someone—a sister, mother, daughter, aunt, or another loved one—who has been diagnosed and suffered through breast cancer. Each year, the month of October reminds us of those lost and the survivors whose stories can empower us to continue to raise awareness and strive to find a cure for breast cancer. Please join me in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

A TRIBUTE TO SARAH BERNDT—2013 MILKEN EDUCATOR HONOREE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sarah Berndt, a Milwaukee Public School teacher at Ronald Reagan College Preparatory High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ms. Berndt, recipient of the 2013 Milken Educator Award, teaches ninth grade Spanish and an introductory international baccalaureate class.

Ms. Berndt, one of only 40 teachers in the United States to receive this prestigious award in 2013, was honored before her peers, students and dignitaries at Ronald Reagan High School on October 2, 2013. The Milken Educator Award was founded in 1985 by the Milken Family Foundation. The award recognizes early and midcareer teachers who have made a significant impact and have promising futures in the field.

Ms. Berndt pursued teaching as a career because: ''I wanted to inspire and be inspired. I wanted it to be more of a collaborative adventure than a dictatorship. I wanted to be different.'' Ms. Berndt has taught at Ronald Reagan High School for three years and is respected by students and faculty alike.

In order to be considered for a Milken Award, the individual must exhibit the following attributes: exhibit exceptional instructional talent and student learning results; demonstrate accomplishments outside the classroom that provide a model of professional excellence; be an early to midcareer educator who offers long-range potential for leadership; and be an educator whose contributions may be unheralded but worthy of the spotlight.

Ms. Berndt has met all the criteria and has made a difference in the lives of her students and faculty at Ronald Reagan College Preparatory High School. She has inspired the entire Milwaukee Public System with her achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sarah Berndt. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the state of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service teaching and guiding our future leaders. I am honored, for these reasons, to pay tribute to Sarah Berndt.

CONGRATULATING REX TILLERSON ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and congratulate Rex W. Tillerson of Irving, Texas, for his induction into the National Academy of Engineering, which will take place on October 6, 2013, here in Washington, DC.

Induction into the National Academy of Engineering is one of the highest professional honors that engineers can receive. Members are elected by their peers in annual classes. This year's class consists of 69 members and 11 foreign associates from various different engineering fields. Membership recognizes ''those who have made outstanding contributions to 'engineering research, practice, or education, including where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature' and to the 'pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.'" Mr. Tillerson's election is specifically for his ''engineering leadership in the production of hydrocarbons in remote and hostile environments.''

Rex Tillerson may be known to many as the Chairman and CEO of Exxon Mobil Corporation, but he is also a remarkable engineer in his own right. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and joined Exxon Company, U.S.A. in that same year. Starting as an engineer, Tillerson worked his way up the ranks of Exxon—becoming President of Exxon Yemen Inc. and Esso Exploration and Production Khorat Inc. in 1995, Vice President of Exxon Ventures and President of Exxon Neftegas Ltd. in 1998, and Executive Vice President of the newly merged ExxonMobil Development Co. in 1999.

In 2001, Tillerson was named Senior Vice President of Exxon Mobil Corporation, and in 2004 he was elected President of the corporation and a member of the Board of Directors on March 1, 2004. He assumed his current position of Chairman and CEO on January 1, 2006. Under his leadership, ExxonMobil has become one of the largest and most successful publicly held corporations in the world. Under Tillerson's direction, ExxonMobil has also become a leader in the effort to improve educational outcomes for all students—especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Tillerson has long been active in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). He earned the rank

of Eagle Scout in Troop 20 in 1965. From 2010 to 2012 he served as National President of the BSA and remains on the executive board. In 2010, he was named a Distinguished Eagle and was awarded the Silver Buffalo for his service to the National Council of BSA. In 2012, he was awarded the Silver Beaver for his service to his local BSA Council in Dallas, Texas.

Tillerson is also involved in several business organizations, including as a trustee at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and at the American Petroleum Institute, and as a member of the Business Roundtable and formerly the Executive Committee of the Business Council (in 2011 and 2012). Tillerson is also the vice chairman of the Ford's Theatre Society, and a former director of the United Negro College Fund.

In 2006, Tillerson was named a Distinguished Engineer Graduate by the UT Cockrell School of Engineering. He is also a member of the Chancellor's Council, Development Board and the Engineering Advisory Board for the University of Texas at Austin, where he was named a distinguished alumnus in 2007. In 2011, he received an honorary doctorate engineering degree from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In 2012, he received the Lincoln Medal from Ford's Theatre Society.

