United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014 No. 24

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUKE MESSER 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 7, 2014, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

IRAN

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, I have come to the House floor on numerous occasions to talk about the interim nuclear agreement that this administration is negotiating with Iran. I have come here to discuss exactly what that administration is—or, more importantly, isn't—negotiating and what that means for our national security and the stability of the region as a whole.

While there can be no question that we need to continue having that discussion about whatever else the regime in Tehran decides to do, like send warships off of our eastern coast, we also need to take some time to discuss what exactly the real power brokers in Iran are doing when they aren't talking about destroying Israel or attacking America.

Many of my colleagues have been down on this very floor before to discuss the oppressive nature of the Iranian regime. It is important that we remind folks just how tyrannical those who are in power there really are.

So, just what exactly have we seen since the election of the self-described moderate President in Iran? We have largely seen the continuation of the same human rights abuses that we have seen for years in Iran. We have seen the grip of Tehran's media and Internet sensors tighten since Mr. Rouhani came to power. Web sites have been restricted and mobile phone applications have also been blocked. There have also been reports of numerous newspapers and blogs being shut down altogether and their reporters and editors being arrested.

Now, what do they all have in common, Mr. Speaker? What they have in common is these people advocate for reform and are critical of the regime in Iran. We have seen a number of Iran's executions occur at an alarming rate since Mr. Rouhani took office. There are many theories as to why this is happening, but the fact remains, somewhere upwards of 60 people are being executed each month in Iran. Some of these executions are being carried out in public with those in charge intentionally leaving the bodies to hang from construction cranes in public areas.

We have seen the persecution of religious minorities. We should all support freedom of religion, and the regime's persistent crackdowns and arrests of Christians, the Baha'is, and other religious minorities should trouble everyone.

Mr. Speaker, as I have talked about before, Iran continues to prop up Hezbollah across the Middle East. Their involvement across the region is widely noted. Of particular concern should be their connection to Syria. Iran sends trained murderers and weapons to prolong the brutal civil war that continues to destroy Syria, separate families, and cause millions to flee their country.

Sadly, this is not even a comprehensive list of what goes on inside of Iran. We could discuss their appalling human rights trafficking record or their full record of sponsoring terrorism, in addition to what we have already discussed.

Why is all of this important when we are talking about the administration's pursuit of a nuclear deal with Iran? Two reasons: first, it should serve as a stark reminder of just whom exactly the Obama administration is really negotiating with; second, it shows the true intentions and belief of those that are really in power in Iran. It shows the disconnect between the rhetoric of the self-described moderate President and what is really going on within Iran's borders. Above all, it shows where the real power lies, which is in the hands of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

To forget about the plight of the Iranian people and not address what happens domestically in Iran would be a failure, plain and simple, and one which will continue to cost innocent lives.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S ANNUAL HUNGER REPORT

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

Printed on recycled paper.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to and highlight Bread for the World's annual hunger report. This year's report is entitled, ''Ending Hunger in America.'' Frankly, it couldn't be more appropriate or timely.

Mr. Speaker, over 49 million Americans go hungry every year, and we in the Federal Government—we in this Congress—are not doing nearly enough to fight to end hunger in this country. In fact, over the past 6 months, Congress stood by and let an $11 billion cut to the premier antihunger safety net program, SNAP, take effect. To make matters worse, Congress followed up by enacting another $8 billion cut to SNAP as part of the farm bill. We should all be ashamed.

The fact is Congress continues to make it harder and harder for the hungry in America to make ends meet and put food on their table. Although the Obama administration came into the office under the most difficult economic conditions in nearly a century, they also came in with a lot of promise. In fact, President Obama came in with, among other things, a pledge to end childhood hunger in America by 2015. That goal was achievable. Unfortunately, we have gone backwards over the past 5 years.

While I still believe there is time for the Obama administration to turn this around and make some real headway in the fight to end hunger, the sad reality is we are not going to end child hunger in America by 2015, and may not even make a significant dent in hunger by the end of this administration.

Just because President Obama will not meet his stated goal doesn't mean we should give up. That is why I am encouraged by this report from Bread for the World. First and foremost, it is refreshing that this report is honest and blunt. It rightfully states that hunger is a subset of poverty and that we can't truly end hunger without addressing poverty.

Just look at a few of the statistics listed in the report:

The average incomes of the top 1 percent of households rose by 19.6 percent in 2012, while the incomes of the other 99 percent grew just by 1 percent.

Nearly two-thirds of SNAP recipients are children, elderly, or disabled. Among SNAP households with children and at least one working-age, nondisabled adult, 62 percent work while receiving SNAP and 87 percent work in the prior or subsequent year, which hopefully should put to rest this distortion that somehow people on SNAP don't want to work.

Another statistic here is that while children make up roughly 24 percent of our total population, they comprise one-third of the Nation's poor.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that poverty must be addressed because that is the root cause of hunger. But Bread for the World lays out achievable and timely goals, goals that are not pie in the sky but actually doable. They call an end for hunger in America by 2030, and they do so in a four-point plan: one, a jobs agenda; two, a stronger safety net; three, human capital development; and four, public-private partnerships to support community-led initiatives against hunger.

They call for achievable goals of a 25 percent reduction in hunger by 2017, a 50 percent reduction by 2023, and completely ending hunger by 2030. We can do this if we make the political decision to focus on and commit to ending hunger.

I fully support this plan. I only want to move quicker to achieve the goal of ending hunger. This report rightly states:

> Ending hunger in the United States will require leadership not only at the Federal level, but also the State and local levels.

We already have Governors and mayors who are working to combat hunger. Governors Deval Patrick of Massachusetts and Don Beebe of Arkansas are committed to this effort. Former Boston Mayor Tom Menino was a leader; and I know the new mayors of New York and Boston, Bill de Blasio and Marty Walsh, are just as committed. And they aren't the only ones, but we need more help and commitment. The White House should convene a conference on food and nutrition to build on the recommendations in the Bread for the World report and come up with a comprehensive, holistic plan to end hunger in America.

Hunger at its core is a political condition. We know how to end it. We have the food and the resources to end hunger once and for all; we just don't have the political will to do so. Bread for the World, through this annual report and through their everyday actions, is trying to build the political will to end hunger in America. I know we can do it.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

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

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days give wisdom to all the Members, that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans. And may their constituents understand, as well, that many in this country have interests at odds with their own, and that the task entrusted to their representatives is extremely complex.

Bless us, O God, and be with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

THE STATUS QUO DESTROYS JOBS

(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, a weekend editorial by The Washington Times stated:

> The unemployment rate fell in January, which ought to be good news. But it isn't. Over the past decade, we have fallen into a strange and puzzling wonderland of opposites, where ''economic recovery'' comes with no growth, and unemployment rates drop when people aren't working.

The President's misleading message conveys that fewer jobs and government dependency is the new status quo, which destroys fulfilling lives.

Last week, a Congressional Budget Office report confirmed what the NFIB

and House Republicans have been saying for years: ObamaCare is destroying and will destroy 2.5 million jobs. 2.5 million fewer Americans will be out of work due to the President's health care takeover.

Our economy cannot truly recover unless ObamaCare is repealed. The President's Big Government policies are destroying jobs. House Republicans have solutions that will put Americans back to work. We understand the status quo should be job growth to help our middle class families achieve opportunity.

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

THIRD YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BAHRAIN PROTESTS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the third anniversary of the peaceful uprising in Bahrain. Three years after mass protests filled the streets, the Bahraini Government's promises of reform remain unfulfilled. Systematic human rights abuses, restrictions on freedom of expression, and arbitrary detention continue unabated.

Nabeel Rajab, a prisoner of conscience whom I have adopted as part of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission's Defending Freedoms project, is one of thousands who have been detained or tortured for peacefully calling for reforms. Prisoners like Nabeel are denied access to medical treatment, and many are prevented from speaking about their abuse, even to their families and lawyers.

Because Bahrain is our ally and home to the 5th Fleet, the U.S. has the responsibility to ensure that the Bahraini Government adheres to its human rights commitments and enacts meaningful reforms. These should include releasing political prisoners and ensuring accountability for torture. Absent such steps, the U.S. must consider contingency planning for the relocation of the fleet.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2431) to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2431

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 ''National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. NIDIS PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

Section 3 of the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''to better inform and provide for more timely decision-making to reduce drought related impacts and costs'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.—The National Integrated Drought Information System shall—

''(1) provide an effective drought early warning system that—

''(A) collects and integrates information on the key indicators of drought and drought impacts in order to make usable, reliable, and timely forecasts of drought, including assessments of the severity of drought conditions and impacts; and

''(B) provides such information, forecasts, and assessments on both national and regional levels;

''(2) communicate drought forecasts, drought conditions, and drought impacts on an ongoing basis to public and private entities engaged in drought planning and preparedness, including—

''(A) decisionmakers at the Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local levels of government;

''(B) the private sector; and

''(C) the public;

''(3) provide timely data, information, and products that reflect local, regional, and State differences in drought conditions;

''(4) coordinate, and integrate as practicable, Federal research and monitoring in support of a drought early warning system;

''(5) build upon existing forecasting and assessment programs and partnerships, including through the designation of one or more cooperative institutes to assist with National Integrated Drought Information System functions; and

''(6) continue ongoing research and monitoring activities related to drought, including research activities relating to length, severity, and impacts of drought and the role of extreme weather events and climate variability in drought.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013, the Under Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that contains—

''(A) an analysis of the implementation of the National Integrated Drought Information System program, including how the information, forecasts, and assessments are utilized in drought policy planning and response activities;

''(B) specific plans for continued development of such program, including future milestones; and

''(C) an identification of research, monitoring, and forecasting needs to enhance the predictive capability of drought early warnings that include—

''(i) the length and severity of droughts;

''(ii) the contribution of weather events to reducing the severity or ending drought conditions; and

''(iii) regionally specific drought impacts.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall consult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal, and local government agencies, research institutions, and the private sector.''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 313d note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $13,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2431, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2431, a bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH for his good work in bringing this bill to the House floor and for his bipartisan support. I also want to thank the gentleman and Representative BEN LUJÁN of New Mexico for joining me as an original sponsor. In 1998, Congress passed the National Drought Policy Act, establishing a Commission to provide recommendations on Federal drought policies.

The concept of creating a national drought monitoring and information system was proposed by the Commission in its 2000 report and promoted by various stakeholders, including the Western Governors' Association and in the 2004 report, ''Creating a Drought Early Warning System for the 21st Century.''

I was pleased to become involved in this effort with former Congressman and now-Senator MARK UDALL and to introduce the NIDIS Act of 2006, which Congress passed and became public law.

NIDIS is administered within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NIDIS established the U.S. Drought Portal, which has become a very valuable resource for decisionmakers at the Federal, State, and local levels, and for farmers, businessmen, and individuals.

This Web site provides current data for weather observations, early warnings about droughts, and support services for managing droughts. The Web site includes the U.S. Drought Monitor map, another valuable feature that is updated weekly. For example, according to the most recent Drought Monitor map, about 21 percent of the U.S. is experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions. More than 56 percent of the country has abnormally dry to exceptional drought conditions.

Madam Speaker, NIDIS is an example of a program that is working effectively and that has broad support. Rather than creating a new government bureaucracy, NIDIS represents a collaborative framework between Federal, states, and academic partners.

The NIDIS reauthorization will improve interagency coordination, early warnings, critical data sharing, and decision services related to drought. The bill encourages further research, monitoring, and forecasting, along with further development of regional early warning systems.

Madam Speaker, reauthorizing NIDIS will strengthen this important program and will help our State, it will help the local, and it will help the Federal officials, farmers, and water managers better prepare for and respond to drought.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2431, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2431, the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013. This vital program, known as NIDIS, was originated by my friend and former committee chair, Mr. RALPH HALL, in 2006. The program provides critical drought information to communities all across our Nation.

Over the past three decades, it is estimated that droughts have cost our country hundreds of billions of dollars in economic impacts. Loss estimates from the 2012 drought alone run upwards of $70 billion. Moreover, the effects of climate change are anticipated to exacerbate this problem in many parts of the country, including my home State of Texas.

Right now, California is experiencing its driest period in recorded history. Sixty-seven percent of the State of California is experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions. We all know that farmers and ranchers bear the brunt of these dry conditions. That hits the pocketbooks of every American as food prices do go up, but the damage is not limited to agriculture.

For instance, in the West, conditions are again ripe for extreme wildfires that scarred more than 9 million acres last year, putting homes and properties in jeopardy.

Tourism is suffering as water levels in lakes and rivers plummet and snow packs languish, leaving boats on dry land and skis in the attic. Communities are imposing water restrictions, and power plants and grid operators are taking a serious look at the emergency plans should water for cooling towers and hydroelectric dams fall short.

If you look at the top five most expensive disasters in the United States since 1980, three of those are due to drought. The NIDIS program is intended to help alleviate some of the economic impacts of drought.

Notably, one of the program's goals is to improve drought early warning. Advanced warning of impending droughts would allow States, localities, and farmers to better plan their activities so that the economic costs associated with droughts could be reduced or mitigated.

In light of the scope of the economic impacts of drought, and the potential of the NIDIS program to lessen these impacts, I remain concerned about the authorization levels in H.R. 2431. My Democratic colleagues and I tried to modestly increase the authorization levels during committee consideration of the bill, but we were not successful.

Every witness who has ever testified or spoken to our committee about this program has highlighted the need to improve the program's early warning capability. This isn't a goal that can be accomplished for free. It will take a sustained investment of additional funds to achieve results we desperately need.

While I wish the authorization numbers in the bill before us today were higher, they are much better than the numbers in the Senate bill, which locks the program into a funding cap that is below current spending for the next 5 years.

When the Federal Government is spending tens of billions of dollars per year to mitigate the effects of drought, I think it makes sense to spend a couple million extra dollars to try to reduce those massive costs to our taxpayers in our communities. It is pretty clear that in this instance an ounce of prevention will get us a pound of cure.

In spite of these concerns, however, I support H.R. 2431 and the reauthorization of NIDIS, a program which provides crucial information to help our farmers and communities prepare for and mitigate the impacts of drought.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the former chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee for yielding me time.

H.R. 2431, the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2013, makes minor improvements to the NIDIS program and helps establish better drought forecasting and coordination.

I am glad that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's chairman emeritus, Congressman RALPH HALL of Texas, is the lead sponsor of this bill and the original author of the NIDIS authorization in 2006. I thank the gentleman for his persistent leadership over the years on this issue.

Recent droughts in Texas and around the country have been severe. The NIDIS program has helped State and local governments, farmers, ranchers, and others both monitor and predict drought conditions.

More than one-third of the United States is currently experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. By some estimates, the historic drought in 2012 cost our national economy as much as $70 billion.

NIDIS is a good program that has a history of bipartisan support. It represents the kind of interagency and intergovernmental cooperation that we need to reauthorize in this difficult fiscal environment.

As a success story, the NIDIS program currently operates the U.S. Drought Portal, a Web site that features a range of services related to drought. This includes historical data on past droughts, current data from climate observations, early warnings about emerging and potential droughts, decision support services for managing droughts, and a forum for stakeholders to discuss drought-related issues.

These services have been vital to our efforts to better forecast as well as understand the conditions that lead to drought. This bill reauthorizes an important program that provides early warnings about potential droughts. It also supports services for local and State decisionmakers to better manage and prepare for drought conditions.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas, though at this moment I feel like I am surrounded by Texans in this particular discussion.

I am from Arizona. I am actually from the desert part of Arizona in the desert Southwest. So why is a bill such as H.R. 2431 so important to us?

The data collection and the management of the data models for those of us

who are in an arid region of the country is really, really important to us. We have come so far in the last couple of decades. The ability for my water management authorities in our reservoirs to know what is happening in the snowpacks all the way up into Colorado and on this side of the Continental Divide and learning whether we are moving into a ''La Nina'' or ''El Nino'' year—which actually makes huge differences to the expected rainfall, particularly in the winter months, in the desert Southwest—is important to us because we are getting better and better at forecasting even a year out in our expectations.

And so I have great appreciation for the gentlewoman from Texas, the chairman emeritus, and the other chairman from Texas, one more time—remember, as Texans, you are easterners to those of us in Arizona—because this bill is appreciated.

I know there is always a discussion about funding. But one of my great interests in this is the continued movement of the data-sharing as our universities across the country, particularly in the Southwest, build better and better and healthier and more robust models and the ability for that data to help States like mine manage our water resources into the future.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would simply urge support for H.R. 2431, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2431, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HALL. Madam 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE DEMOCRATIC AND EUROPEAN ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 447) supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 447

Whereas a democratic, prosperous, and independent Ukraine is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has declared integration with Europe a national priority and has made significant progress toward meeting the requirements for an Association Agreement;

Whereas on November 21, 2013, following several months of intense outside pressure, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych abruptly suspended negotiations on the Association Agreement one week before it was due to be signed at the European Union's Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania;

Whereas this reversal of stated government policy precipitated demonstrations by hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens in Kyiv as well as in cities throughout the country;

Whereas the demonstrators have been overwhelmingly peaceful and have sought to exercise their constitutional rights to freely assemble and express their opposition to President Yanukovych's decision;

Whereas the demonstrators have consistently expressed their support for democracy, human rights, greater government accountability, and the rule of law, as well as for closer relations with Europe;

Whereas on November 30, 2013, police violently dispersed peaceful demonstrators in Kyiv's Independence Square, resulting in many injuries and the arrest of several dozen individuals;

Whereas on December 11, 2013, police raided 3 opposition media outlets and the headquarters of an opposition party;

Whereas on December 11, 2013, despite President Yanukovych's statement the previous day that he would engage in talks with the opposition, police attempted to forcibly evict peaceful protesters from central locations in Kyiv;

Whereas several journalists, including from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and civic activists supporting the demonstrators have been brutally attacked;

Whereas on January 16, 2014, the Ukrainian parliament passed, and President Yanukovych signed, legislation which severely limits the right of peaceful protest, constrains freedom of speech and the independent media, and unduly restricts civil society organizations;

Whereas the passage of these undemocratic measures and President Yanukovych's refusal to engage in substantive dialogue with opposition leaders precipitated several days of violence and resulted in several deaths and hundreds of injuries, as well as numerous allegations of police brutality; and

Whereas in the face of spreading demonstrations, Ukrainian Government representatives and opposition leaders have entered into negotiations which on January 28, 2014, resulted in the resignation of the Prime Minister and his cabinet and the repeal of most of the anti-democratic laws from January 16, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) greatly values the warm and close relationship the United States has established with Ukraine since that country regained its independence in 1991;

(2) supports the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear;

(3) calls on the United States and the European Union to continue to work together to support a peaceful resolution to the crisis, and to continue to support the desire of millions of Ukrainian citizens for democracy, human rights, government accountability, and the rule of law, and closer relations with Europe;

(4) urges the Government of Ukraine, Ukrainian opposition parties, and all protesters to exercise the utmost restraint and avoid confrontation, and calls on the Government of Ukraine to live up to its international obligations and respect and uphold the democratic rights of its citizens, including the freedom of assembly and expression, as well as the freedom of the press;

(5) condemns all acts of violence and calls on the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those responsible for violence and brutality against peaceful protesters, and to release and drop any criminal charges against those detained for peacefully exercising their democratic rights;

(6) welcomes the repeal by the Ukrainian parliament of most of the anti-democratic measures adopted on January 16, 2014, and urges President Yanukovych to continue to engage in substantive talks with opposition leaders to address the legitimate grievances of the opposition, and to take additional steps to de-escalate tensions;

(7) urges the United States and the European Union to continue to make clear to Ukraine's leaders that those who authorize or engage in violence against peaceful protesters will be held personally accountable;

(8) supports the measures taken by the Department of State to revoke the visas of several Ukrainians linked to the violence, and encourages the Administration to consider additional targeted sanctions against those who authorize or engage in the use of force; and

(9) urges all parties to engage in constructive, sustained dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution to Ukraine's current political and economic crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and introduce extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my good friend and distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL, for introducing this bipartisan resolution supporting the democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

It is a timely appeal to the Government of Ukraine to stand down and to avoid all further violence, to exercise the utmost restraint and avoid confrontation. It calls on the government to bring to justice those responsible for violence against peaceful protesters and to release and drop any criminal charges against those detained for peacefully exercising their democratic rights.

At this point, the government's crackdown has led to the deaths of at least four protesters—perhaps more—and throughout Ukraine to numerous beatings, arrests, detentions, abductions—including some from hospitals—

the harassment of activists, journalists, medics, lawyers, and pro-democracy NGOs.

On the Kyiv Maidan alone, or Independence Square, more than 1,800 individuals, mostly protesters but also some riot police, have been injured. Thirty-six persons are confirmed missing, 49 people remain in detention, and 26 are under house arrest. At least 30 medics working to aid the injured on the Maidan have been attacked.

Also, 136 journalists have been attacked on the Maidan, including investigative journalist Tetyana Chornovol, brutally beaten on Christmas Day, and who investigators, rather incredibly, claimed was a victim of road rage.

One of the most outrageous examples has been the case of activist Dmitry Bulatov, who was abducted for 8 days before being left in a forest outside of Kyiv, during which time he was tortured by his captors who tried to force him to say he was an American spy.

The heroism, Madam Speaker, of the Ukrainian people persistently demonstrating, struggling, and risking themselves for justice and dignity is deeply inspiring. The witness of so many clergy on the Maidan is a powerful reminder of the spiritual values that are at stake.

Just last Thursday, I had the high honor and privilege of meeting in my office with Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Patriarch Sviatoslav of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. These brave and holy religious leaders are deeply concerned for the faithful—and for the whole Ukrainian nation—and alarmed about the potential for even worse violence, perhaps even civil conflict.

Patriarch Filaret said recently:

> I appeal to both the power and opposition to stop violence and to come to the negotiating table. All of you are responsible before God for your earthly doings.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis called for an end to the violence, and said:

> I am close to Ukraine in prayer and, in particular, to those who have lost their lives in recent days and to their families. I hope that a constructive dialogue between the institutions and civil society can take place, that any resort to violence is avoided, and that the spirit of peace and a search for common ground is in the hearts of all.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York expressed strong support for antigovernment protesters in Ukraine. Writing on his blog, he summarized the conflict as ''government thugs relishing the chance to bludgeon and harass the hundreds of thousands of patriotic Ukrainians,'' and described the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church as ''a church that has been starved, jack-booted, imprisoned, tortured, persecuted, and martyred by Hitler, Stalin, and company.''

That said, Madam Speaker, I do want to note that there is a paradox here. I know there are many outstanding people working in and for the Ukrainian Government who love their country and have its best interest at heart. Last year, for example, I met many times with Ukrainian ministers, high-level officials, and the ambassador, including meetings in Kyiv. This was because, in 2013, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kozhara chaired the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and made the fight against human trafficking a top priority for the organization.

In June, it held a high-level conference in Kyiv to investigate and promulgate best practices and ways that the 57 OSCE countries can better coordinate antitrafficking efforts, including through training transportation and hospitality industry employees in victim identification. The Kyiv call to action was serious and successful. I know because I was there. And what came out of that was a new OSCE plan of action to combat human trafficking.

Madam Speaker, I want to point out that this resolution does not take any position on whether Ukraine should sign an Association Agreement with the European Union. That is a decision for the Ukrainians to make themselves.

At the committee markup, we decided to make that point clear, and the message should be clear. This is not about politics; this is about human rights. Congress is supporting the Ukrainian people in their defense of universal human values and not inserting itself into the question of what Ukraine does vis-a-vis the European Union.

Madam Speaker, the Ukrainian people have endured horrific suffering over the course of the last century, and this is what gives their peaceful resistance on the Maidan such power.

Two world wars were fought on their soil. In the 1930s, as we all know, Stalin inflicted a genocidal famine on them, which resulted in the death of millions of men, women, and children, to say nothing of 70 years as a captive nation in the Soviet Union.

In the 1980s, many of us in this Chamber, and on the Helsinki Commission especially, spoke out on behalf of Ukrainian human rights activists imprisoned in the gulag, called for the legalization of the then-banned and repressed Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and held several hearings on the Chernobyl disaster.

With Ukraine's long-awaited independence in 1991, newfound freedoms also became a reality—or, we thought. But since 2010, with the election of Viktor Yanukovych, human rights, rule of law, and democracy have been under relentless attack—symbolized by the continued unjust imprisonment of former Prime Minster and opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, whose daughter, Yevhenia, testified at a Helsinki Commission hearing I held in May of 2012 and on whose behalf I, along with my colleagues, introduced a resolution in the previous Congress.

□ 1800

It is the Ukrainian people's dissatisfaction with Yanukovych, his rollback of democracy, that drives the protest movement. The long-suffering Ukrainian people deserve a government that treats them with dignity and treats them with respect. I am confident they will prevail in their heroic struggle.

I strongly support this resolution and, again, thank my friend from New York for authoring it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 447, a resolution I authored supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine.

I would first like to thank my original cosponsors, Chairman ED ROYCE and Representatives WILLIAM KEATING, ranking member of the Europe Subcommittee; and MARCY KAPTUR, SANDY LEVIN, and JIM GERLACH, of the Ukraine Caucus, for their invaluable help in crafting this bipartisan resolution.

I also thank my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for his remarks and agree with everything he said.

The United States has been a staunch supporter of a democratic, prosperous, and sovereign Ukraine. At this moment we must stand with the people of Ukraine more than ever before.

As the world has watched, over the past several months, hundreds of thousands of ordinary Ukrainian citizens have turned out in Kyiv and cities throughout the country to exercise their democratic rights and express their views.

The initial impetus for the demonstration was the Ukrainian Government's unexpected rejection of an offer from the European Union for closer political and economic ties. This rejection represented a reversal of government policy and, in the view of a great many Ukrainians, a lost opportunity for Ukraine to strengthen democratic institutions and values and increase economic opportunities.

In addition, the demonstrators have turned out not only in support of closer relations with Europe, but also more fundamentally in support of democracy, good governance, human rights, and basic human dignity. The fact that they have done so in an overwhelmingly peaceful manner is very, very impressive. It is also inspiring.

Sadly, there have been exceptions to the peaceful nature of the protests. These include police violence on several occasions late last year, the disturbing pattern of beatings and abductions of journalists and civil society activists, and the most recent and tragic violence in January.

Following this dramatic increase in tensions last month, the most recent developments in Ukraine give some cause for hope. I welcome the fact that meaningful talks appear to have begun between the government and opposition leaders.

I would also like to applaud the admirable efforts of the Obama administration and our European partners to deescalate tensions and support this dialogue.

Nevertheless, the situation in Ukraine remains highly volatile, and it is imperative that we actively support a peaceful, negotiated end to this crisis.

This resolution advances to that goal by strongly condemning all acts of violence, irrespective of their perpetrators. Let me also take this opportunity to condemn all acts of extremism in Ukraine, all acts of hatred, and all acts of anti-Semitism.

Moreover, the resolution calls on all individuals to behave responsibly. In particular, it calls on the Ukrainian authorities to respect and uphold the democratic rights of the citizens of Ukraine.

It also states that those who authorize or engage in violence should be held personally accountable for their actions, including by targeted sanctions, if appropriate. This is why I welcome the recent actions by the Department of State to revoke the visas of several individuals linked to the violence.

The resolution further urges the Ukrainian Government to bring to justice those responsible for violence against peaceful protesters, journalists, and civic activists, and to take additional steps to deescalate tensions.

Finally, the resolution urges all parties to continue the substantive and sustained dialogue to peacefully resolve the crisis and address the legitimate desire of millions of Ukrainian citizens for a democratic, European future looking West, not East.

In sum, the passage of this resolution would send a strong message of support to the people of Ukraine. At this critical moment, they should know that the United States and the United States Congress stand with them as they seek to build a democratic, prosperous, and secure Ukraine, respecting human rights and dignity and anchored firmly in Europe.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 447.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH), the cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, I rise today because, every now and then, we are reminded that there are still people around the world fighting fiercely to secure the same individual liberties and foster the very same democratic traditions that Americans have been blessed with for nearly 238 years.

During the past 3 months, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens have taken to the streets of Kyiv and other cities in peaceful protest of a government that has ignored the will of the people and steered the country away from closer ties to democratic allies and supporters.

The initial response from Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych was brutal. Government forces attacked protesters, resulting in at least five reported deaths.

Furthermore, President Yanukovych enacted harsh new laws aimed at snuffing out dissent by making it a crime to peacefully protest against the government.

Thanks to the vigilance of my colleagues in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and the leadership of Congressman ENGEL, Chairman ROYCE, and Subcommittee Ranking Member KEATING, the actions of President Yanukovych have not gone unnoticed here in the United States Congress.

Many of us have individually condemned the use of violent, repressive tactics against the protesters. Those of us in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus have tried to convey to those fighting for democracy in Ukraine that their efforts are not in vain, and that totalitarianism must not be allowed to rise again in any fashion.

Today, all of us in the House have a chance to stand united with our friends in Ukraine who desire greater economic opportunity and individual liberty. So I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution to let the world know the United States will not stand by and allow repression, violence, and political intimidation to prevail in Ukraine.

Let's adopt this resolution for all those in Ukraine who wish for a government that is transparent, honors the fundamental human rights of its citizens, and respects the dignity of all Ukrainians, regardless of political affiliation.

I thank the gentleman from California for introducing this resolution. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for recognizing me.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you, Mr. ENGEL, for yielding, and to Mr. SMITH also, congratulations on your work.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 447, supporting the democratic aspirations of the Ukrainian people and their right to choose their country's future and to choose its direction, free from fear or intimidation, whether internal or external.

For 3 months now, countless scores of Ukrainians across the country have braved not only the bitter cold, but also the constant threat of government-authorized violence, to peacefully stand up for the universal principles of democracy and respect for human rights.

With this resolution, we, in the U.S. House, stand with them now.

A few weeks ago, I joined a large number of members of the Ukrainian American community that I proudly represent in the Ninth Congressional District to express support for those demonstrating in the still-colder winter in Ukraine.

As a founding cochair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and original cosponsor of this resolution, I believe it is important that the House pass this expression of support for the Ukrainian people.

Those on Kyiv's Maidan and throughout the country need to know that the world is watching, that the U.S. is watching, that we here are watching, and we support them. I say to them, we are, and we do.

With colleagues, I recently had the privilege of meeting with opposition members of the Ukrainian Parliament. I was struck by what they indicated is their biggest fear and that of the demonstrators. There is the fear of riot police and government-backed thugs beating peaceful protesters, abhorrent behavior that has happened, resulting in numerous deaths.

There is a fear of being among the disappeared. According to reports, 20 opposition activists are still missing. What those brave democratic activists told us they are most afraid of is being forgotten, of the international community turning its attention elsewhere, of our global commitment to human rights and the rule of law being mere words, idealism overtaken by other foreign policy priorities.

The House today will take an important step to ensure that does not happen; that that fear is not realized.

Together with the Obama administration's continued forceful efforts, and the earlier passage of a similar resolution in the Senate, we present a unified American front. We show the people of Ukraine that we will steadfastly support their democratic and European aspirations.

We show Ukrainian President Yanukovych that America will not sit on the sidelines in the face of their government repression and gross human rights violation, and, as the Obama administration has shown, America will not only condemn, we will take action.

Like others, I welcomed the State Department's revocation of visas held by Ukrainian Government officials found to be responsible for violence against peaceful protesters.

I encourage the administration to take additional action, including targeted financial sanctions, should violence and human rights violations continue, which is what this resolution calls for.

It is time for the Government of Ukraine to immediately cease the use of violence, recognize the human rights of peaceful protesters and independent media, and participate in a true national dialogue with the opposition.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand and stand up with the courage, resilience, and indomitable spirit of the

Ukrainian people and pass this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a very distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 447. As the tensions continue to rise in Ukraine about the future direction of this country, we understand that the people of Ukraine are hoping to secure basic democratic freedoms of association and speech for all citizens.

I join my colleagues in stressing the importance of the adoption of democratic social norms in Ukraine and in the region.

Over the past several years, we have seen some impressive improvements in the area of human rights. However, the situation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals continues to cause serious concern. The rampant and unacceptable state-sponsored homophobia that we are witnessing in neighboring Russia is slowly invading Ukraine as well.

Some individuals have sought to introduce legislation in the Ukrainian Rada, similar to Russia's, to ban so-called ''homosexual propaganda,'' which does nothing more than limit the fundamental freedoms of association, speech, and assembly for all Ukrainians, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The citizens of Ukraine, including her LGBT citizens, deserve much, much better, and they should know we stand with them as they pursue a free, inclusive, and democratic society.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus, an original cosponsor of this resolution, and she and I had the opportunity many years ago to travel together to Ukraine.

□ 1815

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to thank Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of New York for his great leadership and Chairman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for bringing this vitally important resolution up tonight.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for House Resolution 447, supporting the courageous democratic aspirations of the people of Ukraine. I want to thank, on a bipartisan basis, Congressman JIM GERLACH of Pennsylvania for his cochairmanship of our Ukrainian Caucus. We all stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The people of Ukraine have the human right to choose their own future, free of intimidation and fear. What courage it took for these interfaith religious leaders at Maidan to stand with their religious symbols, icons, and crosses and other religious garb, along with their leaders, with their backs to the barricades, protecting the students as they faced the police.

Over the past few months, the world has stood witness as Ukrainians have risen up, united in their desire for a more free, transparent, and democratic Ukraine. If one knows anything about the history of Ukraine, one knows what it took to do that in that place.

The passage of House Resolution 447 here this evening means that our Congress stands in solidarity with those in Maidan and that we lend our support to the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians peacefully demonstrating in the freezing, bitter subzero temperatures for over 2 months for a more democratic and better future for all their people.

If there is a God—and I believe there is—surely he or she will look down on this place and bless these people.

The Ukrainian national anthem opens with the words:

> Ukraine's glory has not yet died, nor her freedom; upon us, fellow compatriots, fate shall smile once more.

Indeed, fate shall smile once more upon Ukraine. Long live Ukraina. Long live her young people who hold in their hearts the democratic future of that nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H. Res. 447. I say to my colleagues here, this is a most important crossroads in history. Truly, this country can be the borderland nation that links West and East and South and North in that important part of the world.

The world needs Ukraine. She is already the third-largest grain exporter to the world's people. Her talent, her artistry, her vision has been quashed for so many, many, many decades and generations. Now is her moment, and we stand with her people, aspiring to that better day for all.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I just want to take 30 seconds to respond and thank the gentlelady from Ohio for her very eloquent defense of the Ukrainian people and for, again, reminding Americans and the world of the pivotal role that the patriarch and the highest, as well as people who are just among the faithful, are playing.

The religious community is standing in solidarity with those who are aspiring for freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights. And they have literally put themselves between the police and the barricades in a way that puts their very lives at risk, holding up crosses, holding up other, as the gentlelady said, icons of faith to say that we serve a God of peace and reconciliation.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds, and I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would just say to the gentleman, looking back at the history of Ukraine and that region, the fact that you would have leaders of the Jewish faith, leaders of the Islam faith, leaders of Christian faiths, be they Orthodox or Uniate or Roman Rite, all—all—risking their substance, it is just incredible.

This should be on the front page of every newspaper in the world, and world opinion should move progress forward and help those people who have stood in that bitter cold weather for over 2 months. Unless you have traveled to Ukraine and experienced those temperatures yourself, you would not fully appreciate what they are enduring.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

I am glad you brought up the interfaith aspect of this as well. I actually chaired another hearing on anti-Semitism just several months ago, and the chief rabbi from the Ukraine came and testified and gave very powerful testimony as to how the faith community is working side by side to mitigate and, hopefully, end the cruelty of anti-Semitism while simultaneously working with Christians and others on behalf of human rights.

Again, this demonstration of the faith community should go noted by everybody in this Chamber and, I hope, by everyone in the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a very distinguished member of both the Budget and Ways and Means Committees and a member of the Ukrainian Caucus as well.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank both Mr. ELIOT ENGEL of New York and Mr. CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey for leading us through what are important things for us to contemplate, because what is applicable to Ukraine is applicable to a lot of places in this world. So I am a proud cosponsor and a strong supporter of H. Res. 447. It expresses our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and affirms their right to choose their own future.

In this room, not that many years ago, we brought in the Prime Minister. Many of us had these flags, the colors of the Ukraine country.

Mass protests have broken out in Ukraine following President Yanukovych's decision in November to back away from negotiations for closer integration with Europe. So Russia has their fingers in all of this. Beware.

There was an agreement which had been supported by millions of Ukrainians in Ukraine and around the world.

We have known about the violence. We have known about the detainment because folks just expressed their legitimate dissatisfaction with Yanukovych's government.

However, the current crisis in Ukraine had deeper roots. Almost a decade ago, the Orange Revolution led to the annulment of a fraudulent election which would have brought Viktor Yanukovych to power. In the wake of protests and civil disobedience on a massive scale, the Ukrainian people, instead, chose President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She is in jail. She is in jail right now, as we speak, still. Now the democratic gains made as a result of that Orange Revolution are at risk. Viktor Yanukovych has gained the presidency, and former Prime Minister Tymoshenko, as I said, is still in jail.

The use of force to suppress open expression by political opponents or popular protests could never be tolerated in a free and democratic society, and those within the Ukrainian Government who authorized these brutal crackdowns should be held accountable for their egregious abuse of power.

There has been a strong outpouring of support for the protesters from the large and active Ukrainian American community, many of whom live in my district, the Ninth Congressional District of New Jersey.

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

Mr. ENGEL. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. Ukrainian Americans deeply desire a solution to this crisis which respects the fundamental rights of their sisters and brothers in Ukraine to free speech, press, and peaceful assembly. It is my sincere hope that the United States can facilitate a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine which respects the will of the Ukrainian people and brings justice to those who have been harmed through wrongful arrests and violence.

As we saw in Syria, crackdowns on nonviolent protests can lead to an all-out civil war, and we still do not do what we should be doing with those refugees from Syria. That is a disgrace.

We need to act now to help the people of Ukraine before the violence escalates further. I urge my colleagues to join this vital show of support from the American people to the people of Ukraine.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for yielding.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I want to continue to urge my colleagues to support the resolution. As anyone can see, this is a very bipartisan resolution. It is very important.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I, again, thank my good friend and colleague from New York, ELIOT ENGEL, for his sponsorship of this important resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 447, a resolution supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the Ukrainian people and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear.

As an original co-sponsor and as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, I believe it is essential for Congress to continue to show its strong support for the Ukrainian people. In the two decades since Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union, Congress has been at the forefront of efforts to foster democratic and economic reform in Ukraine.

I have been deeply troubled by developments in Ukraine since President Yanukovych's surprising announcement last November that his government would not sign an Association Agreement with the European Union. I remain concerned that Mr. Yanukovych and his government were unduly pressured by outside forces to take a decision at odds with the long-term interests of the Ukrainian people and that the government's decision was not taken in consultation with other political stakeholders.

Since November, I have watched Ukraine's unfolding political crisis with growing concern, especially authorities' use of violence against peaceful protestors. I have been deeply dismayed by the deaths and injuries sustained on all sides. I applaud the Administration's decision to revoke the visas of the Ukrainian government officials who were responsible for ordering or committing acts of violence against peaceful protestors. I believe additional sanctions should be considered in the event of further violence, but hope they will not be necessary.

In the past few weeks, we have started to see signs of progress toward a resolution, including the repeal of repressive measures adopted by parliament in mid-January and the resignation of the prime minister and his cabinet on January 28. Both developments created an opening for serious dialogue between the government and the opposition. I urge all parties to seize this important opportunity.

This resolution does not take sides in what is quite rightly a matter that Ukrainians must decide for themselves. Instead, it urges all parties to refrain from violence and to engage in constructive, sustained dialogue in order to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis.

To facilitate that process, this resolution underscores to protestors, to the government, and to all Ukrainians that the United States will continue to defend Ukraine's sovereign right to chart its own course and build its own future.

It also makes clear, not just to the protestors, but to President Yanukovych as well, that the United States will continue to support the Ukrainian people's aspirations to build a strong and prosperous democracy—one that is firmly rooted in Europe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 447, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules on H.R. 2431 and H. Res. 447, in each case by the yeas and nays, and the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2431) to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 21, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

YEAS—365

Andrews	Camp	Crowley
Bachmann	Cantor	Cuellar
Bachus	Capito	Culberson
Barber	Capps	Cummings
Barletta	Carney	Daines
Barr	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Barrow (GA)	Carter	Davis, Rodney
Barton	Cartwright	Delaney
Bass	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Becerra	Chabot	Denham
Benishek	Chaffetz	Dent
Bentivolio	Chu	DeSantis
Bera (CA)	Cicilline	Deutch
Bilirakis	Clark (MA)	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Doggett
Black	Cleaver	Doyle
Blackburn	Clyburn	Duckworth
Blumenauer	Coble	Duffy
Bonamici	Coffman	Duncan (SC)
Boustany	Cohen	Edwards
Brady (PA)	Cole	Ellison
Brady (TX)	Collins (GA)	Ellmers
Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)	Engel
Brooks (IN)	Conaway	Enyart
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Eshoo
Buchanan	Cook	Esty
Bucshon	Cooper	Farenthold
Burgess	Costa	Farr
Bustos	Cotton	Fattah
Butterfield	Courtney	Fincher
Byrne	Crawford	Fitzpatrick
Calvert	Crenshaw	Fleischmann

Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—21

Amash
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Duncan (TN)
Gohmert
Graves (GA)
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Jones
Labrador
Lankford
Massie
Perry
Petri
Poe (TX)
Ribble
Sensenbrenner
Westmoreland
Woodall
Yoho

NOT VOTING—45

Aderholt
Amodei
Bishop (UT)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cassidy
Connolly
Cramer
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DesJarlais
Franks (AZ)
Gosar
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Harris
Hultgren
Israel
Jackson Lee
Johnson (GA)
Kind
Kingston
Latham
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lofgren
Matsui
Neal
Noem
Pastor (AZ)
Pingree (ME)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Schwartz
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Stutzman

□ 1858

Messrs. POE of Texas and RIBBLE changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. WILSON of Florida changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE DEMOCRATIC AND EUROPEAN ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 447) supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 2, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—381

Amash
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—2

Jones
Massie

NOT VOTING—48

Aderholt
Amodei
Bishop (UT)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cassidy
Connolly
Cramer
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DesJarlais
Franks (AZ)
Gosar
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hultgren
Israel
Jackson Lee
Johnson (GA)
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Latham
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lofgren
Matsui
Neal
Noem
Pastor (AZ)
Pingree (ME)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Schwartz
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Webster (FL)
Yoho

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on February 10, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district and thus unable to return in time for rollcall votes 55 and 56.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 55 I would have voted "aye" (February 10) H.R. 2431—The National Integrated Drought Information Systems Reauthorization Act (Representative HALL—Science, Space and Technology); On rollcall No. 56, I would have voted "aye" (February 10) (H. Res. 447, Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, as amended 2319, Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013 (Representative ENGEL—Foreign Affairs).

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. HARTZLER. 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 241, noes 123, answered "present" 1, not voting 66, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

AYES—241

Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conyers
Cook
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hunter
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
Loebsack
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Payne
Pelosi
Perry
Petri
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Van Hollen
Vargas
Wagner
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOES—123

Amash
Andrews
Barber
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (NY)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Chaffetz
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Costa
Cotton
Crowley
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellison
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Hall
Hanna
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kilmer
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Langevin
LoBiondo
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCaul
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
Palazzo
Pallone
Paulsen
Pearce
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Ros-Lehtinen
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schock
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tipton
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Weber (TX)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Gohmert

NOT VOTING—66

Aderholt
Amodei
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Bustos
Byrne
Campbell
Cantor
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cassidy
Cicilline
Connolly
Cooper
Cramer
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DesJarlais
Doyle
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hultgren
Hurt
Israel
Jackson Lee
Johnson (GA)
Keating
Kind
Kingston
Latham
Lee (CA)
Lewis
Lofgren
Matsui
McCollum
Neal
Noem
Owens
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Perlmutter
Pingree (ME)
Richmond
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Schwartz
Sinema
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Stutzman
Tiberi
Vela
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1913

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my recent absence from the House on Monday, February 10. On this day, I was unavoidably detained in my district.

Because of this absence, I missed votes on the House floor. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 55, 56 and 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, due to being extremely sick, I was not present for tonight's rollcall vote No. 55, No. 56, and No. 57. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 55, 56, and 57.

GARETH PREBBLE, A ROLE MODEL

(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, I rise to recognize Gareth

Prebble, a sixth-grade student from Mount Nittany Middle School in State College, Pennsylvania. Gareth has hopes of connecting what he refers to—and rightfully so—as the divide between the physically disabled and the rest of the population.

Young Gareth took a giant step towards this goal last month when he entered the Martin Luther King Commemoration Student Showcase essay contest. The contest, sponsored by Pennsylvania State University, is titled ''Reflect on Yesterday. Experience Today. Transform Tomorrow.''

Gareth, who has cerebral palsy, wrote about his life experiences: ''People often look at me and make assumptions based on my appearance.'' Gareth's essay evokes Dr. King's powerful message—for all people in this country to be treated with respect and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, Gareth went on to win this competition. I rise to congratulate him for his work and for having the strength and courage to share his story. In doing so, he is a role model for each and every one of us in how we, too, can transform the future.

TUCSON GEM AND MINERALS SHOW

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, which next week will host the 60th annual Tucson Gem and Minerals Show.

This show began as a small club gathering, and over the past six decades, it has grown to set the standard for other such events around the world. This year's show will be held from February 13 through 16 with the theme ''60 Years of Diamonds, Gems, Silver, and Gold.''

As a result of the interest generated by this long-running event, dozens of satellite events very much like it have proliferated throughout the Tucson area. These feature gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites, and other items from around the world and are known as the Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase. These events bring an estimated $100 million to southern Arizona.

None of this would have been possible without the work of the volunteers of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society. I am proud to recognize this long-time Tucson tradition and this great organization and the economic benefits it brings to my district.

TAXMAN STEALS THE GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE

(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, America's best athletes carry the banner of Old Glory into the Olympic Games. They are a remarkable breed and have dedicated their lives in training to represent Team USA in lands far, far away.

This year is no different as they hit the snowy Winter Games in Russia, and they are already doing quite well. As the ''Star-Spangled Banner'' plays, they stand on the podium to receive gold, silver, and bronze medals—but lurking in the creepy shadows of the medal ceremony is the U.S. taxman.

The IRS wants a piece of the gold even though these medals were won overseas. It is absurd that the IRS can levy a tax on these medals. These athletes are ambassadors for America. Their medals should not be taxed by the IRS. Are some winners going to have to sell their medals to pay the taxman? Who knows?

Congress should pass Congressman FARENTHOLD's legislation this week that would keep the greedy hands of the IRS off the medals of the Olympians.

Mr. Speaker, the taxman should not be able to steal the gold, silver, and bronze.

And that's just the way it is.

OLYMPIAN EDDY ALVAREZ

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a Miami native and Cuban American short-track speed skater, Eddy Alvarez.

When I first heard about this south Florida ice speed skater, I was even more astounded than when I found out about the Jamaican bobsled team. Disney may have to make a movie about this. In all seriousness, Eddy had his first competition in Sochi this morning, and he will continue competing in events this week.

Eddy learned to roller skate in south Miami, and then took to the ice, eventually competing internationally with great success. I am proud to note that Eddy attended Christopher Columbus High School and practiced at the Kendall Ice Arena—both great institutions in my district.

Eddy is a remarkable example of American determination and dedication. I wish him and his fellow Olympians all the success in Sochi.

ENDING RUSSIA'S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, as millions of Americans turn their attention to Sochi for the Winter Olympics, we cannot overlook Russia's continued ban on intercountry adoption.