Tillerson is a native of Texas, born in Wichita Falls and a graduate of Huntsville High School in Huntsville, class of 1970. While at UT Austin, he participated in Tejas Club, the Longhorn Band, and Alpha Phi Omega. He and his wife live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and have four children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Rex W. Tillerson on the high professional accomplishment of his induction into the National Academy of Engineering.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADVANCED LIGHT SOURCE RESEARCH FACILITY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Advanced Light Source (ALS) research facility at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. For two decades, this remarkable scientific tool has provided scientists, students and organizations from around the United States and the world access to extremely bright sources of intense and coherent short-wavelength light for use in scientific experiments.

The intensity of the ALS's light source is one billion times brighter than the sun, allowing researchers to characterize the electronic structure of matter and to reveal microscopic structures with elemental and chemical specificity.

This extraordinary tool, by revealing the molecular and chemical makeup of organic and inorganic materials, offers unprecedented opportunities for state-of-the art research in materials science, biology, chemistry, physics, and the environmental sciences. Uniquely focused on providing "soft" x-ray's unlike most other light sources, discoveries made at the Advanced Light Source research facility have led to Nobel Prizes, the development of new energy solutions, and advanced health care solutions.

The planning and design process of the Advanced Light Source began in 1987, and ground was broken in 1988, with construction completed in 1993. The official dedication took place on the morning of October 22, 1993.

Funded by the Department of Energy Office of Science, the nation's largest funder of the physical sciences, the Advanced Light Source has contributed directly to the nation's innovation vitality and economic security.

Through a rigorous and independent peer review process, only the most important research proposals are accepted each year to utilize ALS's 40 beamlines, which operate simultaneously over 5,000 hours per year. More than 2,000 researchers from academic, industrial, and government laboratories worldwide use the ALS and publish an estimated 600 scientific publications annually.

To date, extraordinary research at the ALS has led to a number of discoveries, including: longer-lasting lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles; nanoscale magnetic imaging for compact data storage; plastic solar cells that are flexible and easy to produce; inroads into developing artificial photosynthesis for clean, renewable energy; fine-tuning of combustion for cleaner-burning fuels; more effective chemical reactions for fuel cells; the use of microbes to clean up toxins; cheaper biofuels from renewable sources; characterizing protein structures for rational drug design; and production of even-smaller transistors for more powerful computers.

Truly, the Advanced Light Source continues to be among our country's most important and relevant research tools for the advancement of science and technology. Moreover, the scientific discoveries and contributions resulting from its use are fundamental to the growth and vibrancy of our nation's economy.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to all employees of the ALS, former and current, on reaching this important milestone. I look forward to working with the Lab and with the Department of Energy on securing a bright future for this extraordinary scientific resource.

HONORING LT. COLONEL ROBERT VAUCHER ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NEW JERSEY AVIATION HALL OF FAME

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Colonel Robert Vaucher, of Bridgewater, New Jersey, on his induction into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame. Lt. Col. Vaucher enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in 1940 and served valiantly throughout the entirety of World War II. He has remained a presence in his community and in service to our country since.

Lt. Col. Vaucher was first assigned to Central America in 1942, where he logged over 1,000 hours in the air protecting the Panama Canal. For his steadfast efforts he was selected to be part of the B–29 bomber test team, which was charged with testing and modifying the B–29 before it was ready for combat use. Lt. Col. Vaucher was the first pilot ever to fly the B–29 at an elevation of 38,000 feet. In recognition of his contributions to the B–29 program, he was selected as Mission Commander to lead 525 B–29s in a final show-of-force flight over General MacArthur's Japanese surrender signing ceremony on the USS Battleship Missouri.

Lt. Col. Vaucher's courage and dedication in serving others continued long after he left the Air Force Reserve in 1962. He has been a local leader in Bridgewater Township for decades. His efforts helped lead to the establishment of the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District, the Bridgewater Township Police Department and the Bridgewater Township sewage system. I applaud Lt. Col. Vaucher's decorated history of military and community service, and congratulate him for his induction into the New Jersey Aviation Hall of Fame.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Taiwan's National Day—a day more commonly referred to as Double Ten Day as it falls on October 10. Double 10 Day is a joyous and important day for the Taiwanese people, and I am proud to join in the celebration of this anniversary.

The United States and Taiwan, formally known as the Republic of China, have long enjoyed a mutual and beneficial friendship—one forged by our political, economic, cultural, and strategic ties. This strong alliance is predicated in part on shared values. In fact, Taiwan has nurtured a stable democracy and vibrant economy that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit. In the past year, the U.S.-Taiwan relationship has been further strengthened through Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. visa-waiver program and the resumption of trade talks between our two countries, as part of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement.

Taiwan has become an economic engine in Asia and it continues to play a critical role in the global supply chain for technology products. In 2012, Taiwan imported over $6 billion in goods from California and it is currently our country's 7th largest export market in the world. I have had the pleasure of meeting President Ma and Ambassador King Pu-Tsung, and believe their strong visionary leadership will continue to fortify the bridge between our two countries.