Every day, families across America eagerly await news that the Russians' ban on allowing American families to adopt Russian children has finally ended. Some families have decided to look at other places to adopt, but many are still committed to completing their adoptions. Families like the Thomases, from Minnetrista, Minnesota, have not given up hope in adopting their second child from Russia. In 2008, they completed an adoption for their son Jack. After a successful transition, they have now begun the process of adopting Jack's younger brother, Nikolai. Unfortunately, Russia's adoption ban has squashed any hopes of completing that adoption.

Mr. Speaker, every child, no matter where he is born, should have the opportunity to grow up in a loving family. I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to end the Russian adoption ban and to let our families bring home their children.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PATRICIA McNAMARA BEAZLEY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of a great American, Patricia McNamara Beazley, a magnificent woman and citizen whom we laid to rest today in Toledo, Ohio, after a mass at Gesu Church, a place that she called home.

Pat Beazley was an extraordinary human being. The minute you met her you felt like a member of her family. She was an artist of family, a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and an artist in her own right. Her paintings abound not just in her home but throughout our country and, certainly, in her home community.

Her son, Michael—a personal friend—her daughters, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, and her wonderful husband, Ben, just know that our entire community stands with you. We know what a builder of family and community Pat was. We celebrate her life—her life of love, her life of contributions to others, her very quiet way of building friendships and, in so doing, building a community that was strong—her church family, her community of artists and, obviously, her own family.

We say ''thank you'' to the Beazley Family for sharing Pat with us these many, many decades. We have been so blessed by her presence, and the beauty of her life and the beauty of her works will remain with us always. May she rest in peace, and may God give comfort to those who remain behind to carry forward her legacy.

[From: Toledo Blade]

Patricia Beazley, 83, an award-winning artist known for her skill in portraiture and in depicting family scenes and children, died Wednesday in her Sylvania Township home.

Mrs. Beazley developed complications after a series of strokes the last few years, her son, Michael, said. Mrs. Beazley and her loving, surviving husband, Ben, raised three

gifted children—Michael, Mary Beth and Trish. Their grandchildren & great grandchildren pay tribute to their lifetime of love and devotion.

Pat was an artist in every sense of the word. She accepted commissions and she created formal portraits, such as of professors and administrators at the University of Toledo and Ohio State University. Families commissioned her to depict a mother with a baby or a montage of family scenes. On occasion, she was asked on short notice to do a portrait that could be displayed at a wake or funeral service. She created the familiar picture, ''Daughter Too,'' of the pig-tailed girl eating an apple on the side of Al Peake & Sons & Daughter Too produce trucks.

''Her biggest strength as an artist was she really captured the likeness,'' her daughter Mary Beth said. ''A friend of hers stopped by and said, 'She captured the spirit.' ''

Mrs. Beazley worked primarily in pastel, though she was versed in other media.

''She enjoyed anything from the still lifes to the flowers,'' her son said. ''Her line of pencil drawings she used to call 'captured moments.' She always took joy in the craft and a special pride in the reactions of the families she did work for.''

Her work has been selected for the annual Toledo Area Artists Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art and for a Pastel Society of America exhibition and has been included in other shows at the museum and through the Athena Art Society and other groups. She received a Grumbacher Bronze Medallion, and at several exhibitions, her works were deemed best-of-show.

Her mother was an amateur artist, but Mrs. Beazley did not take an art class until she was 39. She actively resisted training as a child, she told The Blade in 1981, because ''I just knew I wasn't good enough.''

She also was active at Gesu Church and volunteered for the League of Women's Voters—she produced a public television program featuring debates among local candidates—and on behalf of civil rights.

She'd painted a mural on the kitchen wall when the family lived in Chicago. She began sketching.—See more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/toledoblade/obituary.aspx?n=patriciabeazley&pid=169562150#sthash.VEuVwBOk.dpuf

A ''CLEAN'' DEBT CEILING: A DIRTY DEAL FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, sometime in the very near future, we are going to have to vote on an increase in the national debt. The national debt ceiling is currently at $17 trillion, and all expectations are that the increase will put it up over $18 trillion or at least $17.5 trillion.

It is unconscionable to me that one of the largest items already in our budget is the interest on the national debt, and that it is also one of the fastest growing items in the budget. I will not vote, Mr. Speaker, for a so-called ''clean'' debt ceiling, because I think that is a dirty deal for the American people.

It is time to begin structural changes to our entitlement programs that make them subject to some sort of caps so that we can get back to balance and keep our budget in balance. This is one of those inflection points in American history, and I hope that the House of Representatives will insist on real reform in our budget before we vote to increase the public debt by one penny.

MIAMI-DADE TEACHER OF THE YEAR MYRNA BETANCOURT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased tonight to rise to congratulate a Miami teacher who is going above and beyond for our south Florida students.

Myrna Betancourt, a culinary arts teacher at the South Dade Educational Center, is Miami-Dade County's 2015 Teacher of the Year.

Working out of her kitchen in the Chapman Partnership Homeless Center in Homestead, Myrna is giving hundreds—thousands—of often disadvantaged, special needs or homeless Miami students a second chance at life. A former social worker and public schoolteacher, Myrna has always wanted to help those in need. Thanks to her hard work, Myrna's chefs are learning to cook gourmet foods, are finding jobs in good restaurants, and are receiving scholarships at the finest culinary schools in our country. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, Myrna is giving them hope and an opportunity to follow their dreams.

Congratulations, Myrna. South Florida is also very proud of you.

CONGRATULATIONS WALLA WALLA VALLEY

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time to recognize the beautiful Walla Walla Valley and the 30th anniversary of their Federal designation as an American Viticultural Area.

Over the past 30 years, the Walla Walla Valley has earned national and international recognition for being one of the best wine regions in the world. Just ask Gary and Nancy Figgins, who opened Leonetti Cellar in 1984 when there were just four wineries in the valley. Today, within 1,800 acres of green, rolling hills, you will find 130 different wineries.

This growth has allowed businesses to expand and the wine tourism to become one of the top industries in our State. Our community has rallied around the business owners, and now wine-related jobs account for nearly 15 percent of the total jobs in the area. All of this leads to a $500 million economic impact, but it is not just the numbers, as it is about a community that makes us all proud in Washington State to call it our home.

I am honored to represent the Walla Walla Valley, and congratulations on 30 exceptional years. Best wishes for many, many more to come.

□ 1930

SHAME ON YOU

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today, once again, the President has unilaterally, almost like a monarch, said ObamaCare is the law.

The fact is HARRY REID and the Senate were willing to shut down the government instead of just passing a bill that would have suspended ObamaCare for a year—or, at least suspend the mandates—and he did it again today.

So it makes it very clear the shutdown of our government that hurt so many people was clearly a political game by HARRY REID and the Senate Democrats because they wanted America to hurt—and blame the Republicans—when all along they were willing to agree to what we offered to avoid the shutdown.

Shame on you.

CONFLATING THE TERMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I have a number of things that I would like to bring to your attention that are on my mind and I think are on the minds of the American people.

The number one topic in this Capitol Building, at least on the House side right now—and I believe on the Senate side, too—is the question of the debt ceiling that has been brought forward. A lot of us have some memories of how difficult that was the last time that came through.

There are a good number of Members in this Congress that have pledged they will never vote to increase the debt ceiling. We have a President who used extraordinary methods the last time and stretched the debt ceiling out and the crunch time that was supposed to come for months. And it is curious that even though the Congress did backfill that debt ceiling for him, now he doesn't have any extraordinary means, evidently, and now we are up against the time line, up against the wall of perhaps a February 15 date. It causes this Congress to have to scramble.

It is not because this government is in risk of default, Mr. Speaker. That is the language that emerged 2 or 3 years ago on the debt ceiling. Republicans and Democrats alike talked about how this country's credit is good and we can't allow our government to default.

The definition of default really isn't what has been used in this dialogue

over the debt ceiling. The default would be if the United States could not and failed to service its debt. That would be if we didn't have the revenue stream to pay the interest and to roll the bonds over, then we would be in default. We are a long, long way from that, Mr. Speaker. We have, by some measurements, as much as 8 or 9 or 10 times the revenue necessary to pay the interest and roll the bonds over.

So America is not in danger of default, but we are in danger of getting confused about the debate and losing track of the essence of it because we allow language to be conflated in the minds of the American people, the minds of the people in the House and the Senate, and in the press. The press allows that to happen as well. And when language gets conflated, we lose the center of the argument.

To drive that point home, Mr. Speaker, I would say this. About 6 or 7 years ago, I noticed that the language was being conflated between health care and health insurance. I recall our then-Governor to the State of Iowa came here in this very building. We had a meeting with the Iowa congressional delegation and the Governor, and he pressed us around the table, seven of us at the time—five House Members and two Senators—and he said, There are 40,000 kids in Iowa that don't have health care.

No one said anything. I looked at him and I said, Governor, there can't be 40,000 kids in Iowa that don't have health care. We are taking care of those kids. Why have I not heard about kids without health care?

He said, No, there are 40,000 kids in Iowa without health care.

And I brought it back to him again. They all have access to health care. If nothing else, in the emergency room they are going to have access to health care. We would not turn a child away—not from a clinic, not from a hospital, not from an ER.

And we went around and around five or six times with that verbiage of the Governor saying 40,000 kids don't have health care and me saying that can't be true, hoping that I could get him to be the guy that figured out that he really meant health insurance, not health care.

I had to explain it to him, Mr. Speaker. There is a difference. What you really mean is there are 40,000 kids—at the time—in Iowa that didn't have their own health insurance policy, which is far different than not having health care.

But you see what has happened. The language was already conflated in his mind and he couldn't separate them apart, even at a meeting with the Iowa congressional delegation where he was pitching for more resources to go into the program.

And so if that happens in the mind of a Governor of the State of Iowa, I have to believe it happens in the minds of a lot of other people across the country. And then I have to wonder, did this happen by accident? Did the language get conflated by accident, or were there people that wanted to advance a policy and they decided we are going to conflate this language because it helps our liberal agenda?

Well, it is the latter. It helps the liberal agenda to conflate the language. They did so on health insurance and health care, and that is just a model.

The next piece of this would be the example that happens with immigration.

Now, we know that there is a difference between illegal immigrants and legal immigrants. There is a tremendously different moral underpinning of this. I don't know anyone in this Congress that isn't very supportive of legal immigrants. And all of us who took an oath to uphold the Constitution should be for enforcing the rule of law even as they set about trying to change it.

But the term ''immigrant,'' which connotes a legal immigrant, and the adjective ''illegal'' immigrant are entirely different. They have been conflated, because when you use the term ''immigrant'' interchangeably with ''illegal immigrant,'' it suits the argument of the people who are for the open borders lobby and for amnesty.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, they have intentionally conflated the terms so that they can move their agenda, because it makes it harder to debate the distinctions if you have to stop and define the difference between ''immigrant'' and ''illegal immigrant.''

And then, of course, they argue that we shouldn't use that terminology—even ''illegal immigrant.'' We should use ''undocumented'' or ''not yet granted amnesty.'' Oh, wait. That wouldn't be theirs, Mr. Speaker. But you get the point. You conflate the terms ''illegal immigrant'' and ''immigrant,'' and then you give the moral standing of the immigrant to the illegal immigrant; and then you can make the argument that you should grant them amnesty because somehow they should have access to American citizenship and all the benefits thereof.

It is a similar argument that comes along with ''health care'' and ''health insurance.'' By conflating the two terms, they convinced the American people—at least a significant number of them—that everybody has not only a right to health care, but everybody has a right to their own health insurance policy.

These are a far cry from what our Founding Fathers laid out as rights. And, by the way, they are even a far cry from what Franklin Delano Roosevelt laid out as the four new freedoms. When I go down and look at the Roosevelt monument, it gives me a bit of a creepy feeling thinking how he manufactured freedoms that didn't come from God but fit a liberal agenda—even then.

So we have got the terminology of ''health care'' and ''health insurance'' and ''immigrant'' and ''illegal immigrant'' conflated, and now we are in the debt ceiling debate, and people on both sides of the aisle are arguing that we can't allow the United States to default. Their definition of ''default'' is the moment that the United States runs out of borrowing capacity, which isn't the same, because the cash flow still comes flowing in, hundreds of billions of dollars a month, which is plenty of money to service the interest and to pay the debt.

We are not up against a hard break here, Mr. Speaker. We are not up against a deadline that says that if we can't get credit at the bank, we are going to have the house foreclosed on. That is not it at all. It is a matter of where we take the money from to service our debt and what bills we pay.

I do think that the inertia of the spending and the structure of the budget that we have pushes this Congress towards a debt ceiling increase at some point. But the House of Representatives has the majority of Republicans for a reason. It is because the American people rose up in 2010 and said, You are shoving too much government on us. We want to keep our God-given liberty. We want to reject ObamaCare. We want to have a smaller government with less taxes and less spending and less regulation, less intrusion, less nanny state, more freedom, more God-given liberty.

That is what the American people said in 2010.

They reiterated it again in 2012 with regard to the House of Representatives. And with the President, Mr. Speaker, they evidently decided that they wanted a President that would perhaps send them an Obama phone and maybe pick up the rent check and the heat bill and the grocery bill without that much responsibility.

I don't know that the American people were looking down the line to see that if they push this debt off into the next generation, it is their children and their grandchildren that will be paying the debt in the next generation.

When I go to a high school and talk to the high school students, invariably they will say to me, What are you going to do about the cost of tuition and what are you going to do about the cost of my student loan?

They are planning to go to college, and I am glad they are.

The answer to that and the answer I give them is, The best thing that can be done for the increasing cost of tuition is for you, the consumer, to make an astute choice on where you will go to school and the best education you can get for the tuition dollar. Calculate that. Go visit the schools. Don't think that you are going to pay a premium because you want a certain kind of sheepskin hanging in a frame on the wall someday and believe that you can put your feet on the desk and live happily ever after.

The world doesn't work that way. Not that often, in any case, Mr. Speaker.

Instead, go evaluate the tuition costs and the cost of housing and all of the

associated costs with a college education and bargain for the best buy that you can get, and go there and get that education.

If you are determined that you want a degree from a prestigious institution, you can start a 4-year degree there. Maybe you will spend 5 years getting that degree. Or you can go to a smaller institution that is maybe closer to home and a little cheaper, get a couple years in, maybe a third year in, and transfer to that 4-year school. You can achieve that degree and put it in the frame with less dollars and maybe get more back in return for the tuition dollar.

Be good consumers is the piece advice that I would give to the students looking at going to college. That is one of the educational components of where we are going with this country. But the debt that is there for an individual is the debt of the country in its aggregate.

When I tell the students that this is how you get the best buy for your dollar, they say, What are you going to do to buy down the interest rate on my student loan?

My answer to that is, If we do that, we have to borrow the money here in Congress from maybe the Chinese, maybe the Saudis, maybe the American people. About half of this U.S. debt, this $17.3 trillion, is held in the hands of the American people in the form of Treasury bonds, et cetera. And so if we have to borrow the money to buy down your interest rate, you are going to be the one paying it back. You get your college education; you go off into the workforce; you start paying down the interest and the principal on your student loan; you are the one paying it back. If we borrow the interest rate down now, you still have to pay back your student loan, maybe at a lower interest rate, but you are going to be paying back the national debt as the other part of that bargain.

I have a number of grandchildren, all of them tremendous gifts and miracles in their own right, but the most recent two are the ones that I happened to have actually kept the math on. My little granddaughter Reagan is 3 years old. When she came into the world, her share of the national debt was $48,000.

□ 1945

Little Wallace, the youngest, who has been here since, oh, back in mid-November, his share of the national debt when he came into the world was $54,000. Three years apart. If we are gifted with another grandchild, you know their share of the national debt is going to be greater and greater.

This Congress needs to understand and think about our duty to the succeeding generations. Maybe it is an easy enough thing to pass a debt ceiling increase here to pacify a President who refuses to take on entitlement reform.

We all know that this debt is out of control. The spending is out of control. The spending is on auto-pilot, and the spending is going into programs like Medicaid and Medicare and Social Security.

By the way, the latter of the three is the one that is the easiest to fix, and if we could get our employment up, we could get Social Security back on track easier than any other way. The reform of entitlements is a necessary thing if we are ever going to get this country to balance.

So the question emerges to me and others, Mr. Speaker: What would you attach to a debt ceiling increase, a debt ceiling increase that would satisfy the President which, apparently, would be an entire year, a credit card for an entire year at whatever limit that might be? What would you attach to that to send the message, to hang on to something that you can point to and say, I focused on fiscal restraint?

What could be that list of items?

Well, one would be, and my Number 1 item, Mr. Speaker, that I would attach, and this would get me to vote for a limited debt ceiling increase, would be this: a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution passed out of the House of Representatives, passed out of the United States Senate, messaged to the States.

I would step up and take a real good look, depending on the terms of it, of course, at voting for a debt ceiling increase under those conditions.

Now, the balanced budget amendment to our Constitution would have to include, in my view, it would need to include a cap on the GDP spending. I would cap it at 18 percent.

Another would be that we would have to be able to waive that balanced budget requirement in the case of a declared war, and we have got some language, or a very serious national emergency. Those would be some provisions.

No tax increases without a supermajority, another provision.

A balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution that enforces fiscal responsibility from this point forward, provided that the States would ratify that constitutional amendment.

Now, Congress could pass a balanced budget amendment out of here with a two-thirds majority, out of the House and out of the Senate and message it to the States. That is all that we can ask out of here. The States then pick the balance up from there.

Meanwhile, a debt ceiling increase would pass, I believe, out of this Congress, and the 38 States required to ratify a balanced budget amendment, I believe they would step forward and do that, because, after all, they do have balanced budget requirements within their Constitutions, almost all of them, a balanced budget requirement, and we see how they live within their means.

I worked in the State senate in Iowa for 6 years. We made our way to balance the budget sometimes when it was painful, but we knew we had no choice and, therefore, you carve that budget to match. You live within your means.

Tax increases come hard. In fact, we have reduced taxes, not increased taxes. Now we have a surplus.

I mentioned the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution as a requirement before we could vote for a debt ceiling increase. I don't know if that appetite exists here in this Congress.

I make the point to you, Mr. Speaker, because I think more need to think about the merits of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Another component that we could attach to a debt ceiling increase would be a requirement to audit the Fed. Now, that is something that has had a lot of signatures on it here in the House of Representatives. When Ron Paul served here in the House, he pushed that constantly. Yes, we have passed it out of the House of Representatives in the past, and they don't have an interest in taking it up in the Senate.

We don't know what is going on in the Fed. There are trillions of dollars that are maneuvered around over the course of years, and we aren't able to take a look at those dollars, and our job is oversight.

So when you give the Fed, essentially, an open checkbook and they can inject funds into the economy, and they can run the throttle on our economy up and down without congressional oversight, without even having access to that information to see what they are doing—the closest we get to auditing the Fed is to read The Wall Street Journal that picks up little tidbits and writes it into the newspaper, that gives us a better feel of what is going on.

Thanks to The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Speaker, but that is not enough. We do need to audit the Fed. It is a no-brainer from where I sit. Congress has an oversight responsibility. We should do so, and we should not be inhibited or held back.

It is too bad that something as simple and as clear, with the kind of support that auditing the Fed has, you would even have to think about attaching it to a debt ceiling increase in order to try to get that done and get a Presidential signature.

The President doesn't want Congress to know what is going on in the Fed, and he will resist this.

There has been a consistent pattern, Mr. Speaker, of the Majority Leader in the United States Senate being a shield for the President of the United States.

Each time we move an idea that is a good idea from the voice of the American people—by definition, when it comes out of this Congress it is the voice of the American people by virtue of the republican form of government, which is guaranteed to us in the Constitution, I might add, Mr. Speaker.

But the Majority Leader in the Senate puts up the shield if the President doesn't want to see it on his desk. Then the debate stops because the President of the United States has a blocking agent, the Majority Leader in the United States Senate.

So here we sit in the House making argument after argument, as I am doing tonight, Mr. Speaker, arguing for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, arguing that we should audit the Fed, arguing that raising the debt ceiling without restraints feeds spending and accelerates the accumulation of debt.

By the way, you just heard a few minutes ago, Mr. GOHMERT talk about the President, again, altering or amending his own bill, ObamaCare.

Now, think of this. I came here an innocent neophyte who just simply studied and read this Constitution for a good number of years, and carried one in my pocket longer than I have been in this Congress. Each day that I had a jacket I kept it in my jacket pocket, and the times that I was in the Iowa senate, and that is getting to be a few years ago now, Mr. Speaker.

When I took an oath to uphold this Constitution, and I actually remember where I was sitting right over there when that took place the first time here, and I never imagined that article I responsibilities that give the authority for legislation to the Congress would be so usurped by the President of the United States.

Article I, section 1, all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, there is no mention in this Constitution about the President involved in legislation. It says all legislative powers herein granted.

Well, where do these powers come from?

They come from God, granted to the people, and we, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, established this Constitution of the United States of America, and all legislative powers are vested in the Congress.

Article I, not article II or article III, this Federal Government, this contractual guarantee called the Constitution of the United States, was put together with the first respect for the people of the United States of America and the laws that they would ask to be passed through their republican form of government, their representatives here in the House and in the Senate.

Yet, the President, who gave a lecture a couple of years ago, on March 28, I remember the date—it might have been 2011—at a school just here in Washington, D.C., at a high school, and he was talking about the Constitution.

Now, remember, Mr. Speaker, that the President is a former adjunct law professor who taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago, a very highly respected and revered school, especially their law school, and their school of economics as well.

I have great respect for the people who have gone through law school at the University of Chicago. I have met a good number of them, and the ones that I have met, they have been smart, they have been good people. They understood the Constitution. They had good judgment.

Some of them were in the classroom—I circled by six or seven of them one evening—in the classroom of Barack Obama when he was teaching constitutional law, and they told me that each time that they reverted back to the clear letter of the Constitution, the clear meaning of the Constitution, that Adjunct Professor Obama would stretch it out and turn it over into an activist interpretation.

It is pretty interesting to hear that, but this President knew what he was doing when he spoke to the high school here in this city, March 28, I believe, 2011. He said, you are good students; you know this. The Congress writes the laws, and I am the executive branch, so my job is to see to it that the laws are enforced, and then the courts interpret the laws.

Pretty clear. That is what he said. It was an accurate interpretation of the Constitution, of articles I, II and III of our Constitution. He knows the Constitution, he has taught it.

In spite of that, Mr. Speaker, he steps forward and violates his own oath of office and seeks to legislate by executive edict. I don't use that first word, executive order, Mr. Speaker, because occasionally it is an executive order, but sometimes it is a press conference; sometimes it is the President's people, on a third-tier U.S. Treasury Web site, announcing that there has been some change in Federal policy that effectively amends Federal law.

Now, Presidents are required to take their oath of office, it is in this Constitution, by the way, and inclusive within that oath is the Take Care Clause, that the President's obligation is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. That is a component of the oath that he gives when he swears in out here on the west portico of the Capitol on January 20, every leap year. We hear that oath.

So when the President of the United States doesn't enforce the laws that have been passed by the Congress, messaged to a previous President, signed by a previous President, and go into the Federal Code, when the President doesn't enforce those laws, if he says he disagrees with the laws that have been passed before he arrived at the west portico and took the oath of office, that is a constitutional violation. That is a violation of his oath of office. That is the reason that he takes it, is so we can compel him to follow the Constitution.

This President not only has refused to enforce the laws that were on the books when he became President—and it is multiple cases. The President has refused to enforce the law when it comes to Welfare to Work. There is only one component of the 80 different means-tested Federal welfare programs that we have that requires work.

That was the big deal that emerged during the mid-nineties, when we had Welfare to Work, and there were two or three vetoes by President Clinton, who finally took credit for signing Welfare to Work.

Only one of the 80 requires work, and that one the President willfully, simply disregarded, and so he ended Welfare to Work. After all of the bare-knuckle fights here in this Congress and the vetoes and the Presidential positioning and the politics that went into it, President Obama just wiped out Welfare to Work, willy nilly, even though it was written carefully so that a President couldn't ignore the work component of Welfare to Work and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families component of welfare. That is one violation.

Then we had the President just simply set aside No Child Left Behind. That was Teddy Kennedy's piece that he negotiated with George W. Bush. President Obama decided I don't like No Child Left Behind, kicked that one off the table. I am going to ignore it, and you all can ignore it because I, essentially, direct you to.

Then we get to the immigration component of this, and there are five pieces of the—we call it the Morton Memos, where the President has decided that he is refusing to enforce existing immigration law, and they argue that it is on an individual basis only.

There were seven different references to an individual basis only by Janet Napolitano, who testified before the Judiciary Committee. That is in there, Mr. Speaker, so that they can argue that it is not creating a class of people that are now exempted from the law. Well, they create classes of people and they exempt them from the law.

That is the immigration piece of the violations. Now it brings me to ObamaCare, and on ObamaCare, I can't keep track of the times that he has decided that he is not going to enforce ObamaCare and he is going to change it or amend it. The list is so full at this point I don't know if anyone has memorized how many violations, how many changes that have come to the ObamaCare law because of the President's executive edicts that come down.

I would lay the foundation of this, Mr. Speaker, in the passage of ObamaCare itself, and in the Stupak amendment, and I would like to take that discussion up in a moment.

□ 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I am slightly mystified by that. But in any case, I will try to be aware of that comment.

To take us back to ObamaCare, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I would be happy to pick it up at this point. So we have a President who was, of course, involved in the negotiations with the passage of ObamaCare, and the question became

whether they could put the votes together to pass it here on the floor of the House of Representatives because it was clear to us that ObamaCare was going to fund abortions. So what emerged from that was a group of Democrats known at the time as the ''Stupak dozen,'' who conditioned their support for the bill upon a provision, which became the Stupak amendment, that would prohibit abortions funded under ObamaCare or required under ObamaCare.

Well, as that debate ensued, the message became clear that the White House was negotiating that the President would simply sign an executive order that amended ObamaCare after it passed, after the fact, and that would fix the Stupak problem. That is the shorthand version, Mr. Speaker, of what took place.

But in any case, it was a bit breathtaking to hear that we had a President in the White House who believed that he could sign an executive order to amend legislation after the legislation passed and announce that he was going to do so, which was a condition for it to get the votes in order for it to pass.

Now, I know that there are people at home that are listening, Mr. Speaker, to whom that sounds like a lot of legalese gibberish, but it is the fact of what happened. The President, according to the press, had promised that he was going to amend ObamaCare by executive order after the fact; so, therefore, the Stupak language would remain in tact, even though it was to be stripped out in the Senate. That is essentially what happened, Mr. Speaker, and we ended up with ObamaCare that imposes funding of abortion in all but a very few cases.

To give an example, here in the House of Representatives, we are compelled to sign up for ObamaCare. If there was a way out of it, I would have found it. And there were 112 different programs to look at. And of those, there were only nine that didn't fund abortion; and of those nine, eight of them didn't cover me. So it came down to this Member was compelled to sign up for ObamaCare, pay essentially the doubling of my contribution to the premium, and it was the tripling of my deductibles for the only policy that, at least reportedly, didn't fund abortion.

Now, we had to dig pretty deeply. And I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, for digging that up and giving us at least that much foundation, or I would have had to buy a pig in a poke, Mr. Speaker. I know that is going on across the country in many, many places.

But my point on this is that the President cannot constitutionally amend legislation by executive order, edict, press conference, or a third-tier Web site announcement from the Department of the United States Treasury. None of those things are consistent with the Constitution. And as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) said in his previous discussion, in his 1-minute about a half-hour ago now, he continues to make alterations not to somebody else's legislation—that is bad enough. I mean, it is all the same kind of constitutional violation, in my view.

But when the President decides that he is going to amend ObamaCare that has got his name on it—that is his bill; he signed it—how can he, with a straight face, step up and say, I am going to change it on the fly; I am going to delay the employer mandate; I am going to delay the individual mandate; I am going to waive this; I am going to waive that; I am going to set different provisions for businesses that have 50 employees and those that have 99 employees and those that are large businesses?

And I remember also, when he stepped up in a press conference out at the White House after he had taken a couple weeks of grief for the conscience protection violations that were supposedly in the bill that Kathleen Sebelius' rules eliminated, and that was a requirement that religious organizations, as well, had to provide policies and insurance that covered contraceptives, abortifacients, sterilizations.

Contraceptives, Mr. Speaker, people understand. Abortifacients are abortion-causing drugs. Sterilizations, we know what these are. These were requirements in the rule embodied within the rule that HHS rolled out. And after 2 weeks of the religious organizations making the case against that, the President did his press conference at noon on a Friday, and he stepped up to the podium, and he said, I am going to make an accommodation to the religious organizations, an accommodation. They don't want to provide these things. So now, he said, I am going to require the insurance companies to provide these things for free.

The President of the United States had the audacity to step up to the podium and say, I am going to require the insurance companies now to fund contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilizations for free.

Now, that is pretty interesting because maybe it just got lost in the language. Maybe the President was really talking about he was going to agree, and he was going to ask Congress if Congress would actually change the law. Maybe he thought that he was going to have Kathleen Sebelius publish a different rule that would go out for comment, and once it followed the administrative procedures, it could have the force and effect of law if it fit within the language of the ObamaCare legislation. Maybe, maybe, maybe, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we could give the President the benefit of the doubt.

Trust, but verify. So I went back and checked the rules, the rules that had been published, that compelled the religious organizations to follow the path of all of the others to provide for abortifacients and sterilizations and contraceptives, and the President's announcement that he was going to change things now and make an accommodation to the religious organizations and require that these things be provided for free from the insurance companies. And you would think there would have been a proposal for an amendment, a bill to amend ObamaCare in Congress. You would think there would be a change in the rules. But, Mr. Speaker, nothing changed in the rules. There wasn't an ''i'' dotted differently. There wasn't a ''t'' crossed differently. But the insurance companies began to line up behind the verbal edict of the President. That is breathtaking in scope when you think of it.

When you read this Constitution where it says, ''all legislative powers.'' It doesn't say all legislative powers, except those assumed by the President under certain circumstances, if he so chooses. It says, ''all legislative powers.'' And yet the President is legislating by announcements on Web sites, by directing his people to change the rules, by verbal press conference that changed nothing, no rules. And he has the temerity to wave his pen at us and say, I have a cell phone, and I have a pen; I don't need the Congress—and to make that same statement from the rostrum back here, Mr. Speaker.

So I am very concerned about our Constitution and the violations of it. But the President has time after time after time made changes to ObamaCare. It is bad law, and I don't accept the constitutional decision that came down from the Supreme Court. It has got a clear and stark contradiction in it that one day I hope goes back to the Court to be reviewed again.

But in any case, we have got to adhere to this Constitution. We give an oath to uphold the Constitution, as does the President. It is our job to preserve, protect, and defend it.

And here we are, faced with a debt ceiling increase. And the reasons that we might be supportive of that increase are, in the short term, it gets people off the hook in the short term. But I want a balanced budget amendment attached to it. If we don't get that, let's audit the Fed. If we don't get that, then I would say, here is something we all ought to get behind: eliminate the bailout of our insurance companies.

Our insurance companies wrote into ObamaCare that they would be protected from a stop-loss, essentially protected from loss if their actuarial numbers and their premiums don't match up.

Now, it would be impossible for them to figure this out because the President has been changing this law all along. Most all of the changes have been unconstitutional. I would bet the clearest one would be when the President of the United States decided that he was going to extend the employer mandate for a year.

Now, the law that was signed by President Barack Obama says that the employer mandate shall commence in each month after December of 2013.

That means it must start January 2014. We should be in the second month of the employer mandate. And I am happy enough for the policy to change. I don't think it ever should be implemented. If they bring that extension to this Congress, I would vote for an extension to delay the employer mandate for a year because that is probably the right kind of policy.

We didn't get that before this Congress. Instead, the President just announced he was going to extend it. And I happen to have been on a bit of a trip when the notice came that he was going to do some delays of the individual mandate, and I remember sending an email off to one of the top insurance companies, Is anybody there talking about the constitutional violations? The answer that came back was, Well, not very much. But, yes, he is sure they are talking about them. My answer was, Merry Christmas.

This is what we get for Christmas, the President rewriting ObamaCare at will. It is ever-changing.

Months ago, a search of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will show, Mr. Speaker, that I said nobody knows what the law is. Nobody knows what ObamaCare, the law ObamaCare is because it keeps changing. And of the thousands of pages of regulations that are piled on top of it, on the 2,700 pages of legislation altogether, it has been changed over and over again. Insurance companies can't abide by these changes. They can't adjust their premiums. And yet they wrote into the bill the risk corridors. And they say to me, But we have to have this because, after all, if ObamaCare is going to be here, we can't be going broke if the President changes the law on us again. That has kind of compressed the discussion.

And I say to them, Were you for or against ObamaCare when it passed? Their answer is, Well, hmm—they might check their shoe shine when they answer. And they will say, Well, our choice was either to be at the table or on the menu. So I am supposed to infer, and the proper inference is, they were at the table.

The large insurance companies in the country, they weren't just at the table; they were at the White House. They decided they didn't want to be on the menu, so they got to the table at the White House and they negotiated their risk corridors, their bailout that protects them from losing money under ObamaCare—or at least losing very much money under ObamaCare.

Well, if they weren't on the menu—they were at the table instead—who was on the menu, Mr. Speaker? And I would argue that, instead of the insurance companies being on the menu, it was the taxpayers that got put on the menu. And we ended up with risk corridors, the bailout for the insurance companies, because they wanted to stay in the large insurance business. And they believe that if they can get the taxpayers to fund the premiums, it is a more reliable premium funding stream than if you have to get that from the individual ratepayers; and also, it was designed to put 30 million more people on the insurance roles.

So whoever is in the business of expanding their business and trying to get a margin—and I have not been an anti-insurance person. I have paid a lot of premiums and have stepped up and done so willingly. They are an important component of the stability in a free enterprise economy. All insurance is, as a matter of fact.

But when they drew that protection and wrote that protection in—the stop-loss protection called risk corridors—the bailout for the insurance companies into ObamaCare, somebody was going to pick up the tab. That is the taxpayers. It expanded their potential universe to 30 million more insureds, 30 million more premiums. And, of course, there is a profit margin in that, and that is what they are in the business of doing.

Well, you expand the premiums to that 30 million, and the design that came out of ObamaCare was that we were going to see more insured. And at this point, I would lay the wager down, Mr. Speaker, that there are fewer people insured today in this country than there were the day that ObamaCare was signed into law, and we are losing people continually. And as we see what employers are going to do as they watch this, the employer mandate kick in over time—delayed now—more employers are going to be dropping people from insurance. More employers are cutting hours. More employers are reducing the number of employees.

I happen to know of an employer that had 58 employees, and he lined them up and said, If ObamaCare is passed into law and implemented, there will be 49 of you, not 58.

That had to have happened all across the country, businesses that shrunk down to under the 50 mandate, businesses that decided not to grow into that 50 employees where they are mandated to cover their insurance.

□ 2015

That is the fact of this life if you have more than those in employees, and then the formerly 40-hour workweek, which has been used to measure a full-time worker, was reduced under ObamaCare to 30 hours—30 hours, not 40. So we ended up with people that are getting 28 hours, that are working 28 hours a week so they are underneath the mandate, and the employer then who can't afford the premiums often for the higher cost health insurance can keep his employees on.

So here are the circumstances. There might be somebody that has got a job, and they could be working let's just say about 48 or 50 hours a week, a little overtime, time and a half overtime on that—I have done the math on this, Mr. Speaker—but running in at about 50 hours a week. The employer looks at that and says, I can't afford the health insurance. This Federal mandate is either going to take me out of business or I am going to have to lower your hours.

So he looks at his full-time employees and says, sorry, you are part time. You are 28 hours, you are 28 hours, you are 28 hours. Well, he needs more employees to fill up the production. So he goes and hires more part-time workers. Well, that is a good thing for some people, but those who had a full-time job and were getting time and a half overtime and they get their hours cut, the person who was working 50 hours now is down to 28, they have to go get another part-time job that maybe is another 28 hours. Now they are up to 56 or 60 hours, but they don't have health insurance with two jobs. Maybe that is dad, and mom is the same circumstance. She has been cut. She has got to have another job.

So now we have mom and dad trying to raise a family when each were working 50 hours a week with some overtime, now they are working 56 hours a week in two jobs with transportation and the shuttle of schedules, four jobs for two people to raise a family.

Those circumstances are emerging today under ObamaCare, Mr. Speaker, and it is wrong. We need to raise that minimum, that 30-hour standard for full time, that mandate up to 40. That is an essential component of ObamaCare. I would attach that to the debt ceiling. Any one of these, one at a time, all together, I'm fine with, a 40-hour workweek.

Another one, Mr. Speaker, is this, full deductibility for everyone's health insurance premium. It has always been wrong that a certain percentage of the American populace has had to buy their health insurance with aftertax dollars. I have done this for years. As an employer, I started a construction company in 1975. I provided health insurance for our employees, but I couldn't deduct the premium for me unless I incorporated, put myself on a salary and wrote off those wages. I wanted to stay a sole proprietor for a number of reasons, but I couldn't deduct my health insurance premiums.

I would write off the business expense of premiums for my employees, a legitimate expense just like wages, salary, and benefits, write those off. But I couldn't write off my own. So Marilyn and I had to pay for health insurance with aftertax dollars, that piece that is left after you pay Uncle Sam, after you pay the Governor, the take-home pay so to speak. After you pay the payroll tax, the take-home pay is what I had to pay my health insurance with—not a deductible.

Now, here we are in the circumstance where that is bad, and it should have been changed a long time ago because it is an injustice and an inequity, but now we have ObamaCare that mandates that individuals buy that health insurance. It is a Federal mandate: you shall buy this health insurance. Now, in my case, it isn't that I go out on the marketplace and shop for a health insurance policy. It is that if I am going

to comply with the law, I have got one choice and one choice only, and that is not competition. By the way, one of the reasons that the President wanted to pass ObamaCare is so that there would be more competition. He wanted to have a Federal health insurance company to compete with the private sector companies so that there would be more competition. I don't know if anybody has talked about this in quite some time here on the floor. It is the President's plan.

Well, I had one choice, but to have the Federal Government impose that you buy a product that is either produced or approved by the Federal Government, and they take it out of your check. They commandeer your take-home pay to pay that premium. While that is going on, an employer somewhere off in a large corporation can deduct that same premium for all their people as a business expense. But ma and pa operations, the family farm, whoever it might be, they can't. It puts them at a significant disadvantage.

This country needs to provide for full deductibility of everybody's health insurance premiums. It is immoral to compel someone to buy a product that is produced or approved by the Federal Government, and it is even more immoral, Mr. Speaker, to say to them, and the money that you shall pay shall be aftertax dollars, and I am going to send the IRS in to audit you and make sure that you are paying that premium with aftertax dollars, and if not, we are going to levy a tax against you. It was just going to be a penalty, but now it is convenient to make the argument before the Supreme Court that it is a tax.

I have a whole series of things that we could do. The debt ceiling is in front of us. There is an increase that is being pushed at us. If the President's people in this Congress think a clean debt ceiling is a good idea, they should step up and all of them pledge to vote for it. I think we might find enough Republicans that would vote for a clean debt ceiling increase. If not, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest we put a balanced budget amendment on that and send it over to HARRY REID. If that doesn't work, then I would suggest that we resurrect Ron Paul's legislation to audit the Fed, attach that to the debt ceiling, and send it over there. If that doesn't work, then I would put the elimination of the bailouts for health insurance companies on there and send it over to the Senate. If that doesn't work, then I would take the 30-hour workweek, which is supposedly the standard for full time, I would change that to 40 so that mom and dad who were working 50 hours, and now they are working 56 hours or 60 hours each, can hang on to just one job, not two each, and they would get, instead of having their hours cut from 50 to 28, or maybe even 40 to 28, they can keep their full-time job and go to work and manage their lives and their schedules.

By the way, this argument that, according to the CBO, ObamaCare cuts the job equivalent of 2½ million jobs over the course of a decade, that is also appalling and breathtaking, Mr. Speaker. To think that this ObamaCare that was going to create 4 million jobs according to then-Speaker PELOSI now is going to reduce by 2½ million jobs, that is 6½ million jobs off from what was predicted compared to what we now have a better look at what we are likely to end up with, and I won't say that number is certain, it might be substantially greater than that—2½ million jobs.

So how does the administration spin this? You would think that they would find an alternative number and argue the CBO score. Or you would think that they would find a way to point out that somehow these definitions don't quite match up just right. Oh, they looked around pretty hard to find a way to rebut the CBO's numbers and they came up empty. So they settled on the spin, the spin, Mr. Speaker, which is this: oh, 2½ million jobs, think of this: all of those people that don't have to work much because we are borrowing money from the Chinese to subsidize the health insurance premium that we require that they pay to buy the insurance under ObamaCare, and so they will understand that if they stay under a certain threshold, they will get a Federal premium subsidy to buy their ObamaCare. It won't pay for them to work as many hours as they did before, and when you reduce this all down and get people under the 30-hour workweek, which I just finished discussing, then they will have more time to spend with their families, more time to play with their children, more time to paint and more time to muse about the esoteric things in life. Maybe we will have more people that are pontificating about metaphysics for this price of losing 2½ million jobs. Oh, it is a good thing we have people working less in America.

That is the core argument for this administration: it is a good thing that we have people working less in America because of ObamaCare. It gives them more free time. Well, if working less is a good idea, I guess that fits with their philosophy, because we have heard, we have heard from the minority whip as well as a number of other people, in fact, I believe it would also be the former Speaker, who say this: Food stamps and unemployment are the two quickest ways you get economic stimulus, the quickest way to grow the economy.

Now, when I first heard that, it was shocking to me that anybody could say that out loud and perhaps believe it. How do food stamps stimulate the economy? How do unemployment checks stimulate the economy? An economy has to produce goods and services that have a marketable value here and abroad, and if you borrow money abroad to pay people not to produce goods and services, let alone those with a marketable value, you are building a nation of debt and a nation of people who, if they have job skills, are atrophying because they are not using them, and as technology increases, they get further and further behind by not maintaining the skills they have and not keeping their skills up to date with technology as it moves.

This idea that this is only a consumer-driven economy, this Keynesian concept of let's just say we can't audit the Fed, but they can inject in QE 1, 2, and 3 trillions of dollars into this economy, and because a lot of the world is afraid to invest, therefore, we haven't seen inflation take ahold in this way yet. But the Fed can inject the money into QE 3, and then the Federal Government can do an economic stimulus plan like the President's $825 billion that went north of that, I guess it was $787 billion that got to 825 billion, inject this money into the economy, spend this money, and it is going to stimulate the economy, and this growth will eventually create enough tax money that you work your way out of debt.

The problem with that is, Mr. Speaker, it has never succeeded. There is no existing model of a Keynesian experiment that has ever brought a country and economy out of an economic recession. We are in the fifth year of this recovery. I guess you can say that we are coming out of the economic recession of 2008. We have had this slow improvement in unemployment numbers that has taken place. We are down there in the sixes somewhere. We have watched as the number of 15 million unemployed has worked its way down by 1 million here, 1 million there. One year ago, there were 12 million unemployed. Today, according to the most recent report, there are 10.2 million unemployed. Actually, it has been a full 2 million people less on the unemployment roles. But the monthly job increases that we have seen, 74,000 last month, a little over 100,000 this month, are not nearly enough to keep pace, Mr. Speaker.

This growth has been down there to where if you look at the last 4 to 5 years, the GDP increase in the economy has been greater in Mexico than it has in the United States. As I listened to some of the, let me say some of the self-appointed economic experts, they will explain to us that we need to import more people into the United States that have low or no skill and likely are illiterate in their own language to do the work that Americans don't want to do in this country, and in doing so will stimulate our economy and increase our fertility rate. We know who those people are, Mr. Speaker, that seem to think that. Much of this concept is just simply wrong. Keynesian economics is wrong. The idea of an open borders economic stimulator is wrong.

What is right is the understanding of first principles, the understanding of the pillars of American exceptionalism, the understanding that put those parameters in place by our Founding Fathers well more than 200 years ago,

when they saw that we had to have the rule of law in America. Without the rule of law, we are not a lot different from Third World countries.

We are a nation of laws and not of men, and our laws need to be applied equally to all of us. The problem we have today is it looks like those who are let's say not favored by the current administration have to fear the law more than those who are favored. One of those examples would be the IRS, Mr. Speaker. Our Founding Fathers would have never envisioned an IRS in the first place. It took a constitutional amendment to even provide for it, the 16th Amendment. I introduce a resolution each year to repeal the 16th Amendment, and one day I hope to see that done.

In the meantime, our Founding Fathers imagined that there would be taxes gathered through other means and that the government would be limited. Our Constitution is the very description of limited government. The concept of Federalism, Mr. Speaker, sometimes needs to be defined and described, especially so young people understand. Federalism is the devolution of power out to the political subdivisions, to the States or respectively to the people, a limited Federal Government with enough power to protect our borders and our shores, to leave us as much as possible otherwise alone, and let the States and their political subdivisions and the people solve those problems so that the laboratories of the States can be where the experiments are taking place.

They are to some degree. I see some of these experiments. There are some States that have some healthy experiments. One of them is Texas: no income tax, a dynamic economy, one that has shown, that has demonstrated to be a big chunk of the growth in our GDP and the growth of employment in the country because they run a free and fair government in Texas and no income tax. Florida is a State with no income tax. South Dakota is a State with no income tax. They seem to be destination States for people that are seeking to get out of the high-tax States like Illinois and California, the model of the States that are in economic difficulty.

□ 2030

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, we have seen some cities that have been run by that Keynesian philosophy of borrow, tax, and spend get to the point of collapse and ruin, Detroit among them. Detroit, a great, great, American city with a tremendous legacy, a vibrant tone within the history of America, shuffled down into bankruptcy, and with grass growing in the streets of the city because they didn't take care of their finances. That is what is in store for entire States if they don't turn the corner, and that is what is in store for this entire country if we don't turn the corner.

I am concerned that politics here in the House of Representatives is downstream from the culture. Politics in any legislative body is generally downstream from the culture. Yes, we have leaders here. We have leaders that step up and strike the right tone and chart the right course, but they would not be followed unless the culture provided the directive.

This American experiment, this grand country that we are, is dependent upon the people in this country understanding what made us great, preserving and protecting and refurbishing those pillars of American exceptionalism that can sustain a greatness into the future, above and beyond any that we have achieved today.

That is what is in store for us if we teach our children well, if we teach them the responsibility of work, if we teach them the core of our faith, the faith that laid the foundation for America, the faith that will see us through any trials, the foundation for the family, the ideal way to raise children, a mom and dad and a family, raising their children with love and setting the standard for them, and setting the standard of work as well as morality.

This country can come back again. We need to teach American history, the pillars of American exceptionalism. We need to do it from inside out, from the family on out, and those young people need to emerge as the leaders in all walks of life from the educational to the journalism to the production, and we need to revere and respect all work. All work has honor. All work has dignity. We need to put a lot more Americans back to work. There are over 101 million Americans of working age who are simply not in the workforce. We don't need to import more people to do the work that Americans won't do. We need to provide the incentive for Americans to step up and shoulder the burden with the rest of us. That is more important.

So, Mr. Speaker, we will see how the debt ceiling unfolds. I have offered a number of options, and I appreciate your attention.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3193, CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS IMPROVEMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2014, THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2014; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. KING of Iowa), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–350) on the resolution (H. Res. 475) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from February 13, 2014, through February 24, 2014; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ADDRESSES RAISING DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Missouri). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor and a privilege to come to the floor of the House of Representatives and to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order in partnership with my coanchor, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), where for the next 60 minutes members of the Congressional Black Caucus will have the opportunity to speak directly to the American people about an issue of great consequence and great significance for our country, for our economy, for our future, and for our well-being, and that is the debt ceiling.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a Yogi Berra moment. It is deja vu all over again.