As the Representative of California's 17th district and as the Chair Emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I know firsthand the invaluable impact of the more than 13,000 people of Taiwanese descent residing in the heart of Silicon Valley, and the more than 180,000 Taiwanese-Americans living in the San Francisco Bay Area. In fact, Santa Clara Valley is home to the 2nd largest Taiwanese-American population in the

U.S., after San Gabriel Valley in Southern California. Tens of thousands of people annually visit the Culture Center of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sunnyvale.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the people of Taiwan—and to the Taiwanese-Americans in my district and across this country—on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on their National Day this October 10.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS AT DUKE UNIVERSITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, 2013 there will be a grand event in Durham, North Carolina honoring the five African American undergraduate students that integrated Duke University. On this special occasion Duke, along with the residents of Durham, students and staff of North Carolina Central University, houses of worship, nonprofits, and community organizations will celebrate the 50th anniversary of civil rights achievements in Durham and the integration of Duke University.

Nathaniel White Jr., Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, Gene Kendall, the late Mary Mitchell Harris and the late Cassandra Smith Rush were the five fearless undergraduates who forever changed the fabric of Duke University. In 1963, these pioneers enrolled at Duke University, joining the African American students who had enrolled in Duke Law School in 1961 and the Divinity and Graduate Schools in 1962. This occurred at a time when there were only two African American professors.

After graduating from Duke University, these five students went on to do great things that benefited our society. Nathaniel White Jr. became Director of the Public Health Sciences Institute at Morehouse College, Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke became a law professor and member of Duke's Board of Trustees, and Gene Kendall bravely served our country in the United States Navy. The late Mary Mitchell Harris became a performance counselor at Georgia Tech University and President of Education Consulting for Harris Learning Solutions and Cassandra Smith Rush went on to work for Southern New England Telephone. Duke has a history of producing some of our nation's finest graduates and counts the first five African American students among them.

It is with great pride that I acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the integration of Duke University and the courageous students who changed the institution's history forever. It is with sincere pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in marking this important anniversary.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2013 HONOR FLIGHT OF THE QUAD CITIES

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over ninety Iowa veterans of World War II and the Korean War have traveled to our nation's capital. Together, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful nation. At a time of great division in our capital, our veterans of the World War II and Korean War generations remind us of not only the best of our great nation but also the unity with which our nation responded to great challenges.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude. For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to personally thank these heroes on behalf of every Iowan I represent for their service to our nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and the Honor Flight demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 486, Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONCERNS ABOUT MOROCCO'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Washington Post published an editorial entitled "Morocco's royal crackdown." The editorial highlights the conduct of King Mohammed VI and raises serious concerns about human rights in the kingdom, particularly the jailing of a prominent Moroccan journalist. The editorial states, "King Mohammed's regime is showing signs of returning to autocratic practices."

An on-going pattern of human rights abuses by King Mohammed's security forces and secret police against voices for political reform, including self-determination for the occupied Western Sahara, are well documented by human rights organizations. According to Amnesty International, "Pro-independence activists have been imprisoned following demonstrations calling for the right to self-determination for the people of the Western Sahara, and some have reportedly been tortured or otherwise ill-treated during questioning by Moroccan law enforcement officials."

The Kingdom of Morocco is a U.S. ally and trading partner, yet earlier this year the Moroccans abruptly cancelled the 13th annual U.S.-Morocco joint military exercise called "African Lion." This joint exercise involved 1,400 U.S. service members and 900 Moroccan troops. U.S. troops and equipment were already in place when the Kingdom of Morocco cancelled the maneuvers "after the Obama administration backed having the U.N. monitor human rights in the disputed territory of Western Sahara (under Moroccan occupation)" reported the Associated Press on April 16, 2013.

Obviously, King Mohammed VI and his kingdom's security apparatus have a human rights problem that is gaining the attention of the international community. It appears that human rights are not a matter that concerns them. The U.S.-Moroccan bilateral relationship must be based on a foundation of common values and that includes a fundamental respect for human rights. It is time for Congress to evaluate Morocco's human rights record and tell King Mohammed that the people of the U.S. expect more from him.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2013]

MOROCCO'S ROYAL CRACKDOWN

BY JAILING A JOURNALIST, THE COUNTRY'S MONARCH SENDS A REGRETTABLE MESSAGE

When the Arab revolutions erupted in Tunisia and Egypt in 2011, Morocco's King Mohammed VI responded by embracing political reforms. The constitution was quickly revised, and in 2012 a democratic election was held for parliament. When a moderate Islamist party won a majority, it was invited to form a government. Morocco was held up by Western admirers as a potential model for other Arab monarchies, such as Jordan and the Persian Gulf states.

King Mohammed, however, never yielded his role as Morocco's ultimate authority, retaining control over the armed forces and judiciary. As Egypt has veered back toward autocracy following a military coup against its elected Islamist government, King Mohammed's regime is showing signs of returning to autocratic practices. Foremost among these is the arrest on terrorism charges of one of the country's foremost journalists—and one of the king's most trenchant critics.