Time and time and time again we have been forced to come to the floor of the House of Representatives and urge our colleagues on the other side of the aisle not to plunge this country into a painful default and risk the full faith and credit of the United States of America for the first time in the history of the Republic.

Whenever we have been forced to have this conversation, we are always put into a position where we need to clarify what the debt ceiling is really all about because it has been subject to a lot of misrepresentation. The debt ceiling is not a forward-looking vehicle that is designed to give the President the opportunity to spend more; it is a backward-looking vehicle designed to give the President the opportunity to pay bills that the Congress has already incurred: bills that were incurred during the previous decade, bills that were incurred during the 8 years of the Bush administration during which time our good friends on the other side of the aisle were in control of both the House and the Senate, and we will go into that in greater detail as we move forward.

Let's have an honest conversation about the realities that we face concerning the debt in this country, in excess of $17 trillion. There is reason for us to be concerned about it, but let's not manipulate the facts as to how we got ourselves into this situation.

I am pleased that we have been joined by a very distinguished Member of the Congress and of the freshman class. In fact, we affectionately refer to him as the ranking member of the freshman class of the Congressional Black Caucus in the 113th Congress, and I am very pleased to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for their continued leadership on these CBC Special Orders. I am honored to join them once again on a topic that is paramount right now in our Nation's history, and also a situation that we must deal with in a manner to keep this Nation moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to do one simple thing. It is something that we expect from every American, and every person in this country expects it from us. That simple thing I am asking for, Mr. Speaker, is for Congress to pay our Nation's bills on time. There should be no resistance, no strings attached, no threats of default. Americans deserve better than to have the full faith and credit of the United States of America held hostage so that some of my Republican colleagues can demand ransom for their radical agenda.

Mr. Speaker, the full faith and credit of the United States is nonnegotiable, period. So I am urging this Congress to raise the debt ceiling swiftly and to do it with no strings attached.

Only recently in our Nation's history has the debt ceiling been used as a reckless bargaining chip. In fact, since the great hero of the other side, Ronald Reagan, took office, the debt ceiling has been raised 45 times. It is nothing new, and it is nothing radical.

Now the allegations put out there about what raising the debt ceiling will do to our deficit are misleading at best. The debt ceiling does not grow our deficit by one single dime. Rather, what it does is permit the government to pay what this Congress has already decided to spend. We had the credit card. We used the credit card. Now it is time to pay our Nation's bills and pay them on time.

So, Mr. Speaker, raising the debt ceiling is in fact the fiscally responsible thing to do here. If we default, the cost to American families will be significant: 26 million Americans won't get their Social Security checks on March 3. I will repeat that: 26 million Americans will not get their Social Security checks on March 3.

There are 1.5 million seniors, children, and disabled New Jerseyans who receive Social Security to help make ends meet, and many of them will not see their checks if this is not followed through.

Nearly 4 million Americans may not receive their disability benefits, including 50,000 veterans in New Jersey. Now the other side of the aisle needs to take these things seriously. They talk about supporting veterans. They talk about supporting working families. They talk about all of these values, but if the debt ceiling is not raised, these families will not get the support and the benefits that they need to make ends meet. So, Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon the Members on the other side of the aisle instead of just talking the talk, walk the walk.

New Jersey families will have to pay higher interest rates for mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and credit cards. Many families in my district already can't afford to send their children to college. A default would put a college education even further out of reach.

I am hopeful that my Republican colleagues have learned their lesson from the last default threat in 2011 and from shutting down the government last year. The last time we threatened to default in 2011, the economy flew into a tailspin. Consumer confidence took a nosedive, and our credit rating was downgraded. Our economic recovery came to a screeching halt because of it. In an already fragile recovery, we cannot afford another possible meltdown of our economy.

So I am urging my Republican colleagues to help try and set an example, hoping that they have learned their lesson from last year, when they shut down the Federal Government. Let's pay our Nation's bills on time, Mr. Speaker. If we demand this kind of responsibility from the American people, then we should demand it from ourselves.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey for walking us through some of the episodes that the American people have been subjected to as a result of the extreme behavior that has been articulated and enacted, in fact, as part of the agenda put forth by the majority over the last two terms.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, to end the irresponsibility, end the recklessness, end the extremism, and end the brinksmanship so we can get back to doing the business of the American people with a fiscally responsible, sustainable course; but one that recognizes that here in this Congress, time and time again we have inflicted wounds on the economy and on the American people. We did it last spring in advance of sequestration taking effect. We were warned by independent economists that if you allow sequestration to take effect, $85 billion in random cuts spread out without reason across the economy, it would cost us approximately 750,000 jobs, but yet it happened.

Then we were warned that it would be problematic if you allowed the government to shut down. Nonetheless, some people couldn't help the recklessness, the irresponsibility, the extremism, and so the government was shut down for 16 days. Standard & Poor's estimated that it cost us $24 billion in lost economic productivity.

Yet here we are again, a Yogi Berra moment, déjà vu all over again, confronting an unnecessary, manufactured crisis. Just lift the debt ceiling, consistent with what has happened time and time again across Democratic and Republican administrations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the co-anchor of the CBC Special Order, the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, my good friend, Representative HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank my good friend and colleague from the great State of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, and for your leadership in anchoring this hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, and to bring the American people into a very important conversation about what the House of Representatives should be doing as you talked about tonight, and that is, Mr. Speaker, raising the debt ceiling and averting another crisis.

□ 2045

We are here tonight to urge our colleagues on the other side to work with Democrats and the administration to pass a clean and swift debt ceiling expansion without delay.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Lew, emphasized in a letter to Congressional leadership last Friday that ''no Congress in our history has failed to meet that responsibility,'' and ''it would be a mistake to wait until the last possible minute to act.''

Why should we act, Mr. Speaker? Why should we delay in acting? This Congress, unfortunately, being known as the ''do-nothing'' Congress, has failed to pass more bills than other previous sessions of Congress at a time when the American public expect their elected officials to work together to get things done. Under the leadership of the majority, fewer than 60 bills that have been passed by Congress have ultimately become law in the last year.

Now we are here facing yet another self-imposed, self-inflicted crisis. As my colleagues, Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. PAYNE, have said, this is nonsense. The American public is looking at Congress and saying, Do your job.

The Treasury Department has made clear that it will exhaust all extraordinary measures in meeting our country's final financial obligations by February 27. The House—this House—is only in session for 5 more days between now and then, Mr. Speaker. That is why we are here to urge our Republican colleagues to act to raise the debt ceiling now, to do it swiftly, to do it without putting our country's full faith and credit of the United States at risk.

As my colleagues have said, we have to raise the debt, and it is not for negotiation. Let us remember that the debt

ceiling has been raised 45 times since President Ronald Reagan took office. It doesn't grow our deficit by a single dime. All it does is allow the Treasury to pay for what this Congress has already spent and the obligations previous Congresses have already made on behalf of the United States.

There has already been much talk about Speaker BOEHNER turning something that could be very simple into a hostage situation with sweeping concessions. I would hope that my Republican colleagues remember the damage that was caused the last time we debated increasing the debt ceiling. The fact that House Republicans are debating among themselves another demand to hold our full faith and credit of the United States hostage is outrageous.

As we stated before, Mr. Speaker, House Democrats agree with President Obama that the full faith and credit of the United States is nonnegotiable. I stand with House Democrats in support of a clean debt ceiling increase that ensures the full faith and credit of the United States of America and avoids having this Congress play political games and brinksmanship. We have said it before and we will say it again: we should be representing the people's best interest, not punishing them.

There are drastic implications to not passing this debt ceiling increase by February 27. I want to yield to my colleague, Mr. JEFFRIES, for us to be able to highlight some of these damaging consequences.

I know in my home State of Nevada, it would mean an average increase in mortgage rates, leaving the average home buyer to pay an additional $100 a month, costing families $36,000 over the lifetime of a typical 30-year mortgage. 85,267 Nevada residents took out a home mortgage or refinanced their existing mortgage in the past year. All of them would be subject to these increases in mortgage interest rates.

So this is just one example of one State and the families that would be impacted. This is the type of impact that would happen across our Nation. The consequences are real. It is time for our colleagues on the other side to stop playing games, increase the debt ceiling, and meet our obligations.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for pointing out some of the catastrophic consequences that the American people will be forced to endure if we fail to raise the debt ceiling and force a default and threaten the full faith and credit of the United States of America for the first time in the history of the Republic.

I just want to go over some of the things that would be at stake as a few of my colleagues have already laid out, but it bears reemphasis:

Social Security payments owed to the American people will be jeopardized by a failure to raise the debt ceiling;

Veterans benefits will be jeopardized by a failure to raise the debt ceiling;

Mortgage interest rates could increase as a result of a failure to raise the debt ceiling;

Automobile loan interest rates could increase as a result of a failure to raise the debt ceiling;

Credit card payments as a result of an increase in interest connected to debt that is held on American Express or MasterCard or Visa, or any of the other credit cards that the American people have, could increase as a result of a failure to raise the debt ceiling.

This is not an esoteric concept. This is something that will have a real impact on the American people. That is why we need a debt ceiling increase consistent with what every Congress and every American President has done since the founding of this country.

I want to read into the RECORD, and then perhaps have my good friend react to it, a Presidential letter that relates to this debt ceiling issue, and it reads in part:

> This country now possesses the strongest credit in the world. The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill-afford to allow such a result.

This is a letter that was written on November 16, 1983, by President Ronald Reagan, addressed to then-Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker. President Reagan, I believe, my good friends on the other side of the aisle, have deified him as a ''fiscal warrior,'' a ''true conservative.'' Yet we know that Ronald Reagan raised the debt ceiling 18 times during his Presidency, and in this letter to Senator Baker lays out in bold, uncompromising terms the consequences of a failure to raise the debt ceiling.

This is not a partisan issue. We as Democrats are not standing here on the floor of the House of Representatives because we want to beat up the other side. We are here to defend the best interest of the American people—east, west, north, south, rural America, urban America, and suburban America—because the consequences of a failure to raise the debt ceiling will hurt everybody.

If the distinguished gentleman from Nevada could just react to the notion that this is somehow a partisan issue that needs to be discussed so that President Obama is being fiscally irresponsible by requesting that Congress do its constitutional duty.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you. I appreciate my good friend for yielding.

The remarks by the former President, President Reagan, speak to the reality of the consequence of Congress failing to act and what that will mean to our economy, to average Americans, to businesses, to the global economy because of the role that the United States plays, and to the value of the dollar, and to somehow hold this process hostage because Members on the other side have still not come to terms that the election is over, the President won, and it is time for this Congress to work with him to move our country forward, not to use this as another means to extract more concessions or demands in order for you to do your job. You don't have to agree with President Obama on everything, but what you do have to do is your job on behalf of the American people that elected you.

While no one knows with certainty the full extent of the damage to the economy should the U.S. default on its debts—and we don't know because it has never happened because every other Congress, regardless of party, regardless of which party controls the White House or the administration on a given time, did its job to extend and raise the debt—what we do know is that the average American family will feel a significant negative impact.

We are not here to scare our constituents. Our constituents are going through enough every day trying to survive to make ends meet, to put food on the table, working hard for themselves and their families. But what we are here to do is to talk about what some of the potential impacts might be, so let me highlight that.

If you look for a moment at this chart, this graphic provides some explanation. What are the debt ceiling deniers missing?

Household wealth would increase by $1 trillion if we fail to raise the debt ceiling.

Retirement assets would drop by $800 billion at a time when people are trying to provide security for themselves and their future. A decision by this Congress to fail to raise the debt ceiling could result in $800 billion of retirement assets declining.

We have talked about an increase in interest rates for borrowers at a time when our housing market is beginning to recover from the prolonged recession. Why would this Congress fail to act and the consequence of that result in increased mortgage rates for homeowners and borrowers?

And a huge hit, a huge hit, for financial markets around the globe causing the Dow Jones and the S&P to plummet. Families' retirement savings and 401Ks would drop as the stock market plummets.

3.4 million veterans who could not receive disability payments; 10 million Americans not receiving Social Security checks on time in just the first week alone; delayed tax refunds for up to 110 million Americans; and drug reimbursements under Medicare stopping and doctors and hospitals not getting paid, all for what? So that our colleagues on the other side who don't like the results of an election can use the debt ceiling as another attempt to get more concessions and more demands for things and ideas that have already been rejected by the American public.

□ 2100

So, Mr. Speaker, we are here to say enough is enough already. Let's get to work. Let's make 2014 a year of action, not obstruction. It starts by increasing the debt ceiling, by meeting our obligations and not doing harm to an already fragile economy and to an American public that expects its Representatives to act in its best interest, not in more political grandstanding or gamesmanship.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman for a very thorough explanation and for the illustration as it relates to the state of denial that, I think, some individuals within this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, or throughout the Capitol are in as it relates to the real consequences of a default and what it really means to threaten the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Now, this denial syndrome is not really a strange concept. It is something that, unfortunately, I have had to familiarize myself with since being sworn in as a Member of Congress on January 3 of 2013.

Weather patterns are shifting. Global warming appears to me, based on the scientific evidence, to be a reality, yet there are people in this Congress who persist in denying that climate change is a reality. In advance of sequestration, notwithstanding the fact that independent economists warned that randomly spreading out cuts across the American economy, given the fragile nature of the economic recovery, would be a harmful thing and would threaten hundreds of thousands of jobs moving forward, there were people who denied that sequestration would be a tough thing for the American people to have to absorb. Yet, at the end of the year, wisdom prevailed because people saw that it actually was something that was problematic for the American people and our economy.

I guess, a long, long time ago, there were people who denied that the Earth was round, who believed that it was flat. So the denial syndrome is something that throughout time has been commonplace as it relates to individuals who want to articulate a particular agenda. I understand that, Mr. Speaker, but it is a dangerous game to play—to deny the reality of the catastrophic impact that would occur as a result of a default on our debt for the first time in our history. It would be another self-inflicted wound, as my distinguished friend from Nevada has indicated.

I was interested in a study that I came across a few days ago that I wanted to highlight and bring to the attention of the American people, and perhaps my colleague can react to it.

There is a new study, the Times reported, from the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington, D.C.-based research group, that indicated that all of the theatrics—all of the drama, all of the brinksmanship—that occurred in this Congress last year around the government shutdown and the potential debt ceiling default and whether we would be able to come together and reach an agreement—have cost us about $150 billion in lost economic productivity. It shaved off about a percentage point in economic growth, and it may have cost us approximately 750,000 jobs. That is not our saying it; that is an independent research group, the Peterson Institute for International Economics. So there is a price to pay for the theatrics, and that is why we have come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to say we need a clean debt ceiling increase and that we need to do it now.

Secretary Lew has indicated that his ability to use extraordinary measures will run out by the end of the month. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are some on the other side of the aisle who are in disbelief as it relates to that statement. We have heard individuals make the representation that that can't be accurate. There is a logical reason why in this particular instance the capacity for the administration to use extraordinary measures to get us beyond the debt ceiling cap is only weeks in this particular instance and not months as it has been in the past. It is because the Treasury of the United States in February and in March and in April and, perhaps, even into May, returns a lot of money—billions of dollars—to the American people who have filed taxes and are owed money in connection with a tax return.

I believe that we would all conclude it is a good thing for the American people who are owed money by the Federal Government to be able to get that money back in return. That is why, in February, the capacity at this moment for extraordinary measures to be used is extremely limited. It is because we don't want to short-circuit the American taxpayer. It is bad enough that we are threatening to short-circuit Social Security beneficiaries or veterans and others, but now we are potentially risking withholding money from the American people that belongs to them. We hear that refrain all of the time, but that is what we are faced with right now.

Let me yield to my good friend, Representative HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank my friend for yielding.

You bring up a very valid point.

Over the weekend, I was at the William Pearson Community Center in my district, which is a tax preparation site for the Las Vegas Urban League. It was packed. There was not a seat available because so many people were there, seeking assistance in order to file their annual tax returns, particularly this year. They were trying to get them done early so they could get the refunds that were coming to them so that they could then help meet an obligation that they have in their households. It has been tough for a lot of families.

So you make a very valid point as to the fact of the timing of this particular debt ceiling increase and the February 27 date and the obligations that the country has and this time period in particular. There are 110 million Americans who will be filing their tax returns, many of whom will be getting a refund, and I don't think they will take kindly to a delay in that refund if our colleagues on the other side use this debt ceiling legislation as an opportunity to load it up with conditions and requests that have nothing to do with the debt ceiling issue.

I would ask my colleagues on the other side to listen to their constituents, to be aware of their needs and to know your decision to fail to pass a clean debt ceiling could have very negative consequences on our economy.

We don't have to look very far. We can look back to 2011. The GOP brinksmanship during that time cost the economy the following:

It was the first time the U.S. credit was downgraded in U.S. history by failing to increase the debt ceiling on a timely basis. We ultimately got it done, but it was delayed. There was some concern in the markets of what would happen, and it resulted in the first U.S. credit downgrade in our history.

Are we going to allow that to happen again?

The stock market plummeted 17 percent. Consumer confidence dropped to its lowest point since the financial crisis of 2008. We saw businesses stop hiring in 2011 with one of the lowest months of job growth over the last 2 years during that period.

We have seen what the consequences of failing to pass a clean, swift debt ceiling would mean. Why would we even toy with the idea of failing to do it now, or to do it by adding conditions to it that basically hold the bill up as a hostage?

Finally, there was $1.3 billion added to our national debt for fiscal year 2011 and $19 billion over 10 years in higher government borrowing costs. If you are a fiscal hawk—if you are someone who is concerned like I am about our Federal deficit, if you want to have good fiscal discipline—then you might want to pass a clean, swift debt ceiling bill so that we don't have added costs to our national debt and so that we don't have additional borrowing expenses added to a debt and a deficit that under this administration in the last few years has been on the decline.

Let's do our job. Let's help the process. Let's move our country forward. Let's work together. Let's be a Congress that acts, not a Congress that continues to obstruct.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend and colleague for that thorough explanation again as to why there is such urgency in terms of our acting now.

Throughout my time here in the Congress, we consistently hear about strict constructionism and adherence to the

Constitution. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution reads in part: The validity of the public debt authorized by law shall not be questioned. That is a constitutional principle, and it is the reason the brinksmanship that we have seen time and time again is so reckless and threatens the well-being of the American people.

Earlier in my remarks, I referenced this being a ''Yogi Berra moment,'' that great Yankee catcher having once made the observation that he feels like it is déjá vu all over again. There is another contemporary, urban philosopher I want to quote. Her name is Mary J. Blige. She said: No more drama.

I think that the American people are tired of drama and theatrics. If they want theatrics, they can go to Broadway in New York City. If they want drama, you have got Hollywood, but Congress is here to do the business of the American people, not to entertain, but to do the business of the American people. The matter before us that, hopefully, we will deal with this week—not with unnecessary ideological demands that we attempt to inflict on the American people—in order to do what our constitutional responsibility says Congress should do is, again, a clean debt ceiling.

I want to explain as best I can to those who are interested in understanding how we arrived at this moment. When you hear characterizations about what is at stake, why we can't just simply raise the debt ceiling without going through the drama and the theatrics, the representation that is made, which seems reasonable to many, is that we have a $17 trillion-plus debt. That is a very significant number, and we can't just simply give the President the unfettered ability to continue to drag this country further down a debt hole. That is the argument that is advanced by many, Mr. Speaker.

It is just fundamentally inaccurate. The debt ceiling is not a forward-looking vehicle designed to give the President the ability to spend more money.

□ 2115

It is a backward-looking vehicle simply designed to give the President the capacity to pay bills that the Congress has already incurred. And if you actually were to inspect what those bills actually were, many Americans would be surprised to know that it was incurred often by those same individuals who now claim the mantel of fiscal responsibility.

And so let's go through this chart. What it does is illustrates both the projected debt under current policies, largely enacted during the administration of George W. Bush, and what the debt would have been without these factors.

So the top line is an illustration of what the current debt is and what it is projected to be over time in advance of 2019 as a result of things that this Congress has already done that were not paid for, and the lowest line on the chart is an illustration of what the debt would be had these things not be done, Mr. Speaker.

What is interesting is that a significant part of the debt, as this chart illustrates, resulted from the war in Iraq, a completely unnecessary war, chasing down weapons of mass destruction that did not exist. Lies were told to the American people and hundreds of billions of dollars unnecessarily spent and debt incurred under the previous administration.

The war in Afghanistan was inappropriately prosecuted. Even if it was, in the beginning, a necessary one in response to the tragedy on 9/11, it was inappropriately prosecuted because we were distracted in Iraq. We didn't pay for that war either. It is responsible for the debt burden that we now have.

The Bush-era tax cuts. A tax cut in 2001 largely and disproportionately benefited the wealthy and well-off, not paid for. It is responsible, in part, for the debt burden that we now confront.

Another tax cut enacted by this Congress in 2003 largely benefiting the wealthy and the well-off was not paid for and responsible, in part, for the debt that we have incurred.

Of course, there was the economic downturn. That occurred in 2008. It resulted, in part, from the failed policies of the previous administration.

And we allowed some on Wall Street to run wild and to plunge us into the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression. That, in part, is responsible for the debt that we have incurred. We had to bail out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. There was the TARP bailout.

Then, of course, there were the recovery measures enacted in response to this horrible collapse of the economy inflicted upon the American people.

These are the policies that are largely responsible for the debt that we find ourselves in, and that is why we find it a bit curious that President Obama is often blamed and we have got to have this drama connected to the debt ceiling, when, in fact, much of the debt, the bills that he is trying to pay now, he wasn't even responsible for. In fact, when a lot of these policies were enacted, the current President of the United States was in the Illinois State Legislature, yet you want to blame him for the out-of-control spending. It is not just factually accurate.

Mr. HORSFORD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I will yield to the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. HORSFORD. I appreciate you providing this historical context because, as you indicate, a lot of times on this floor we tend to focus on the rhetoric of the day and not the facts of the matter.

As you have well illustrated here, if it were not for the Bush-era tax cuts, which are the biggest contributing factor to the debt and the deficit—and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—we probably would be in a much better position to address the domestic needs in this country and to have the type of economic investments to help grow our economy, put people to work, grow and build up our infrastructure, help our roads, our highways, our schools, the things that matter here in the United States.

But yet money has been obligated by previous administrations, enacted by Members of Congress before you and I got here, and now this Congress and some on the other side want to hold the process hostage and add a new set of demands and conditions to that process for items that this administration or current Members of Congress and our constituents, who are expecting us to do our job, did not have the decision to begin with.

So I appreciate you giving that historical perspective, and I hope that my colleagues on the other side will listen to the facts of the matter and move away from this drama of the brinksmanship and the political games that, unfortunately, are done too often to distract from the realities of the issues that you brought forward.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman.

As you have pointed out—I think this was very important—in terms of the explosion of the public debt that has taken place over the last decade or so, the most significant factor, as this chart illustrates, is the Bush-era tax cuts.

And so the question, then, that many people back home in my district are asking is, What was it all for? Because now we know that income inequality has exploded out of control. The middle class is being left behind.

What was it all for?

Well, we were told, based on a very stale, old philosophy, that these type of tax cuts help to generate economic activity. They create jobs. Okay.

In the previous 8 years prior to the Bush administration, during the 8 years of the Presidency of Bill Clinton, the tax rate for the highest income bracket was 39.6 percent, and 20.3 million jobs were created during those 8 years. And then we have a new President who comes in and, by the way, he inherits a surplus. And then immediately, as a result of these reckless policies, foreign and domestic, creates deficit after deficit after deficit. That didn't happen under this President. It happened under the previous President.

But the American people, the people whom I represent back at home, say, What was it all for? A tax rate of 39.6 percent under the administration of President Clinton and 20.3 million jobs created. We get tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 as a precursor to the recession, and during the 8 years of the previous administration we lost 650,000 jobs here in America.

What was it all for? We lost jobs. Income inequality has grown. You add it to the debt. And yet folks on this side of the aisle are supposed to be fiscally irresponsible.

Let's just have a reasonable, evidence-based conversation. That is all we want. That is what the American people are asking for.

And so as we prepare to close, let me just yield to my good friend for any parting remarks.

Mr. HORSFORD. One additional area that I would like to touch on and ask, maybe, my colleague to expound upon is that, under those Bush-era tax cuts, it included tax cuts to companies that ship jobs overseas, which contributed, did it not, to that 650,000 job loss? Was there a correlation there or not?

Mr. JEFFRIES. I think that is a very appropriate question. We are going to have to have a broader conversation about some of our policies that have resulted in the exportation of middle class American jobs to other parts of the world; and for the life of me, I haven't been able to figure out why anyone in Washington thinks that that is a good idea.

We have had an economic recovery under this President, and I believe more than 7 million private sector jobs have been created, but we still have a long way to go. And we certainly cannot afford to engage in the type of policies that, as you have pointed out, have led to the transfer of American jobs overseas.

Why? Because we are incentivizing companies to ship jobs abroad as opposed to incentivizing American companies to keep jobs here at home in the great United States of America. And I certainly hope that that is something that can be reversed as we move forward and enter into a discussion about some of the agreements that will be pending before this Congress.

Mr. HORSFORD. If the gentleman would yield, I would just say—and I think that this would be an appropriate discussion for us to have at a future Special Order—the fact that some of those corporate tax breaks to ship American jobs overseas resulted in debt that is now being obligated by this country into future years indicates a change in policy that we need to have.

We agree we need tax reform in this country. We need tax reform that allows those jobs to be returned to the United States by eliminating the corporate welfare that was provided by giving those tax incentives to those companies to take American jobs overseas to begin with and, to add insult to injury, to have it included in the overall debt and obligations of this country going forward.

But the bottom line here tonight, Mr. Speaker, is we have a job to do this week, and that job, we are asking, is to bring a clean, swift, debt ceiling bill to the floor without a bunch of conditions or demands, and allow this Congress to do its job this week and send to the Senate a clean debt ceiling bill that allows us to meet our obligations.

Those obligations, as my colleague here tonight has aptly explained, are obligations that prior administrations and prior Congresses have entered this country into. We have to keep the full faith and credit of the United States in tact. We cannot repeat some of the damaging consequences from 2011. We cannot have a repeat, Mr. Speaker, of lost economic productivity or economic activity. We cannot have the stock market plummeting. We cannot have lower consumer confidence. We cannot have businesses deciding whether to hire more employees because they are concerned that this Congress is going to cause more harm than help by failing to pass a clean debt ceiling.

That is what we are asking here tonight.

I thank my colleague, the anchor for this hour, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), for leading this discussion. I am pleased to have participated.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my good friend for his very thoughtful and comprehensive remarks and analysis of the situation that we find ourselves in and his very clear-eyed plea that we in the Congress simply do our job and raise the debt ceiling to avoid a default and threatening of the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

The 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution states, in part, that the validity of the public debt of the United States enacted into law shall not be questioned.

No more drama. No more theatrics. No more brinksmanship. No more extremism. Let's raise the debt ceiling and get back to doing the business of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressmen Jeffries and Congressman Horsford for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour.

As a result of your leadership, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to discuss critical issues facing our nation on the House floor and to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss why we must raise our nation's debt ceiling and bring a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor.

The full faith and credit of the United States should not be subject to negotiation.

On Friday, February 7th, the United States of America once again reached its debt limit.

Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has again begun paying our bills with what he calls "extraordinary measures."

This is not a new situation for us, as we have been here many times before.

And we have seen that each time we face this fully preventable crisis, the result is harm to the American people and to this nation's international economic reputation.

In August 2011, Members of Congress faced a debt ceiling standoff that resulted in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Because we could not come to a budget agreement as required by the Budget Control Act, Congress instituted automatic spending cuts to our military and to critical services to our communities.

In October 2013, we faced another debt limit crisis when our government shut down for 17 days, leaving hundreds of thousands of government workers unsure of when their next paycheck would arrive.

By the end of February, if we do not raise the debt limit, we will again be teetering at the end of a financial cliff.

It is reported that Republican House leadership is deciding what they should ask for in return for allowing our nation to meet its financial obligations.

Once again, they are looking to barter this country's financial well-being for narrow political wins when they've seen the harmful results of their actions.

We cannot continue to play political games when our nation's credit is at risk.

Approaching the 11th hour in this debate, when a clean debt ceiling bill can be brought to the floor today, should not be an option. It is not in the best interest of this nation.

Before I yield back, I also want to clarify what raising the debt limit means. There is often confusion about raising the debt ceiling. Some believe it allows our government to authorize additional or new spending, which is not the case.

Raising the debt ceiling does not mean our country will be allowed to spend more money; it means that we will be able to pay the financial obligations which we have incurred in the past.

Just like millions of people across this nation have bills to pay that keep the lights on in their homes, or to pay for the car they drive back and forth to work, America must pay the bills required to keep our state and local governments running.

America must make sure that millions of seniors receive their Social Security checks.

We must not let partisanship or brinkmanship do any more damage to our federal programs or our ability to borrow in the future.

This is why raising the debt ceiling is so important.

I urge my colleagues to bring a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor.

No conditions or concessions should be made in turn for raising our country's debt ceiling.

The full faith and credit of the United States is not for sale.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Mrs. NOEM (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of flight cancelation.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of weather in Oregon.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Ms. MATSUI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of an illness in the family.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Anne Marie Chotvacs	11/4	11/7	Egypt		856.00						856.00
Commercial airfare							10,135.10				10,135.10
Misc. embassy costs									714.00		714.00
Jennifer Miller	11/4	11/6	Turkey		514.00						514.00
	11/6	11/8	Qatar		566.00						566.00
	11/8	11/12	Jordan		1,560.00						1560.00
Commercial airfare							12,189.05				12,189.05
Hon. Ken Calvert	11/21	11/25	Portugal		706.00						706.00
Commercial airfare							6,619.10				6,619.10
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	11/26	11/27	Belgium		648.00						648.00
Commercial airfare							10,994.90				10,994.90
Total					4,850.00		39,938.15		714.00		45,502.15

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Visit to Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt—October 30–November 4, 2013 with STAFFDEL Karem:											
Michael Casey	10/31	11/3	Lebanon		150.00						150.00
	11/3	11/4	Turkey		262.00						262.00
Commercial transportation	11/3	11/4					5,459.50				5,459.50
Visit to Germany, Poland, United Kingdom—Nov. 4-11, 2013											
Hon. Michael Turner	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
John Wason	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
Douglas Bush	11/5	11/8	Germany		366.00						366.00
	11/7	11/7	Poland								
	11/8	11/10	United Kingdom		368.00						368.00
Visit to Philippines—Nov. 22–26, 2013 with CODEL Smith:											
Hon. Trent Franks	11/2	11/26	Philippines		577.00						577.00
Visit to India—Dec. 14–22, 2013 with CODEL Holding:											
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	12/15	12/21	India		670.00						670.00
Commercial transportation							539.24				539.24
Total					670.00		539.24				1,209.24

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Mary Neumayr	11/18	11/23	Poland		2,087.06		1,966.20				4,053.26
Phillip Barnett	11/19	11/22	Poland		1,043.53		1,566.20				2,609.73
Gregory Dotson	11/19		Poland						[3] 791.53		791.53
Hon. Pete Olson	12/14	12/17	India		1,718.36		10,665.01				12,383.37
Committee total					4,848.95		14,197.41		791.53		19,837.89

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Cancellation fee for lodging in Poland. Gregory Dotson did not travel on the STAFFDEL.

Hon. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Jan. 29, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Al Green	11/23	11/26	Philipines								
Hon. Robert Pittenger	12/18	12/19	Israel		843.00						843.00
	12/19	12/20	Austria		632.12						632.12
	12/20	12/21	Norway		343.56		12,333.47				12,677.03
Committee totals					1,818.68		12,333.47				14,152.15

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JEB. HENSARLING, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Adam Kinzinger	11/1	11/2	Pakistan		22.00	4,676.20					4,698.20
	11/2	11/3	Afghanistan			(3)					
	11/3	11/4	UAE		266.07				[4] 397.75		663.82
Hon. Scott Perry	11/1	11/2	Pakistan		42.00		11,964.20				12,006.20
	11/2	11/3	Afghanistan		28.00	(3)					28.00
	11/3	11/4	UAE		369.07						369.07
Hon. Juan Vargas	11/1	11/2	Pakistan		42.00		12,901.20				12,943.20
	11/2	11/3	Afghanistan		28.00	(3)					28.00
	11/3	11/4	UAE		369.07						369.07
Andrea Thompson	11/1	11/2	Pakistan								
	11/2	11/3	Afghanistan			(3)					
	11/3	11/4	UAE								
Sajit Gandhi	11/1	11/2	Pakistan		32.00		11,964.20				11,996.20
	11/2	11/3	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	11/3	11/4	UAE		369.07						369.07
Leah Campos	11/3	11/6	Mexico		911.00		932.83				1,843.83
Ramon Zertuche	11/3	11/6	Mexico		981.00		1,023.33				2,004.33
Chris Smith	11/23	11/26	Philippines		581.00		7,536.90		[4] 44.85		8,162.75
Greg Simpkins	11/23	11/26	Philippines		583.33		7,736.90				8,320.23
Piero Tozzi	11/23	11/26	Philippines		693.15		8,571.70				9,264.85
Thomas Hill	11/23	11/25	Honduras		526.00		1,030.90				1,556.90
Edward Acevedo	11/23	11/25	Honduras		486.00		1,065.90				1,551.90
Brent Woolfork	11/23	11/25	Honduras		505.42		1,065.90				1,571.32
Janice Kaguyutan	11/23	11/25	Honduras		508.72		1,030.90				1,539.62
Hon. Adam Kinzinger	11/22	11/24	Canada		534.47		1,296.67				1,831.14
Hon. Steve Chabot	11/5	11/6	Bangladesh		460.00		11,296.80				11,756.80
	11/4	11/4	UAE						[4] 299.48		299.48
Kevin Fitzpatrick	11/5	11/6	Bangladesh		465.00		11,296.80				11,761.80
	11/4	11/4	UAE								11,761.80
Hon. Ted Poe	11/22	11/26	Peru		1,093.47		1,598.14				2,691.61
Hon. Lois Frankel	11/22	11/25	Peru		763.20		1,470.64				2,233.84
Luke Murry	11/22	11/26	Peru		1,269.13		1,132.64				2,401.77
Ramon Zertuche	11/22	11/26	Peru		1,288.42		1,633.64				2,922.06
Hon. George Holding	12/15	12/20	India		1,430.38		12,032.91		[4] 20,279.06		33,742.35
Helen Heng	12/16	12/20	India		1,522.78		13,752.41				15,275.19
Hunter Strupp	12/15	12/20	India		1,568.36		10,749.91				12,318.27
Sajit Gandhi	12/15	12/20	India		1,603.36		10,034.97				11,638.33
Hon. Greg Meeks	11/25	11/25	Germany								
	11/25	11/27	Belgium		807.07		5,734.50				6,541.57
Committee total					20,176.54		153,531.09		21,021.14		194,728.77

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Indicates delegation costs.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2013.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Jan. 9, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	11/9	11/10	Malta		156.00						156.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		819.43						819.43
Commercial airfare							15,307.65				15,307.65
Hon. Cynthia Lummis	11/9	11/10	Malta		271.00						271.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		895.43						895.43
Commercial airfare							15,829.20				15,829.20
Hon. Stephen Lynch	11/9	11/10	Malta		271.00						271.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		895.43						895.43
Commercial airfare							14,512.20				14,512.20

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Peter Welch	11/9	11/10	Malta		271.00						271.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		895.43						895.43
Commercial airfare							14,639.10				14,639.10
Ali Ahmad	11/9	11/10	Malta		196.00						196.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		870.92						870.92
Commercial airfare							11,556.10				11,556.10
Bruce Fernandez	11/9	11/10	Malta		271.00						271.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		895.43						895.43
Commercial airfare							10,365.70				10,365.70
James Lewis	11/9	11/10	Malta		211.00						211.00
	11/10	11/12	Egypt		861.43						861.43
Commercial airfare							14,140.20				14,140.20
Delegation expenses									1,054.00		1,054.00
Committee total					7,780.50		96,50.15		1,054.00		105,184.65

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Schweikert	12/15	12/22	India	41,915.20	670.00		15,129.91				15,799.91
Committee total			670.00				15,129.91				15,799.91

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Jan. 12, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Stephen Claeys	12/3	12/6	Indonesia		1,197.00		[3] 19,226.20				20,423.20
Elizabeth Baltzan	12/3	12/6	Indonesia		1,317.00		[3] 12,382.10				13699.10
Stephen Claeys	12/6	12/11	Singapore		2,093.00						2,093.00
Behnaz Kibria	12/6	12/11	Singapore		1,982.00		13,419.50				15,401.50
Committee total					6,589.00		45,027.80				51,616.80

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Cost included in above flight.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman, Jan. 31, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Devin Nunes	11/21	11/25	Europe		706.00						
Commercial airfare							6,780.60				7,486.60
Andy Keiser, Professional Staff	11/21	11/25	Europe		706.00						
Commercial airfare							2,351.60				3,057.60
Hon. Mike Rogers	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Hon. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Hon. Mike Pompeo	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Hon. Terri A. Sewell	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Darren Dick, Staff Director	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2013—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Tom Corcoran, Professional Staff	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Susan Phalen, Professional Staff	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,834.30				2,588.59
Robert Minehart, Professional Staff	12/15	12/18	Europe		754.29						
Commercial airfare							1,799.20				2,588.59
Hon. Mike Thompson	12/13	12/19	S. America		1,614.00						
Commercial airfare							11,540.37				13,154.37
Linda Cohen, Professional Staff	12/13	12/19	S. America		1,920.00						
Commercial airfare							11,072.37				12,992.37
Hon. Michele Bachmann	12/14	12/16	Middle East		605.75						
	12/16	12/17	Middle East		75.00						
	12/17	12/17	Middle East								
	12/17	12/19	Middle East		843.00						
	12/19	12/20	Europe		417.00						
	12/20	12/21	Europe		344.42						
Commercial airfare							13,850.40				16,135.57
Committee total											73,500.13

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MIKE ROGERS, Chairman, Jan. 30, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4713. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's ''Major'' final rule — Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 7100-AD82) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4714. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations, (Rockland County, NY, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4715. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Isabella County, MI, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4716. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Dearborn County, IN, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4717. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Fort Bend County, TX, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4718. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Erie County, PA, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002) [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8317] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4719. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Treatment of Certain Collateralized Debt Obligations Backed Primarily by Trust Preferred Securities With Regard to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds [Docket No.: OCC-2014-0003] (RIN: 1557-AD79) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4720. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds [Docket No. OCC-2011-0014] (RIN: 1557-AD44) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4721. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Recordkeeping and Confirmation Requirements for Securities Transactions Effected by State Savings Associations and Other Amendments (RIN: 3064-AE06) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4722. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's ''Major'' final rule — Treatment of Certain Collateralized Debt Obligations Backed Primarily by Trust Preferred Securities With Regard to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Certain Interests in, and Relationships with, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3064-AE11) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4723. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's ''Major'' final rule — Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3064-AD85) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4724. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Information to Be Distributed to the Federal Home Loan Banks and the Office of Finance Under 12 CFR Part 1260 [No. 2013-N-15] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4725. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's ''Major'' final rule — Treatment of Certain Collateralized Debt Obligations Backed Primarily by Trust Preferred Securities With Regard to Prohibitions and Restrictions on Certain Interests in, and Relationships With, Hedge Funds and Private Equity Funds (RIN: 3235-AL52) received January 29, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4726. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee; Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-1687] received January 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4727. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Current Good Manufacturing Practice for Medicated Feeds [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0002] received January 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4728. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Programs [Docket No.: NIH-2008-0003] (RIN: 0905-AA43) received January 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4729. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-2013-0725; FRL-9904-02-Region 9] received January 22, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4730. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: HI-STORM 100 Cask System; Amendment No. 9 [NRC-2012-0052] (RIN: 3150-

AJ12) received January 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4731. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Establish Funding Responsibilities for the Electronic Logbook Program [Docket No.: 130710605-3999-02] (RIN: 0648-BD41) received January 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4732. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River Mile 94.1 — Mile 95.1; New Orleans, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0989] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4733. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Lucas Oil Drag Boat Racing Series; Thompson Bay, Lake Havasu City, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0746] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4734. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Adoption of ASME Code Section XII and the National Board Inspection Code [Docket Number: PHMSA-2010-0019 (HM-241)] (RIN: 2137-AE-58) received January 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4735. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0365; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-223-AD; Amendment 39-17704; AD 2013-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4736. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0557; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-22-AD; Amendment 39-17679; AD 2013-24-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4737. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 5000A Transition Relief for Individuals with Certain Government-Sponsored Limited-Benefit Health Coverage [Notice 2014-10] received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4738. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — February 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-6) received January 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4739. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Temporary Nondiscrimination Relief for Closed Defined Benefit Plans and Request for Comments [Notice 2014-5] received January 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4740. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Deadline to Submit Opinion and Advisory Letter Applications for Pre-approved Defined Benefit Plans is Extended to February 2, 2015 (Announcement 2014-4) received January 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4741. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of Time under Sec. 301.9100-3 to Elect Portability of Deceased Spousal Unused Exclusion Amount (Rev. Proc. 2014-18) received January 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4742. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Revenue Procedure: Qualified Census Tracts (Rev. Proc. 2014-9) received January 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2385. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to set the rate of pay for employees of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection in accordance with the General Schedule (Rept. 113–349, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 475. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from February 13, 2014, through February 24, 2014; and for other purposes (Rept. 113–350). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2385 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. BARR:

H.R. 4021. A bill to suspend the application of the limit on the Nation's debt for a 10-year period, to reduce the pay of Members of Congress for failing to meet fiscal sustainability targets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 4022. A bill to provide for a strategic plan to reform and improve the security clearance and background investigation processes of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MATHESON (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 4023. A bill to promote competition and help consumers save money by giving them the freedom to choose where they buy prescription pet medications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 4024. A bill to protect navigable waters from contamination by chemical storage facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. TIERNEY):

H.R. 4025. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to reauthorize and amend the Fishing Safety Training Grant Program and the Fishing Safety Research Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4026. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for the eligibility of Transportation Security Administration employees to receive public safety officers' death benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 4027. A bill to increase the statutory limit on the public debt and to require House and Senate votes on constitutional amendments to balance the Federal budget and to restrict new entitlement spending; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4028. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 4029. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to transfer all Federal land, facilities, and any other assets associated with the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri for the purposes of maintaining a State park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 4030. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the ''Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.J. Res. 109. A joint resolution providing for the approval of the Congress of the proposed agreement for cooperation between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States concerning peaceful uses of nuclear energy pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014 AT PAGE H72 MEMORIALS

The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, relative to H. 3400 repealing Joint Resolution 775 of 1976 which requested Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. BARR:

H.R. 4021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution which states in part:

''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 4022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 4023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 4024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the constitutional authority to enact this legislation pursuant to the power granted under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the States).

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 4025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 4027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 2 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to propose Constitutional amendments.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4028.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 4029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: ''The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.''

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 4030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.J. Res. 109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 15: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 20: Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 24: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 32: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 60: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 62: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 115: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 118: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 148: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 164: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 233: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 288: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 303: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 411: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 494: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 503: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 508: Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 580: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 635: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 637: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 647: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 685: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 713: Mr. YODER and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 755: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 795: Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 920: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 946: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 961: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1020: Mr. POSEY and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1041: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1091: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1188: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 1243: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1249: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 1250: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1263: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1276: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. TIERNEY, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1286: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1313: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1362: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1386: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 1518: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1573: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1627: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1630: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1648: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1666: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1685: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1701: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1726: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1814: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. BERA of California, and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 1830: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 1835: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1838: Mr. BARBER and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1852: Mr. NEAL and Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 1869: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1984: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2068: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 2178: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2203: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 2305: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2313: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2333: Mr. KIND, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2424: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2468: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2504: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 2537: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 2548: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 2575: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 2591: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2638: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2652: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2707: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 2726: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 2739: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 2746: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 2788: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2827: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2835: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 2841: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2847: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2911: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2918: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. DENT, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2939: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2983: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 2996: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 3040: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 3043: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 3099: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3116: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3133: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 3136: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 3137: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3153: Ms. CHU and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3180: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3344: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 3357: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3361: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 3370: Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr.

RUSH, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3372: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3374: Mr. COOPER, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 3383: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3384: Ms. CHU and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3403: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 3453: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3461: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. NEAL, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 3464: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3471: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3485: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 3488: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. GARCIA.

H.R. 3493: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3505: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 3510: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3513: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 3530: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 3537: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3546: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 3556: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 3579: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. HALL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 3635: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 3649: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3657: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 3658: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3663: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3666: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3670: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 3673: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3689: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3698: Mr. COOK, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 3707: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3712: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 3717: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 3740: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3747: Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 3788: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3807: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 3826: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3850: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3852: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3855: Mr. YODER, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FARR, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3857: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3865: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HALL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BENISHEK, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 3877: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 3887: Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 3888: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3895: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 3912: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3930: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 3972: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3973: Mr. FORBES and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 3978: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3982: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. FARR, and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 3987: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MESSER, Mr. YODER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3991: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4019: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. BYRNE.

H.J. Res. 21: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Con. Res. 16: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. JONES.

H. Con. Res. 52: Ms. ESTY.

H. Con. Res. 78: Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 36: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. HOLDING.

H. Res. 59: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 72: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H. Res. 284: Mr. VEASEY.

H. Res. 302: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. LATTA.

H. Res. 326: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H. Res. 387: Ms. KUSTER.

H. Res. 442: Mr. LATTA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. MULLIN.

H. Res. 447: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. DENT.

H. Res. 467: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014 No. 24

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, hear our prayer and answer us when we call. Lord, You forgive our sins and heal our sickness, for Your mercy is great toward those who esteem Your Name. Thank You for Your promises to never forsake us and to render ineffectual the weapons we face.

Strengthen our Senators in their efforts to do good, sustaining them in their labors. Give them more than human wisdom to solve the problems of these momentous times. Keep them calm in the quiet center of their lives so that they may be serene in the swirling stresses of their work.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

REPEALING SECTION 403 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 298.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 298, S. 1963, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1963.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3590 AND H.R. 3964

Mr. REID. I am told there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3590) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3964) to address certain water-related concerns in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to these two bills.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

RESTORING RETIREMENT PAY TO U.S. ARMED FORCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider new legislation that would restore earned retirement pay to the men and women of our Armed Forces. The measure restores cost-of-living adjustments for all military retirees regardless of age, disability or employment status. Congress should protect veterans who put their lives on the line to protect our country.

I appreciate very much Senators PRYOR, SHAHEEN, HAGAN, and BEGICH for their leadership on this issue. Although the provision reversed by this measure doesn't take effect until the end of next year, there is no reason to delay, and we should move forward with it. I hope Republicans will join Democrats to pass this bill without their usual partisan games.

Unfortunately, the type of obstruction and delay I just referred to was on full display here last week. On Thursday, the Senate fell one vote short of restoring unemployment insurance for 1.7 million Americans who lost their jobs through absolutely no fault of their own. Every single Democratic Senator voted for this bill. A few reasonable Republicans—four, to be exact—voted with us to restore benefits that would boost our economy and provide a lifeline for out-of-work Americans. But we are still one Republican vote shy before we are able to do this for these people.

It is so unfair. If someone loses their job today, they can apply for unemployment benefits and get them immediately. But if a person has been out of work for a long time at 57 years old and can't find a job, that person needs this, but they can't because of what the Republicans have done.

When 1.7 million struggling Americans fall short of the rent, skip meals to save cash or turn down the thermostat on freezing days, they will know who to blame—41 Republican Senators. We only need one more Republican—a total of 5 out of 45—to step up and do what is right for these desperate people.