The journalist, Ali Anouzla, was taken from his home in Rabat on Sept. 17, shortly after the Web site he edits published an article about an al-Qaeda video attacking King Mohammed for presiding over a "kingdom of corruption and despotism." Mr. Anouzla, who is know for his liberalism. described the video as "propaganda" and did not report it or link to it. He did, however, link to an article on the Web site of the Spanish newspaper El País, which in turn linked to the video. On those grounds, prosecutors have charged

him with ''inciting'' and 'providing material support'' for terrorism, offenses that can lead to a prison term of up to six years.

Moroccan authorities know very well that Mr. Anouzla, who has been pushing the boundaries of journalism and free expression for a decade, is no friend of al-Qaeda. By seizing on his reporting on the video—an entirely legitimate subject for journalism—they are able to punish him for his courageous and critical reporting about King Mohammed. Disregarding a taboo against scrutinizing the monarch, Mr. Anouzla has been breaking stories about him and his family for years, first in a newspaper he helped to found and now in the Web site Lakome.com. This year, he questioned the king's extensive foreign travel; in August, a story about the king's pardon of a Spaniard jailed in Morocco on charges of child rape prompted unprecedented street demonstrations against the monarchy.

The king may calculate that the political opening he undertook in March 2011, when the Arab world appeared to be on the cusp of a democratic revolution, is no longer necessary in a region where generals and jihadists are on the ascent. But the Arab monarchies cannot avoid change: They are doomed unless they can complete a transition to democratic government. That means tolerating crusading journalists such as Mr. Anouzla. If King Mohammed wants to preserve his credibility as a reformer, he will order his critic released.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,747,468,940,509.72. We've added $6,120,591,891,596.64 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING OF I–35E

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the long-awaited groundbreaking for the expansion of Interstate 35–East through Denton County. The initiation of this 28 mile project corridor of 1–35, built a half century ago, occurs on a segment of a highway critical to the economic well-being of Denton County, the State of Texas and our nation.

The I–35E project, initiated with $1.4 billion in funding, is the result of years of concerted effort by officials at the State, regional and local levels. Representing the largest single source of funding, Denton County Judge Mary Horn and the Denton County Commissioner's Court rightfully recognized the importance of the project by providing over half of the initial source funds. Their commitment of Denton County's Regional Toll Revenue funds and proceeds from two bond elections was used to initiate early acquisition for Right of Way, frontage roads and engineering. Based on the strong financial commitment by Denton County, support of cooperating agencies and partners such as Dallas County was secured, positioning the Regional Transportation Council, RTC, to prioritize and approve the additional state and federal funds necessary to make today's groundbreaking a reality.

Working cooperatively, state officials including Senators Chris Harris, Jane Nelson and Craig Estes, Representatives Myra Crownover, Tan Parker and Burt Solomons and Texas Department of Transportation Commissioner Bill Meadows supported my engagement at the federal level to remove obstacles and build the support for financial and other commitments necessary within the state. They also worked closely with the staff from the Texas Department of Transportation and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to engage Denton County and the cities of Lewisville, Highland Village, Hickory Creek, Lake Dallas, Corinth and Denton—the local Denton County communities through which this critical component of our nation's transportation infrastructure passes.

The I–35E project will not only serve to provide much-needed mobility improvements critical to our nation's economic welfare, it will also provide for other mobility enhancements. The project will impact factors critical to air quality, safety and other quality-of-life issues for both local residents and those who move to the rapidly growing Denton County communities on a daily basis.

As this project gets underway, I'm proud to honor the significant accomplishments that warrant this day of celebration for Denton County. I look forward to the improvements promised and am honored to represent the communities and constituents who comprise Denton County in the House of Representatives.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF DR. MACK KING CARTER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy because of the death of one of my dearest friends in Florida, Dr. Mack King Carter, the pastor emeritus of New Mount Olive Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale. An extraordinary theologian, teacher, missionary, and exemplary servant of God, he was truly a preacher's preacher. I was deeply saddened to hear of Dr. Carter's untimely passing at the age of 66, and mourn with his many relatives, friends, and the New Mount Olive family during this most difficult time.

Dr. Carter was born and raised in Ocala, Florida. At the age of five, he answered the call to spiritual service and began preaching as a young man, having pastored his first church at the age of 19. In 1967, he received an Associate of Arts degree from Central Florida Community College, followed by a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970 from the University of Florida. Dr. Carter went on to receive a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1976 and a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1978. A lifetime educator, he also did additional studies at Florida Memorial College in Miami, and received honorary doctorate degrees from Bethune-Cookman College and Florida Memorial College.