We are not going to stop pushing to restore emergency unemployment insurance. In the weeks to come, we will vote again on this important issue and again if we need to. In the meantime I hope my colleagues across the aisle will think long and hard about their unsustainable position on this issue, a position that hurts middle-class families.

MINIMUM WAGE

In the weeks ahead the Senate will also consider legislation to give 17 million minimum wage workers a much needed raise and our economy a much needed boost. No American working full time should live below the poverty line, but many of them do. So we are going to push to make the minimum wage a living wage and raise it to $10.10 an hour.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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To ensure this country's economic success, it is crucial that every American has an opportunity to succeed as well. When some people have to work two or three full-time jobs just to pay the rent and put food on the table, something is wrong.

Minimum wage workers spend their paychecks in local stores, gas stations, and restaurants. That is why an increase in the minimum wage would create 85,000 new jobs.

This increase is also key to ensuring every full-time worker has a shot at entering the middle class. Contrary to the common belief, raising the minimum wage isn't just about helping teenagers earn a little extra cash. Two-thirds of the people working for minimum wage are women. It is also about helping any woman, such as a 35-year-old woman earning half of her family's income and more than one-quarter of the workers who would benefit from a raise are supporting children.

Last week Republicans voted against the interests of middle-class Americans doing their best to survive unemployment. When it comes time to consider Democrats' minimum wage proposal, I hope the Republicans will choose the right way, not the wrong way, as they have done so often. They should stand for middle-class families rather than resort to obstruction.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Under the previous order leadership time is reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1963.

The Senator from Vermont.

NSA SECURITY BREACH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the National Security Agency continues its indiscriminate collection of a massive number of phone records about Americans under section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act. I have said over and over again that as a nation we have long needed to have the national conversation about bulk collection that is now underway, and the section 215 program should have been declassified long before it was.

I wish to make very clear, as I have said before, I do not condone the way this or other highly classified programs were disclosed. I am deeply concerned about the potential damage to our intelligence-gathering capabilities, our foreign relationships, and national security.

I am also deeply concerned that one person with a security clearance can wreak this much havoc. According to the New York Times, Edward Snowden accomplished his heist of extraordinarily sensitive information about NSA activities with ''inexpensive and widely available software''; in other words, software that any one of us could get. He didn't even execute a particularly sophisticated breach. He did not, apparently, face a particularly complex technological challenge while removing these sensitive documents from the NSA trove. Yet he pulled off what the Director of National Intelligence James Clapper recently called ''the most massive and most damaging theft of intelligence in our history.''

I continually ask the leaders of our intelligence community: What are you doing to stop this from happening again? I have learned that the NSA has devoted substantial resources to fixing the faults that allowed this to happen, has taken some steps to address them, and has identified a range of other actions that need to be taken. But one has to ask, especially in the wake of the Private Manning leaks, how could the NSA have allowed this to happen in the first place.

I say this not to beat up on the NSA. I know we have highly dedicated, patriotic men and women working there, and I applaud them for their service to their country. But when I hear their leadership ask us to trust that they will keep our information safe and that we should have faith in its internal policies and procedures, one has to ask: Is this accurate?

This is the same NSA that first told us that the section 215 program was essential to national security. They talked in speeches around the country that it thwarted dozens of plots. But then when they were asked questions in a congressional hearing specifically about it, that number went from in the fifties down to possibly one. The primary defense of the NSA's bulk collection program now appears to be the program is more of an insurance policy than anything else. But now even that new defense of the program has been called into question.

The Washington Post has reported that under this program the NSA collects less than 30 percent of domestic phone records. The Wall Street Journal says the number is less than 20 percent. These estimates are consistent with the public copy of the President's Review Group report, which cautioned against placing too much value on this program as a tool to rule out a domestic connection to a terrorist plot; thus, the so-called insurance policy. The Review Group report tells us it is precisely because—although the program is unprecedented in scope—it still covers only a percentage of the total phone metadata held by service providers.

It appears to this Senator that the intelligence community has defended its unprecedented, massive, and indiscriminate bulk collection by arguing that it needs the entire ''haystack'' in order for it to have an effective counterterrorism tool—and yet the American public now finds out they only have 20 to 30 percent of that so-called haystack.

These revelations call even further into question the effectiveness of this program.

Although the program is ongoing, some preliminary and positive changes are underway. Just last week, the Director of National Intelligence announced that the FISA Court has approved procedures under which the government will seek approval by a FISA Court judge before querying these phone records—absent a true, almost instantaneous kind of an emergency. The President has directed the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence to develop alternatives to the section 215 phone records program and report back to him at the end of next month. That is progress but only some progress. It is not enough. It is not going to be enough to just reform the government's bulk phone records collection program.

The program, as expensive and extensive as it is, has not proven effective. But beyond that, it is not worth the massive intrusion on the privacy of the American people—of the good, law-abiding men and women in what is supposed to be the greatest democracy on Earth.

Congress should shut it down. We should enact the bipartisan, bicameral USA FREEDOM Act. Then Congress has to examine carefully—and to the extent possible publicly—the security breach that led to these revelations in the first place.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has had a number of hearings on this issue. We are going to continue working on these issues at a hearing this week with the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board—yet another voice concluding that the section 215 program should not continue. If the NSA is to regain the trust of the American people, it has to spend less time collecting data on innocent Americans and more time keeping our Nation's secrets safe.

I yield the floor.

I will suggest the absence of a quorum. Is time being divided?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time is not currently being divided.

Mr. LEAHY. 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. 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.

RETIREMENT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to talk today about a subject that has immense implications for America's future. In fact, I often talk about it as being perhaps the darkest cloud hanging over the future economic well-being of our country that no one ever talks about. It has been hugely ignored; that is, the issue of retirement income and what people are going to do when they retire in the future.

I have been focused on this for several years. My HELP Committee has, over the last 2 or 3 years, had 10 hearings on this issue. We have met with a

lot of the investment community and retirement benefits community to take a look at what is happening and to see whether we can have a better system for retirement than we have.

Right now young people who are working to pay off student loan debt, maybe buy a new home, put a little money away for their own kids' education later on or people who are close to retirement, a nurse who has been working all her life, someone maybe worked in a small business and they are 60 years old, are wondering what are they going to do when they retire. They are worried they will not have enough money to live on.

Quite frankly, they are very right to be worried. If you looked at the future work force of America today and you said: What is it this group of people will need to live on when they retire and what they have saved for retirement, there is a deficit. They do not have enough saved on which to retire.

How big is that deficit? Calculations in our hearings show it is about $6.6 trillion. That is a big chunk of change. That is a huge hole. So when you look at what is happening, half of Americans—half of Americans—have less than $10,000 in savings.

As I talk and as we look at this, we have to remember that retirement has always been thought of as a three-legged stool. One leg is a pension; one leg is savings; the other leg is Social Security. So what is happening now is that on the retirement pension system, the savings systems are falling down. Social Security is still strong. I will have more to say about that. But what we have to do is look at how much people have in savings. Half of all Americans who are working today have less than $10,000 in savings—less than $10,000 in savings.

When I came to the Congress in the 1970s, one out of every two workers had a pension. That means they had a pension that would pay them a monthly income until the day they died. And if they died, their spouse would get it. One out of every two. Today it is one in every five and it is getting worse. Only one in five.

By the way, this has fallen by 30 percent in just two decades. Again, 75 million people have no retirement plan at all. Seventy-five million people—that is about half of the workforce in America—have no workplace retirement plan at all—nothing, no 401(k), no IRAs, no defined benefit program. Nothing. Half, one out of every two, have nothing whatsoever.

Unfortunately, instead of trying to improve the pension system and lift up everyone, there are too many people out there trying to score political points by scapegoating public servants for State and local budget shortfalls. Pensions are not the cause of State fiscal problems, and retired public servants are not living high on the hog on the taxpayer's dime. These are simply malicious myths being spread by people who I think have two objectives: one, to discredit public sector unions; secondly, to dismantle the pension system.

Pensions are one of the best ways to ensure that middle-class people can have a secure retirement because they provide a guaranteed source of income that a person can count on for as long as he or she lives.

Can the current pension system be improved? I believe so. But there is no reason to abandon a system that has worked for millions of people.

The sad truth is that these days the vast majority of employees with any retirement plan at all have a 401(k). Again, I am not here to bad-mouth 401(k)s. They can be a very good way to help people put some money aside to supplement their pension. But 401(k)s were never intended to replace pensions. It was to be that other leg of the stool, the savings part.

Again, we know that savings rates are too low. As I said, most people have less than $10,000. There is no simple way for people to convert their savings into a stream of retirement income that they cannot outlive. The promise people made about 401(k)s was that more businesses would start them, more people would participate.

Well, I was here when 401(k)s started. It sounded like a good idea, an easy way for people to save. But decades after the start of 401(k)s, the number of workers participating in these plans has stayed flat. According to Monique Morrissey of the Economic Policy Institute, in 1989, participation in 401(k)s was at 46 percent of the workforce. In 2010, it was 45 percent. So it has stayed flat.

We have seen some modest increases in savings the last few years. That is what people told me at our hearings. We have seen some modest increases. I said: Really? Okay, let's take a look at that. This kind of surprised me, that we had an uptick in savings. But then we looked at the data. What does it show? It shows who is saving what. The top 10-percent income earners, the top 10 percent of income earners in America have 100 times more saved for retirement than the median household. So we charted it out. You see back here in 1989, well, they were not too far apart. Here is the top 10 percent. The top 10 percent now has nearly $239,000 set aside for retirement; the median household, $2,500. You say savings have gone up. Yes, look who has saved—the top 10 percent, those of us who work here. So $239,000 as opposed to $2,500 for the average family.

I might also add that buried in this, buried in this chart, is an unacceptable amount of racial and gender inequality in this system. The National Institute on Retirement Security recently found that Black, Asian, and Latino workers have significantly less access to retirement plans on the job than White Americans, especially in the private sector. As a result, the vast majority of working-age households headed by people of color have little or no retirement savings. For those with a retirement plan, the average account balances for Black and Latino households are less than one-fifth that of White households. So if I am not mistaken, one-fifth of $2,500 would be about 500 bucks. So buried in this—keep in mind—is unequal gender and racial inequality.

Addressing the issue of retirement security again would be particularly beneficial to women. We all know about the income gap between men and women. But what a lot of people do not realize is the gap worsens after retirement. When you think about it, you can understand that. In 2011, the median annual income of older women; that is, over retirement age—keep this in mind, the median annual income was $14,225. The median annual income of that same core of older men was $24,794.

Why is that? Think about it. Unequal pay during their working years. That means women have less opportunity to save. They may take some time off during their working years to start a family. They have less time to save. Additionally, women tend to be concentrated in jobs that do not traditionally offer retirement plans. It has been said many times that women save more money than men. Well, yes, they have higher rates, but they are starting from a very low point. So women still lag behind men when it comes to total retirement savings.

That sort of sets the stage for our committee and for me to introduce the USA Retirement Funds Act, S. 1979—if anybody wants to write down the number of the bill. It is a new retirement program, and I am going to explain, basically, how it operates.

The USA retirement means it is universal, it is secure, and it is adaptable. That is what the USA stands for. It would tackle the retirement crisis head-on by ensuring that the 75 million people—remember my earlier chart—without a workplace retirement plan would have the opportunity to earn a safe and secure pension—universal, secure, and adaptable.

The concept is very simple. Employers who don't offer a pension or a well-designed 401(k) would automatically enroll their employees in this retirement fund. If an employee wanted to opt out, he or she could. No one would be forced to participate. But by making the system opt out instead of opt in, we get millions more people participating.

Employer and employee contributions would go into a fund that would be managed by a board of trustees. When a participant retires, the fund would provide the retiree with a monthly benefit as long as he or she lives, and if that person died it would go on to their spouse.

Over time, as people contribute, they would earn a real retirement benefit that will be a better bang for their buck than what they could have gotten on their own. That is because these funds would spread retirement risk over large groups of participants.

A recent report by David Madland at the Center for American Progress found that the USA Retirement Fund, with risk pooling and professional management, would make retirement much more affordable for working families. In fact, it would cut in half the amount people would need to save over the present system of defined contribution 401(k)s.

So it is basically universal access; everybody is in. You could work for an employer—with three employees, four employees, two employees—or you could be self-employed and have universal access.

You would get monthly benefits for life. You wouldn't be borrowing against it. You wouldn't be taking out a lump sum. It would be there, and you would get a monthly benefit for life with a spousal survival.

''Professionally managed'' means that it would be managed by a board of trustees who would have a fiduciary responsibility to this pool to invest it wisely—fiduciary responsibility. That relieves the individual from trying to figure our out what is the best place to put my little, meager amount of savings.

You wouldn't have to consider whether or not you should follow Uncle Fred's advice about this stock that he has that is going to make you a lot of money in the future or Mr. Ponzi's—what was the Ponzi guy's name again—where all you had to do was give him a lot of money or maybe Bernie Madoff in later years. You wouldn't have to worry about that. This would be a professional board that would have a fiduciary responsibility. As I said, it would have lower costs—about 50 percent.

In other words, what this means is if you were 35 years old and working, and you figured under your 401(k) you would need $2 million by the time you retired in order to live out your life and have a decent retirement income, if you were involved in this program, you would only need $1 million because the costs would be that much less.

A big portion of that $2 million goes into fees during the life of that 401(k). So that is the big savings. USA retirement, that is for the personnel.

Let's take a look at what it means for the business, the business community itself. These are the benefits to the business. It is easy to offer. They don't have to set up a plan. For a small mom-and-pop business, if they are filling out FICA taxes anyway, they just have a separate line for this, send it off, and they haven't anything else to do. They don't have to manage it—no risks and no fiduciary responsibility as an employer, none whatsoever—and they get quality benefits.

This is what this means. A lot of employers want to make sure their employees have a good retirement benefit because as they get older they earn more. Let's face it, you would like to have people retire so you could bring younger people into the workforce.

If you have people now who can't retire because they don't have enough money, they stay working. If you have a good, quality benefit, when people get to the age of retirement, basically they can retire now; they have their retirement set up. It means for an employer, for a business, they get the kind of turnover they need to bring in new, younger workers.

As I said earlier, it is professionally run. The company has no fiduciary responsibility whatsoever such as they do under a defined benefit program. They don't have to manage it, don't have to do anything and, as I said, no risk to the business whatsoever.

I would add also that under the bill employers could voluntarily contribute to the program. They don't have to, but they could voluntarily contribute.

If you are signing up one of your workers at 6 percent, the employer could say: I want to have a good workforce; I want to hire really good people. I have good people, and I want to keep them, but I will tell you what, I will kick in 2 percent, 3 percent or 2.5 percent.

They can kick in whatever they want as a management tool, maybe even as a recruitment tool to recruit very good workers. Again, it is a good recruitment and management tool for businesses.

For the economy in general, this would be good. This is what a lot of people don't consider. By bringing more people into this retirement system, there are going to be more savings, and there are going to be savings that are long-term type savings.

It is what we call patient capital. In other words, with the capital that comes into these big retirement pools, they don't need to earn and think about the quarterly bottom line, but they do think about the long term.

Haven't we spent a lot of time in this body and around the country talking about the need for infrastructure, long-term projects for this country, energy systems, electrical systems, roads, bridges, sewers, all of these. Plus, we need long-term capital for the new entrepreneurs starting these new businesses that may take a long time for them to return some capital, but they need that access to that long-term patient capital that something like this could provide for them.

As I said, it creates a lot of jobs. Again, because of this ability to invest over the long term, they are going to be able to start creating more jobs in our country.

I want to emphasize two more key points before I yield the floor.

First, USA Retirement Funds would not replace pensions or 401(k)s. Employers could and should continue to offer these plans at the workplace. But what this would do is give people without access to a quality employer-provided plan the opportunity to earn a retirement benefit.

The second point I want to make is that USA Retirement Funds isn't a new government program. There have already been some stories written about this in the paper.

Someone said: HARKIN has come up with a new government program.

No, I haven't. This is not a government program. This is a 21st century retirement plan run entirely by the private sector, just like pensions and 401(k)s.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't talk about that third leg of the stool, and that is Social Security. We have to improve the most efficient, most effective retirement program we have, and that is Social Security. Last year, I, along with others, introduced a bill, S. 567—a nice, easy number to remember—to expand the benefits by $65 a month. That means that if you are at the lower end of the income scale when you retire, your replacement rate will be a little bit better. You get $65 a month.

For some at the higher end, $65 a month is not that big of a deal, but it sure helps those at the bottom end. So it would increase that by $65, and it would index the living adjustment so you would have improved cost-of-living adjustment in the future because it would look at the CPI—the cost-of-living for elderly. I look at that and adjust it for that.

Secondly, it would strengthen the trust fund by lifting the cap on the payroll tax. If we do all of that, we strengthen Social Security, we actually increase the benefit a little bit, and it extends the life to 2050. So it makes Social Security stronger for future beneficiaries.

By improving the private retirement system, bolstering Social Security, we can do a lot to take away that dark cloud. We can tell people, assure people, that they will be able to save and have a retirement benefit, an annuity, every month, as long as they live.

Secondly, we make it easier for businesses to set it up. Third, it creates jobs in our economy by long-term types of investment. During this time of economic insecurity, it is more important than ever that working people have the opportunity to prepare for retirement.

I urge my colleagues to help rebuild the pension system in this country by supporting the USA Retirement Funds Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

(The remarks of Mrs. FISCHER and Mr. KING pertaining to the introduction of S. 2007 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we find ourselves today considering legislation to fix a problem that Congress and the President created only 2 short months ago. We knew from the Ryan-Murray spending deal that it cut military pensions. Yet this Senate passed the bill anyway, over my objections and those of many of my Republican

colleagues. Congressional Democrats insisted on keeping the military pension cuts in the Ryan-Murray deal. They would not accept change. Almost every Democrat supported Majority Leader REID and rejected amendments to stop the cuts and voted for the final passage. So they ignored the warnings I and others issued, and virtually every Senate Democrat voted to keep these cuts rather than close clear Federal tax loopholes that allow illegal aliens to gain money improperly.

So what happens? Constituents back home were outraged. Senate Democrats are trying to claim credit for fixing the very problem they created—which, in itself, is not bad, but unfortunately, instead of doing this in a good-faith way consistent with our spending priorities and limitations under the Murray-Ryan bill, the Pryor bill before us now authorizes more spending, unpaid for, in direct violation of the spending limits set out in the Ryan-Murray legislation passed just a few weeks ago.

So we passed legislation, we set limits on spending, and here we are blithely walking in again. I am at a loss to see why my colleagues continue to resist replacing these cuts—cuts to veterans who have earned it, who have been drawing these benefits, and not replacing them by closing the tax credit loophole for illegal immigrants.

Closing of this loophole was recommended by the inspector general of President Obama's own Treasury Department. So why are there those determined to protect billions of dollars in tax fraud and allow it to continue? Would it not be in our national interest to close this loophole, restore these pensions for our veterans, and maintain the savings we promised to the American people? Indeed, the savings would more than pay for the replacement of the veteran retirement provision, and it would help reduce our huge deficits.

Let's review how we got here.

In August of 2011, as we approached the statutory borrowing limit—the debt ceiling—Congress passed a Budget Control Act, which Congress agreed to immediately increase the debt limit by $2.1 trillion, but Congress promised to reduce the projected growth of spending from $10 trillion over the next 10 years to $8 trillion over the next 10 years. This was said to be a spending cut but was really a reduction in the growth of spending.

So this 2011 legislation, passed into law and signed by the President, promised to reduce the growth of spending by $2.1 trillion. I did not support this act. I thought we could have done more, and hoped to do more. Of course, I recognized it applied to our military in a disproportionate way—although we hoped it would ultimately be avoided, but it was not.

Once this legislation was passed, I felt—and I think most of us in Congress believed—we should honor the agreement we made to the American people. But almost immediately, many of our colleagues began saying even those spending reductions were too much. At every turn, the Senate passed or attempted to pass legislation which broke the spending caps.

I raised a number of budget objections. I am the ranking member on the Senate Budget Committee, and when spending violates the spending limits we have, I have on a number of occasions raised objections, or budget points of order. It takes 60 votes to spend more than the budget allows us to spend, so it gives us a check on spending.

Many of my objections were sustained, almost entirely with Republican votes, but in plain fact our colleagues were unwilling to save the money they promised the American people. We agreed to save a certain amount of money—we promised to do so. But when things get tight and their political groups want more, we tend to spend more, make excuses, and violate the budget. That, of course, is why we are in this deep, adverse financial situation.

Chairman MURRAY and Chairman RYAN entered into a negotiation to ease the Budget Control Act spending cuts—the sequester. They unveiled a plan which increased spending above the BCA level in exchange for increased revenues and some spending cuts. They said the new increases in spending were paid for. The increases in spending happened in 2 years, promised cuts were over a long period of time in the future, but it did in fact balance as they described it at the time.

However, immediately my staff alerted me to a provision in the bill which proposed cutting military retirement benefits by $6 billion—not for future recipients but for current soldiers and retirees. Some servicemembers would see a lifetime reduction of $120,000 or more, some $72,000. This is a cost-of-living reduction of more than 60 percent for some people. I felt this was unacceptable. There are a lot of other things we ought to be cutting before we cut the promised earned retirement benefits to our veterans who serve 20 years. Only those who have a 20-year service record qualify for this. I thought this was unacceptable and pointed it out.

Of course, no one seems to know where this provision came from. The Department of Defense said they weren't consulted. This is not surprising, since the legislation was produced by a secret few behind closed doors—something I do not think is a good process. The traditional legislative conference committee process was abandoned.

The good news is it was caught before it came to the floor, and when the bill came up, some of us offered proposals to fix this problem while staying within the spending caps. So as to not cut veterans $6 billion we needed to find some other place to cut $6 billion. This would at least have kept the promises of the bill sponsors of Ryan-Murray.

Military retirement cuts were a significant part of pay for this new spending. In that spirit, I proposed what I thought was a reasonable alternative. For over 2 years now, I have been trying to close a massive tax loophole.

In July of 2011, the U.S. Treasury Department, part of President Obama's administration, reported that illegal aliens received more than $4 billion in free child tax credits in just 2010 alone. In some cases, households received tens of thousands of dollars year after year, in many cases claiming as dependents people who don't even live in the United States. A number of these filers had no tax liability—that is, they were paying no tax at all—but they were getting tax credit checks from the Federal Government. The inspector general of the Treasury Department asked Congress to act and close this clear abuse. And it is dramatic, really.

What we found, in 2005, is credits claimed under this provision amounted to $924 million. But the inspector general reported by 2010, it was $4.2 billion—it has gone up four times in 5 year or 6 years—surging, as word got out that all you had to do was make these claims, nobody checks that the children were in the United States or if there were children at all. There is no way to check.

The inspector general of the Treasury Department has made at least three reports on this subject, and in its 2009 report pointed out the problems we face.

And it is not accurate to say that we somehow want to abuse children and deny them support. We are talking about plain fraud and abuse in this system.

This is what the inspector general said in March of 2009:

> Legislation should be considered to require a Social Security Number in order to be eligible for the Additional Child Tax Credit—

That is basically the amendment I offered, and what the amendment Senator AYOTTE is now offering and I cosponsored with her would do—just require you to have a Social Security number before you claim a big check from the U.S. Treasury. This would be consistent with the requirements, the IG said, for the earned income tax credit. Americans who file an earned income tax credit have to have a Social Security number. This is for people who work and receive a low income.

The Inspector General goes on:

> [A]s it now stands, the payment of Federal funds through this tax benefit appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the U.S. without authorization . . .

By the way, he said, this would appear to be an additional incentive for people to illegally enter the country, because you can come in unlawfully here and claim credit for children who may not even exist. And, if they do, they might be in a foreign country. It is now running at the rate of $4 billion-plus a year.

Remember, over 10 years the cost of the cuts to veterans is $6 billion. Closing this loophole would more than pay for this.