Prior to his pastorship at New Mount Olive, Dr. Carter served Calvary, Watula, and St. John Baptist Churches in Ocala, as well as Green Castle Baptist Church in Prospect, Kentucky. In 1981, Rev. George E. Weaver, then pastor of New Mount Olive, invited Dr. Carter to become his co-pastor before passing the torch to him in November 1982. Under his leadership, the congregation grew from about 2,800 to more than 10,000 members. During his tenure, Dr. Carter established a television ministry and created the Mount Olive Development Corporation, a faith-based organization focused on revitalizing low and moderate-income communities. Widely considered to be one of America's great African American preachers, he also traveled throughout the United States and abroad preaching, teaching, and lecturing. Each year, preachers and churchgoers would fill to capacity Dr. Carter's regular classes at the Congress of Christian Education's National Baptist Convention.

Dr. Carter had an uncanny ability to combine his learned biblical scholarship with the folkways of the traditional African American preacher, interweaving everyday situations and current events into his sermons to make a biblical point. His energy and faith were contagious, inspiring many to preach and countless others more to study the Bible. Dr. Carter was a mentor to more than 100 pastors across Florida and the country as a whole, including Rev. Dr. Gerald Kisner, Minister of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, and another dear friend of mine, the late Rev. Lance Chaney of St. John's Baptist Church in Boynton Beach.

After serving 27 years at New Mount Olive Baptist Church, Dr. Carter decided to move on in 2009. At the time, he was fighting a battle against veritable health problems. However, his faith and duty to teach and preach were unshakeable. Dr. Carter joined New Birth Cathedral of Faith International in Miami-Dade County, where he also taught Bible study. In addition, he taught at St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church in Dania Beach and, most recently, preached one of the Easter Sunday sermons at New Birth, one of Florida's largest Black churches. Despite his declining health, Dr. Carter found the strength to continue preaching with energy and passion. Furthermore, he authored four books: A Catechism for Baptists, To Calvary and Beyond, A Quest for Freedom, and Interpreting the Will of God.

A devout husband and father, Dr. Carter is survived by his wife of 40 years, Patricia A. Thomas Carter; daughters Annalisa Robinson-Melton and Pamela Latrice Johnson; and grandchildren Brittany N. Robinson and Carter Nathaniel Johnson.

I am truly privileged to have known Dr. Carter's friendship. We talked politics a lot, and he would remind me always of the admonitions of Leviticus and Ecclesiastics. My childhood friend and District Chief of Staff, Mr. Art Kennedy, also knew him for many years, recalling fondly, ''Dr. Carter, Dorsey Miller and I always had dinner on Mother's Day with our wives at Tropical Acres. In addition to being a

powerful spiritual force, he was also a great sports historian.'' Our close friend, Dr. Dorsey Miller, will always remember that, ''Dr. Mack King Carter was a beacon of light in a sea of despair for those who sought hope, love, truth, and knowledge. He was the ultimate preacher, teacher, and practitioner of God's holy word.''

Mr. Speaker, one of Dr. Carter's favorite words was ''delicious.'' Without a doubt, our lives have been deliciously enhanced because of the profound Christian teachings of a son of Ocala, Florida. For almost 50 years, he dedicated his life to spiritual and community service, sharing his wisdom and love for teaching with countless others. While Dr. Mack King Carter will be dearly missed, his wife, Pat, and the family know that heaven has been ''deliciously'' improved.

IN RECOGNITION OF CURTI FAMILY INC., CURTIMADE DAIRY INC. & CURTI TERRA INC.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Representative DEVIN G. NUNES, rise today to honor the Curti family, celebrating their 100 year anniversary as an integral part of the dairy and farming industry in the Central Valley of California.

Miro Curti emigrated from Italy and began dairying in 1910. In 1913, Miro and his wife Domenica moved their 32-cow dairy operation to Waukena, California.

Miro played an important role in the local dairy industry and was a valued member of the local community. He was a director of Dairyman's Cooperative Creamery Association, a trustee of Waukena grade school, an active member of the Sons of Italy, and in 1969, he was named the first ''Farmer of the Year'' for the Tulare District.

In 1975, Miro and Domenica passed away, leaving Curti Farms to be managed by their three sons, Amelio, Italo, and Leo. The three sons continued to grow the business and eventually Curtmaid Holsteins gained a reputation across the nation for their superior herd genetics. They mastered on farm embryo transfers and began exporting cattle internationally to Saudi Arabia, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. The family was again recognized for their contribution to the local agriculture community when, in 1984, Amelio was honored with Tulare's ''Farmer of the Year'' award.

As the Curti family dairy continued to succeed, they were able to start a second dairy in 1988 and a third in 2002. The third dairy consists of over 500 Jersey milk cows. The third generation of Curti's are carrying on the family tradition of dairying and farming. Today the Curti family dairies consist of Curtimade Dairy, owned by Ben Curti, Curti Family, Inc., owned by Phillip Curti, and Curti Terra Inc., owned by Ken Curti. In 2005 Ben, Phillip, Ken, and Jeff Curti were honored with Tulare's ''Farmer of the Year.''

Today, the Curti family dairy operations consist of a mixed Holstein and Jersey herd along with the farming of alfalfa, corn, and wheat at Curtimade Dairy, Inc., a second mixed Holstein and Jersey herd at Curti Family Inc., along with farming alfalfa, corn, and wheat. In addition to their dairy facilities they have a third diversified farming operation of pistachios, wheat, cotton, alfalfa, and beans at Curti Terra Inc.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that Mr. NUNES and I recognize the Curti family for their extraordinary impact on the farming industry in Central California and congratulate them on a century of successful business and farming.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PASS IRRESPONSIBLE, PIECEMEAL STRATEGY TO COVER UP THEIR RECKLESS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today on the House floor, instead of putting an end to the damaging Republican Government Shutdown by passing a clean funding compromise passed by the Senate, the House Republican leadership has chosen to take a different path to vote on more political ploys. They are doing this by continuing to offer mini-versions of appropriations bills in a cynical effort to give themselves political cover for causing this shutdown in the first place.

These bills are political gimmicks, not a responsible approach to governing. Republicans have shut down the government and are damaging our economy and the middle class. And today the House is considering the following five GOP piecemeal bills, which only fund selected pieces of the government—National Institutes of Health, local funds for the DC, the National Parks, certain funding for Reserve/Guard, and part of the VA.

Like my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus, I wholeheartedly support veterans, our National Guard and Reserve, the District of Columbia, important medical research and our national parks. However, these bills leave out many of the crucial services relied on by the American people such as Head Start programs, veterans' cemeteries, small business loans, education for our children to equipping and training our troops to building housing for military families to getting decisions on veterans disability claims, among many others.

Instead of opening up a few government functions, the House of Representatives should re-open the entire government. The harmful impacts of a shutdown extend across government, affecting services that are critical to small businesses, women, children, seniors, and others across the Nation.

The American people have seen enough, and the time has come for Republicans to abandon their reckless and irresponsible agenda and join Democrats to honor America's commitments to provide vital services our citizens pay for with their hard earned tax dollars. I urge Speaker BOEHNER, Leader CANTOR, and the Republican Party to end its shutdown by working with Democrats to pass a clean funding bill and end this charade immediately.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 485, had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

HONORING WARREN HAMILTON WIDENER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Warren Hamilton Widener. Mr. Widener was an accomplished community activist, serviceman and humanitarian whose trailblazing work and strong commitment to social justice touched countless lives. As the first African-American mayor of Berkeley, Mr. Widener has left an indelible mark on the entire Bay Area community. With his passing on June 25, 2013, we look to Warren Widener's public legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Warren Widener was born on March 25, 1938 in Oroville, CA, in the Sacramento Valley. As a young man, he served his country as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, and he served his church leading the Methodist Youth Fellowship with his wife, Mary, at Downs Memorial United Methodist Church. Warren received his Juris Doctorate from Boalt Hall, School of Law. He worked as a lawyer and as President of the Urban Housing Institute before beginning his groundbreaking political career with his election to the Berkeley City Council in 1969 and his historic two-term election as the first black mayor of Berkeley, California, in 1971.

As stated in the October 1971 edition of Ebony Magazine's article on Warren's historic election, The Guard Changes in Berkeley, ''Widener . . . was a somewhat shy man . . . Somewhat enigmatic, Widener was, if there was such, a cautious radical, a man who according to one of his colleagues on the council, 'is really more of a liberal in that he seems temperamentally capable of lobbying and staying cool and working patiently with political opponents' . . . ''

After his last term as mayor, Warren would again return to public service with his election to the fifth district of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 1988, succeeding John George, the first African-American supervisor for Alameda County.

A modern day renaissance man, in addition to his political career, Mr. Widener also had an appreciation and respect for the arts community and served as President of the Berkeley Repertory Theater Board from 1985 until 1986.

On a personal note, I met him when I was a student during the early 70s; I admired and respected Warren's quiet strength, his bold leadership, and his commitment to our community. Warren Widener was a good friend and longtime supporter.

He was a man for all seasons who lived life to its fullest and made this a better world. As

a humanitarian, Warren's tireless and successful efforts to improve his community, especially to improve the lives of the homeless following the Loma Prieta earthquake, will be long remembered.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and a stalwart community member, Mr. Warren Widener. In addition to being a beloved husband, brother, father of three, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he was a respected colleague and dear friend. I offer my sincerest condolences to Warren Widener's extended group of loved ones and to all who benefited from his generous spirit over the course of his incredible life. Warren's legacy of compassion and concern for others will continue in the years to come. May his soul rest in peace.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the upcoming National Day of the Republic of China, which commemorates the October 10, 1911, uprising that led to the establishment of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912.

The Republic of China, also known as Taiwan, is a friend to the United States and also a substantial trading partner. Taiwan is the largest per capita importer of U.S. farm products, and in 2011 the country imported more than $267 million in goods from my home state of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, this anniversary presents an opportunity to recognize Taiwan and her people for their commitment to democracy and economic freedom. In that same vein, it is my hope that ongoing trade talks between the U.S. and Taiwan, as part of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, will strengthen our friendship and economic partnership.

The close relationship our countries have should continue to grow through increased cultural and economic exchanges and I look forward to the mutual benefits enjoyed through a strengthened diplomatic bond.

HONORING ELAINE POMEROY McKELLAR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual and former member of my staff, Mrs. Elaine Pomeroy McKellar. Elaine recently retired after an exceptional 46 year career dedicated to serving others, with the last 8 years serving on my staff. We join together in praise of her remarkable contributions to the Bay Area and our great nation.

She was born Elaine Pomeroy on August 3, 1944 in Thomasville, Georgia, where parents were stationed during World War II. Following the war, she and her family moved to Valley City, North Dakota where she grew up with her three younger siblings Linda, Earl, and Glenn. She received her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of North Dakota, and obtained her Masters in Social Work (MSW) at the Washington University in St. Louis.

Armed with her MSW, Mrs. McKellar eagerly headed to the San Francisco Bay Area determined to work in the progressive political climate and change-oriented environment. She met her husband, Larry McKellar, while out on the front lines advocating for fair wages and walking a picket line for the United Farm Workers. They have one son, Dominic McKellar, who works with his father in the family-owned courier business.

She started her career off in the 1970s at Catholic Social Services in San Francisco. She primarily worked on foster care services and with youth transitioning out of the foster care system. She later went to the Children's Home Society as the Coordinator of Emergency Foster Care Family and recruitment, a non-profit agency serving children and families through critical child welfare services.

In the late 1980s, Mrs. McKellar's career took her to Bay View Hunters Point Foundation, where she helped to implement elementary school mental health programs with her experience and expertise in social welfare. Following her experience at the Bay View Hunters Point Foundation, Mrs. McKellar worked at the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion, through a Robert Wood Johnson grant, and provided critical mental health services to children victimized by domestic violence.

Then in 2005, Mrs. McKellar came to work in my Oakland District Office. While initially starting as a part-time caseworker, she quickly rose to become the Senior Caseworker managing the casework services. She had spent the last 8 years providing outstanding constituent services to the residents of the 13th Congressional District. Mrs. McKellar's experience as a social worker was an asset to my office, as her institutional knowledge and expertise in social welfare easily allowed her to work closely with federal agencies and handle sensitive situations with the upmost professionalism and ease. She was committed to ensuring that my constituents received timely responses from agencies, frequently going above and beyond what was required of her.

Mrs. McKellar worked closely with veterans and constituents with issues relating to Social Security and Medicare. Her many contributions to the office have not gone unnoticed. For 5 years, she was responsible for organizing An Artistic Discovery, an annual Congressional high school art competition aimed at encouraging students to express themselves through the arts. Mrs. McKellar worked tirelessly to build relationships with high school art teachers and community stakeholders, which helped to successfully grow the event. In 2012 and 2013, Mrs. McKellar worked closely with staff from Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office to host the Veterans' Fix-It Event, an event to address the backlog in veterans' claims and cases with the Oakland VA Regional Office.

Elaine is an exemplary example of a public servant. She demonstrates the highest ethical standards and truly embodies the social work codes of ethics in all aspects of her life.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, Elaine Pomeroy McKellar, I salute you. Your more than 40 years of experience committed to serving others has been unparalleled. We thank you for your service, and best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7143–S7170

Measures Passed:

U.S. Government Employees in Iraq: Senate passed H.R. 3233, to extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas. **Page S7149**

Authorizing Reporting of Committee Funding Resolutions: Senate agreed to S. Res. 228, authorizing the reporting of committee funding resolutions for the period October 1, 2013, through February 28, 2015. **Page S7170**

Authorizing Expenditures by Committees of the Senate: Senate agreed to S. Res. 253, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014, and October 1, 2014, through February 28, 2015. **Page S7170**

Messages from the House: **Page S7167**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S7167**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S7167**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7167–68**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S7168–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S7170**

Additional Statements: **Page S7167**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7170**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:15 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 4, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7170.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SITUATION IN SYRIA

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the situation in Syria from Robert S. Ford, Ambassador to Syria, and Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation, both of the Department of State; and James N. Miller, Under Secretary for Policy, and Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., Vice Chairman, and Rear Admiral Paul B. Becker, Director for Intelligence, both of the USN, Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

REVERSING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reversing Iran's nuclear program, after receiving testimony from Wendy Sherman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; and James F. Jeffrey, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, David Albright, Institute for Science and International Security, and Ray Takeyh, Council on Foreign Relations, all of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James Walter Brewster, Jr., of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, who was introduced by Senator Durbin, Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Peru, who was introduced by Senators Reed and Whitehouse, and Carlos Roberto Moreno, of California, to be Ambassador to Belize, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 4 public bills, H.R. 3239–3242, and 13 resolutions, H.J. Res. 75–87, were introduced. **Page H6223**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6225**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 371, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making continuing appropriations for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–242). **Page H6223**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Harper to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6177**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6188**

Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act: The House passed H.R. 3230, making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, by a yea-and-nay vote of 265 yeas to 160 nays, Roll No. 516. **Pages H6193–H6200**

Agreed to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair on a point of order sustained against the Enyart motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 515. **Pages H6199–H6200**

H. Res. 370, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 70), (H.J. Res. 71), (H.J. Res 72), and (H.J. Res. 73) and the bill (H.R. 3230) was agreed to yesterday, October 2nd.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:22 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m. **Page H6203**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of those injured today during the incident near the Capitol. **Page H6203**

Veterans Benefits Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014: The House passed H.J. Res. 72, making continuing appropriations for veterans benefits for fiscal year 2014, by a recorded vote of 259 ayes to 157 noes, Roll No. 518. **Pages H6200–03, H6203–10**

Agreed to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair on a point of order sustained against the Duckworth motion to recommit the joint resolution to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 517. **Pages H6208–09**

H. Res. 370, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 70), (H.J. Res. 71), (H.J. Res 72), and (H.J. Res. 73) and the bill (H.R. 3230) was agreed to yesterday, October 2nd.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, October 4th. **Page H6210**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened at 8:38 p.m. **Page H6222**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H6188.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6199–H6200, H6200, H6208–09, and H6209–10. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AL-SHABAAB: HOW GREAT A THREAT?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Al-Shabaab: How Great a Threat?''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations held a hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 3188, to expedite the planning and implementation of salvage timber sales as part of Forest Service and Department of the Interior restoration and rehabilitation activities for lands within the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National park and Bureau of Land management lands adversely impacted by the 2013 Rim Fire in California; H.R. 298, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Mill Springs Battlefield located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky, and the feasibility of its inclusion in the

National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 1167, the "Restoring Storey County Act"; H.R. 1259, the "Coltsville National Historical Park Act"; H.R. 1633, the "Small Lands Tracts Conveyance Act"; H.R. 1846, the "Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site Amendments Act"; H.R. 2015, the "Las Vegas Valley Public Land and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act of 2013"; H.R. 2259, the "North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2013"; H.R. 2657, the "Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act of 2013"; and H.R. 2954, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers (KY); and Representatives Larson (CT); Velázquez; Chaffetz; and Miller (FL); Pedro Segarra, Mayor, City of Hartford, CT; John Anderson, Councilman, Whitefish, MT; Pat Whitten, County Manager, Storey County, NV; John Lee, Mayor, City of Las Vegas, NV; Steve Ross, Councilman, City of Las Vegas, NV; and public witnesses.

Committee on Rules: The Committee, granted, by record vote of 9–4, closed rules for: H.J. Res. 75, the "Nutrition Assistance for Low-Income Women and Children Act"; H.J. Res. 76, the "Nuclear Weapons Security and Non-Proliferation Act"; H.J. Res. 77, the "Food and Drug Safety Act"; H.J. Res. 78, the "Preserving Our Intelligence Capabilities Act"; H.J. Res. 79, the "Border Safety and Security Act"; H.J. Res. 80, the "American Indian and Alaska Native, Health, Education, and Safety Act"; H.J. Res. 82, the "National Weather Monitoring Act"; H.J. Res. 83, the "Impact Aid for Local Schools Act"; H.J. Res. 84, the "Head Start for Low-Income Children Act"; H.J. Res. 85, the "National Emergency and Disaster Recovery Act"; and H.R. 3223, the "Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act". The rule provides 40 minutes of debate on each joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of each joint resolution and provides that each joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in each joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit each joint resolution. In Section 3, the rule provides a closed rule for H.R. 3223. The rule provides 40 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. In Section 4, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported from the Rules Committee through the legislative day of October 21, 2013. In Section 5, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of October 20, 2013, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules and that the Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Testimony was heard from Representatives Wolf, Kingston, and Moran.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D897)*

H.R. 1412, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities affecting veterans and their families. Signed on September 30, 2013. (Public Law 113–37)

H.R. 3092, to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act. Signed on September 30, 2013. (Public Law 113–38)

H.R. 3210, making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown. Signed on September 30, 2013. (Public Law 113–39)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Friday, October 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 2 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, October 4

House Chamber

Program for Friday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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