The inspector general goes on to say:

As far back as 2007, [IRS] employees responsible for resolving errors on tax returns, including those filed by individuals with an ITIN, raised concerns to IRS management about its policies for handling errors in ITIN tax returns. These employees stated that management did not take any subsequent action to address their concerns. A formal complaint was subsequently filed with the TIGTA.

In its 2009 report in December, some 6 or 9 months later, it goes on to say:

The volumes of ITINs is growing, increasing the risk that fraudulent tax returns using ITINs could be submitted.

ITINs were issued without sufficient support documentation. A statistical sample of 658 forms . . . selected from 1.5 million application[s] . . . submitted from January 1 through November 1, 2008, showed that . . . 78 percent contained errors.

The inspector general goes on to say:

There are . . . no controls to prevent an ITIN from being used by more than one taxpayer on multiple tax returns.

Nobody is checking if the ITIN number is used again, so they just file multiple returns.

It goes on to say:

More than 60,000 ITINs were assigned and used on multiple tax returns, processed in Calendar Year 2008.

So more than 60,000 of these numbers issued to individuals were used on more than one tax return. They shouldn't be using them but on one.

It goes on to say:

In addition, more than 55,000 ITINs were used multiple times on approximately 102,000 tax returns with refunds totaling more than $202 million. These are just the ones which used the number on more than one return.

The report goes on:

97 percent [of] supporting identification documents . . . were missing or illegible . . . 23 percent [of] signatures were missing . . . [and] 5 percent [had incorrect] birth dates.

And it goes on and on.

Something of interest is the news media has dug into this a bit. NBC's affiliate in Indianapolis in April of 2012 reported this:

An undocumented worker in southern Indiana told Channel 13-Investigates just how easy it truly is.

He said four other illegal immigrants file tax returns using his address, even though none of them actually lives there. And he said this year, those four workers filed tax returns claiming 20 children live inside his small trailer home. As a result, the IRS sent the illegal immigrants tax refunds totaling more than $29,000. But none of the 20 children listed as dependents on the tax returns lives in Indiana or even in the United States. ''No, they don't live here,'' admitted the undocumented worker. ''The other kids are in their country of origin, which is Mexico.''

On July 2012, they further reported about an IRS officer with a complaint in South Carolina. They reported that Howard, the IRS officer, received a stack of ITIN applications for dozens of children attending the same school in South Carolina. When he researched that school, he discovered it didn't even exist. When Howard reported the scam to his bosses, he claims his managers ordered him to approve the applications anyway. The inspector general also looked into that complaint.

This is not good. The taxpayers don't need to be subjected to this kind of fraud and abuse, and we absolutely should not cut veterans' earned retirement benefits while refusing to take action against such fraud and abuse as identified by our Treasury Department.

I offered the amendment to save the soldiers' pensions and pay for it by closing this tax loophole, but the majority leader—supported by his caucus, including the authors of this legislation—blocked the effort, not once but twice.

Let me make it clear that this bill before us—because our colleagues are refusing to utilize this possible fraud-closing mechanism to save enough money to more than pay for it—will be asking us to violate the fundamental principle of the Ryan-Murray Act. The Ryan-Murray Act promised we would spend more but that new spending would be paid for by taxes and spending cuts, and one of the spending cuts were the cuts to the veterans. If we take out the cuts to the veterans, where are we going to get the money to make sure the bill is paid for as promised? That is the question. We have offered a perfectly reasonable and essential loophole-closing mechanism to pay for that and pay even more than that. Let me make it clear: The bill before us is placing us in a position to choose from allowing an illegality to continue or cutting benefits earned by our veterans.

What we are seeing—in an astonishingly cynical move, if you think about it—is that we would restore the pensions to veterans without paying for it, without admitting that a mistake was made and not living up to the plain promises made in the Ryan-Murray bill, which reinforced and repassed spending limitations.

Congress passed spending caps in 2011. Ryan-Murray spent more but also established higher and clearer spending caps. It reestablished spending cuts. The Pryor legislation busts the in law Ryan-Murray caps. This is not acceptable. Are we blithely ignoring plain spending limits passed into law just a few weeks ago? Is there no shame, no embarrassment at such a dramatic breach of legal and budgetary spending limits?

Closing the ITIN tax credit loophole is a no-brainer. Let's stop this abuse and not cut current retirement of our veterans.

I hope we can move forward with the legislation today. I am uneasy and worried, but let's move forward. Let's bring the bill to the floor and maybe a compromise that is acceptable can be reached. I certainly believe that Senator AYOTTE's proposal—the one I am supporting—is a perfectly reasonable compromise that ought to have overwhelming support in this body.

If such an amendment of this nature is not accepted to pay for this change, I think the legislation is not going to pass in its current form. It would be a plain violation of the promises we made to limit spending just a few weeks ago. It is the kind of erosion of integrity that will lead this country to financial disaster. We are running up too much debt.

The Congressional Budget Office Director will testify before the Budget Committee tomorrow, and I trust the Presiding Officer will be there. He is an excellent member of that committee.

The Congressional Budget Office Director is going to tell us that interest on the debt of the United States—which will increase every year for the next 10 years and begin to surge upward in the outer years—in the 10th year alone will be $890 billion. That is stunning. The Department of Defense is just at $500 billion.

Right now interest on the debt is $250 billion. It is going to $900 billion in 10 years. The first money this government will have to pay is the money we pay on our interest on the debt that we have run up—$17 trillion. According to CBO, we are going to add another $7 trillion over the next 10 years. We will have to pay $24 trillion on interest.

He told us that if interest rates go up 1 percent, it will add $1.5 trillion to the amount of interest we would pay over the next 10 years. Most people tell us our interest rates are going up.

I guess what I am saying to my colleagues is that we know we face a financial challenge. We know we have to get spending under control. The Ryan-Murray bill was designed to ease this year's cuts in the Budget Control Act and sequester, and this was the tightest and toughest year of all. They eased that, and they said they paid for it with tax increases and spending reductions.

The bill before us would eliminate one of the pay-fors and substitute nothing else, which would mean we would add another $6 billion to the deficit. That is the path to fiscal irresponsibility and financial danger, and we need to get off of it.

I thank the Chair, 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 Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. 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. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I rise in support of S. 1963, the Military Pay Restoration Act.

Last year, the Senate passed the Bipartisan Budget Act—a bipartisan and bicameral agreement that funded our government, provided stability for our

economy, and reduced our deficit by over $22 billion.

I think my colleagues and the American people will agree that last year was tough. We saw the delay of the farm bill, the government shutdown, and the debt ceiling. Needless to say, this budget agreement was a positive step forward.

However, I will be the first to admit—and I think I maybe was the first to admit, possibly—that this wasn't perfect, especially when it came to the harmful budget cuts made at the expense of our men and women in uniform.

There is no question we need to cut our spending. I think almost everyone in this Chamber agrees with that, and I think so many Americans agree with that, but we must do it responsibly. We can address the isues we all talk about, such as cutting waste and fraud and abuse. We can be smart and eliminate items—again, once we think about them and roll up our sleeves and do the hard work and recognize we should—such as unnecessary government property purchases and maintenance, and pursue other cuts such as out-of-date and inefficient programs. All of those issues should be addressed.

But we cannot balance the budget on the backs of our hard-working military members and their families. We are a free nation today because of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make. They make those sacrifices for all of us. They make sacrifices for the Nation and for the world. They lay their lives on the line for us, oftentimes in places far away from their homes and their families, so we can live in peace right here at home.

Ashley, a soldier's wife from Alma, AR, recently wrote me and said: ''My husband signed up to serve so those that don't want to wouldn't have to.''

We have made a commitment to our servicemembers and we need to honor that commitment today by ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned.

When Aaron of Lake City, AR, signed up for the Army and deployed to Iraq, he counted on those earned benefits to provide for himself and his family. As he said in his letter: ''I held up my end of the contract and I believe the government should uphold their end.''

I agree with Aaron. Singling out our brave servicemembers isn't just unfair, it is wrong.

Dwayne of Drasco, AR, who served in the Air Force, said: ''I have been to Iraq and Afghanistan many times. I left a wife and three kids that depended on me. I fulfilled my obligation.''

The government must right this wrong and fulfill our obligation to servicemembers such as Dwayne.

I have introduced the Military Retirement Pay Restoration bill to repeal section 403 of the budget agreement that unfairly reduces the cost-of-living adjustment benefits for our military retirees under the age of 62 by 1 percent and to ensure that our future military retirees receive their full retirement pay.

Unfortunately, I have heard a lot of back-and-forth here in the Senate and on the Senate floor about this provision. Instead of working against each other, let's work together to get this done. As President John F. Kennedy said:

> Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.

We can fix this. Today, we will take an important step forward in fixing it. I am proposing a responsible solution which everyone on this floor should be able to support. In fact, I have even heard Speaker BOEHNER down the hall here urging his colleagues over in the House to consider supporting legislation that would repeal section 403 of the budget agreement, just as mine does, just as ours does.

Supporting our men and women in uniform is not a partisan issue; it is an American issue. We have seen 30 of the major veterans groups urge us to fix this: the Air Force Association, the Marine Corps League, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the U.S., the Association of the U.S. Navy, the Military Officers Association of America, just to name a few. There are 30 of these organizations that have urged us to fix this. They have told us: ''This provision breaks faith with each individual who has faithfully served their nation for over two decades in uniform.''

So let's fix it. Let's restore America's faith in Congress by doing the right thing today. Let's give our soldiers and their families the unwavering support they have given us. Let's put the partisanship aside, and let's pass this bill. Our military members and their families are counting on us.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. I try to come down to the floor every week or so to give voices to the victims of gun violence. All across this country, every day and every week, dozens, hundreds, thousands of Americans are gunned down on our streets and in our homes, in part because the Congress does absolutely nothing, has done absolutely nothing over the course of the past several years, over the course of the past decade, to try to curb this scourge of destruction that plagues virtually every corner of our society. Eighty-six people a day die at the hands of guns; 2,639, approximately, people every month. We lose 31,000 people every year. There is not another first-world country in the world that can come close to the level of gun violence we have here in the United States.

On top of these numbers are the horrific trendlines on mass shootings. Over the course of January, we saw a school shooting essentially every 2 days that school was in session. ''Luckily'' is not the word to ascribe to this sentence, but luckily, in each one of those instances, the damage was relatively minor to the potential damage that will unfortunately one day come when a shooter walks into one of these schools and is able to perpetrate the kind of violence that Adam Lanza did in Newtown, CT. We are sending a message of complicity when the Senate and the House of Representatives stand absolutely silent in the face of this violence.

I have come to the floor almost every week, and I hope that almost every time I arrive at the floor, I let my colleagues know that I don't expect that any law we pass is going to reduce 31,000 or 2,600 or 86 to zero. I understand that the reality is there is no law we can pass that will end all incidents of gun violence, that there is no panacea to this problem that Congress can offer, but we send a very clear message when we do nothing. When the Senate does not act, when the House does not act, we tell people in this country that we must be OK with the numbers that continue to accrue and move upward. I know that isn't the case. I know my Republican colleagues are just as sickened as I am at 86 people dying every day from guns. I know that supporters of the NRA, gun owners themselves, can't stand that this number is so high at 31,000 a year. But if the stats don't do it, then hopefully the voices of these victims will. So I offer four more recent victims, all from the streets of our cities in Connecticut.

Varnouard Hall was killed just a few days ago in New Haven, CT, January 31. He was shot and killed on the corner of East Pearl Street and Pierpont Street in New Haven. Emergency personnel were dispatched shortly before 10 p.m., and they found Hall lying on the ground, unresponsive, with a gunshot wound to his head. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Hall was the third homicide victim of the year, 31 days into January.

A couple of days later about 60 people gathered at the corner where Hall was shot. He had a lot of family, he had a lot of friends, and they mourned together. His family members and friends remember him as a very kind person. The family says: We don't want retaliation; we want justice.

Hall's sister Renee Evans said:

> I need people to stop being afraid to say what they see. If you see it, say it; you don't need to give your name. . . . Anyone who knows something should call the police.

He was a well-liked person all across the neighborhood.

Varnouard Hall, shot dead, was 33 years old.

Durell Patrick Law was killed 10 days earlier in New Haven. He had just started attending church regularly, the Faith Revival Temple Church in West Haven. He had gone to one of his first services on January 19, and he didn't make it to the next service—not by choice but because he was shot dead on Eastern Street on January 20. This was the city's first homicide of 2014. Mourners packed that church, where he was a new parishioner, to mourn him. They said he was a good man who liked to goof around, especially with his many family members.

Durell leaves behind a 1-year-old son. He was very active in sports in high school, and he was only 20 years old. In high school he had participated in football and track.

Justin Mariano was 29 years old when just before the new year he was killed in Bridgeport, CT. He was shot on the evening of November 9. Police responded to Bridgeport Hospital, where Mariano later died from his injuries. He had just started working at a barbershop called Sharp Cutz, and he was remembered by the people who worked with him and the folks who trained him at a local cosmetology school as talented, bright, and energetic.

Jerome Copeland was 22 years old when he was killed on the streets of Hartford. He was the 16th homicide victim in Hartford when he was killed in the late summer of 2013. A woman who knew him said that ''he was a young father, struggling, trying to make ends meet.'' He leaves behind a son, a brother, two sisters, and a loving girlfriend who described him as ''an energetic man who loves music.''

When I was at Central High School in Bridgeport a few weeks ago, I was sitting with a group of kids who wanted to see what they could do to end the violence on the streets of their city, to feel a little safer when they walked to school in the morning. I asked them all: How many of you know someone—a close relative or friend—who has been killed by guns? They looked at me strangely; in part, because every single one of them raised their hands. At Central High School you just accept at some point before you reach the age of 18 you are going to know somebody—a close friend or relative—who has been killed by guns in that city.

At a similar meeting of high school students in Hartford, CT, one young girl said the signs of police sirens at night were her lullaby growing up. She just knew there was a pretty good chance on any night someone was going to be killed in her neighborhood and she had come to accept the signs of crisis response as just the pitter-pat of raindrops outside.

To these kids, they look at their lives, in which they fear for their safety when they walk to school, in which they accept the inevitable fact they will lose someone close to them over the course of their teenage years, and they do not understand the complacency of the Senate.

A recent study of Cook County hospitals in and around Chicago showed of all the people they treated for episodes of violence, nearly half of them displayed signs of PTSD. The fact is, in these neighborhoods, PTSD is a reality in the same way it is for our troops who serve us overseas because they witness horrific acts of violence in neighborhoods that are supposed to be safe for our kids. We shouldn't have to compare the levels of PTSD in the neighborhoods our kids transit in the same way we look at PTSD on the field of battle.

It is time we did something—whether it is an investment in new mental health resources or beefed-up background checks to make sure criminals aren't buying guns or a recognition there are some weapons that probably deserve to be in the hands of the military rather than in the hands of everyday citizens. It is time for us to have an answer. These numbers—31,000, 2,600, and 86—are too high. If the stats don't do it, then hopefully over time the voices of victims will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

RECOGNIZING NORTH DAKOTA FIREMEN

Ms. HEITKAMP. Madam President, most of the country watched with a great deal of interest right before the new year, when we unfortunately had a train derailment in Casselton, ND. What was unique about this train derailment was that the train that derailed subsequently derailed another train which resulted in a fairly large explosion, which sent shock waves through the rest of the country as we started to address the issue of how do we maintain safety on the rails.

So we have been having a lot of discussions about what is the appropriate level of regulation. We have been having a lot of discussions about tank cars. The U.S. Department of Transportation has been meeting with the railroad industry as well as the oil and gas industry trying to assure whatever decisions are made, that they enhance safety. But I wish to talk about something that is not about government regulation and it is not about long-term strategies, except to point out the heroics and the importance of first responders.

I rise to honor the heroics of Geoff Andersen, an engineer in training for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, whose bravery following the recent train derailment near Casselton prevented the dangerous explosions from the crash from spreading even farther.

For many of us in the Senate, the Casselton derailment has trained our focus on our efforts to improve safety for the rail shipments of crude oil. From increased track inspections to updated tanker car standards, to the consideration of new routing options for crude shipments, all angles for improving the safety of crude rail shipments are being considered. What we should not overlook in our efforts, however, is the importance of skillful and well-trained railmen on the lines. Railmen such as Geoff Andersen are the backbone of that industry, and when one goes above and beyond the call of duty to prevent a disaster from spreading, they deserve to be recognized.

On December 30, a grain car carrying soybeans to the Pacific Northwest derailed near Casselton, ND. An axle broke on the car near the middle of the train, forcing the car off the rails and onto the tracks of the adjacent line carrying trains in the opposite direction. Conductor Bruce Anderson and Road Foreman of Engines Paul Douglas radioed the emergency to the oncoming train on the opposite track, but there was insufficient time to slow down that train headed their way. In the brief moments following the derailment, an eastbound train carrying crude oil collided with a soybean car lying over the tracks and the eastbound train exploded.

Following the crash, Geoff and the entire crew of the westbound grain train sprang into action. Immediately following the derailment, Conductor Bruce Anderson went back and pulled approximately 50 cars away from the fire. Recognizing the fire would soon spread to the remaining cars, Geoff worked with Assistant Fire Chief Adrian Kieffer to hatch a plan to couple back onto the remaining oil cars and unhook the tanker cars and pull them to safety.

Geoff, a former civilian firefighter for the Grand Forks Air Force Base, borrowed two radios and fire protection gear from the Casselton Fire Department. His engineer and trainer, Tom Cooks, jumped into the rear engine of the train to reverse the locomotive toward the fire and connected the train to the tanker cars in danger of exploding.

Geoff, armed in fire protection gear, walked toward the fire to connect the train to the cars. He then walked even closer to the fire to pull the pin on the closest tanker car within a safe distance, getting 25 more cars away from the fire.

Remember, these are cars filled with crude oil.

Once the pin was pulled, Geoff radioed to Tom to pull the cars away.

Because of Geoff's heroics, the danger from the derailment was minimized and the explosions were isolated to the tanker cars adjacent to the derailment. Had it not been for Geoff, this disaster would have been much worse.

I would like to take this time to thank not only Geoff Andersen but all those involved in the response, including Engineer Tom Cooks, Conductor Bruce Anderson, Road Foreman of Engines Paul Douglas, Casselton Fire Chief Tim McLean, and Casselton Assistant Fire Chief Adrian Kieffer, for their presence of mind and their decisive action following the crash to minimize the danger of this derailment.

I rise with some awareness of what firemen do. As attorney general for the

State of North Dakota, I had the pleasure of also being responsible for the fire marshal's office. As somebody in charge of the fire marshal's office, I spent a great deal of time traveling across North Dakota visiting not only with full-time firemen but the wonderful volunteer fire offices we have all across North Dakota.

I have a special spot in my heart for firemen. My dad was chief of the fire department in Mantador, ND, for years and years, and took that effort quite seriously, took the training quite seriously.

As we move forward in this discussion of guaranteeing the safety of crude moving on the rails, I ask this body to consider a third prong, beyond simply looking at routing decisions and prevention of derailment, and then in the unfortunate incidence, of containment of the consequences of derailment; that is, the importance of training, the importance of doing everything we can to provide the equipment and to provide the training and the resources to our first responders.

Anyone who doubts the commitment of those first responders to put their lives in harm's way need only look to the 9/11 responders and realize, if you have worked with firemen, they all knew when they walked into that building their chances of returning were virtually nonexistent. Yet they walked into that building in an effort that we can only shake our heads at—the heroics of that effort. Take a look at the heroics of Geoff Andersen and his colleagues in doing everything they could to promote public safety and to guarantee public safety. Let's respond with appropriate public policy and appropriate training and appropriate resources for our first responders.

I yield the floor, and 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. BEGICH. 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. BEGICH. Madam President, I am one of the sponsors of the bill pending before the Senate at this moment. As we know, the bill is about as simple as we can get around this place: a one-sentence measure to restore the fairness to America's military retirees. The bill repeals the COLA cut Congress gave to working-age military retirees when we passed the budget just before Christmas.

The budget bill had a lot of good provisions and passed with large bipartisan support on both sides of the Capitol. It avoided another government shutdown. Alaska's delegation was unified in passing the budget bill. It prevented another round of major cuts to Defense Department and other agencies. It showed the American people that Republicans and Democrats can work together. But it wasn't much of a Christmas present for our veterans—the brave Americans who made a career out of serving their country and, in many cases, putting their lives on the line.

That budget deal says working-age military retirees will see their pension COLA adjustments reduced by 1 percent annually. For many this is a hit totaling tens of thousands of dollars over years. For some the total reduction over their lifetime is upwards of $80,000. It is completely unacceptable. This is why many of us only supported the budget deal because we had already committed to rolling back the COLA cut once the deal was completed.

The bill before us right now will take care of the problem once and for all. The chief sponsors are Senators HAGAN, PRYOR, SHAHEEN, and myself. Many others are coming onboard. In fact, I don't know a single Member of this Chamber who opposes making sure our military retirees continue to receive their full COLA. It is right to do. When these heroes signed on to serve and made their military service a career, it is what they were promised. They should expect no less now.

But I have been around the block a few times and I know what is coming. Many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to come to this floor and talk a good game. They are going to pledge their loyalty to the troops, they are going to wrap themselves in the flag, and then they are going to pivot. They are going to start qualifying things. They are going to say the sky is falling. And they are going to say we can only pass this bill if we pay for it. We have already been down that road. Many of us in this Chamber tried to fix the military COLA last month, but our efforts failed in a fight over what is known around here as a pay-for. Honestly, I am sick of it.

The bill before us right now—the bill I proudly sponsor—has no pay-for. Why is that, people ask. Because the men and women of our Armed Services have already paid—paid up on their end of the deal—and now it is time for us to pay our part.

Unfortunately, too many of them have paid the ultimate sacrifice, with their lives. All of them—even those who served, who survived, and were lucky enough to retire—had agreed to put their lives on the line. That is the deal when you sign up to serve this country.

So to my colleagues I say, don't come down to this floor and lecture me about paying for this bill, because it is a simple thing to do.

I have a list right here of Alaskan soldiers who died in battle during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the wars that weren't paid for. There are 22 names here. Alaska is a small-populated State, so every one of these losses hit us hard.

In all, nearly 6,800 American soldiers have died in these 2 wars. Half of these fallen soldiers were between the ages of 18 and 24 years old. With permission, I am going to read just a few of the names of our fallen Alaskans:

TSgt Leslie Williams, Air Force, age 36, Juneau; PFC Adare Cleveland, Army, age 19, Anchorage; SGT Kurtis Arcala, Army, age 22, Palmer; Michael Lasky, Marine Reserves, age 22, Sterling.

Twenty-two Alaskans have paid the price. Granted, we will never know if these brave soldiers would have chosen to make a full career out of the military. We will never know if they would have collected a pension from the country they served. But this much we do know: Every American troop who is serving right now, especially the career soldiers, signed on with a promise from the rest of us that in return for their sacrifice, their government would take care of them.

It is time for those of us in Congress to step up and do that—both sides of the aisle on both sides of the Capitol. It is time for us to pass this bill and to make good once again on our end of a deal.

Let me make one point. Our actions so far on this issue are not theatrical. This isn't about some ideological policy debate. By voting to reduce the COLA adjustment, we have already impacted real people and real families and created uncertainty in their future. Here are just two examples of Alaskan constituents.

A soldier from Anchorage wrote to me and said:

> I myself am on active duty with just over 18 years of service. Maybe I made a mistake by devoting my life from age 19 to now to the Air Force.

He said he has moved six times, has two failed marriages and two children, one of whom is disabled. He says we changed the rules of the game and now wonders what would have happened if he had chosen college instead of the military. The letter says:

> I can't undo 18 years of service. I can't change my career path. It seems very unfair to be changing our retirement like this.

Another family from the North Pole up near Fairbanks wrote to me. The husband served 20 years in the Air Force, and their daughter is currently a major in the Air Force. They were promised benefits for life, such as good health care and retirement benefits with a COLA adjustment. The husband could have left sooner and started another career, but he chose to stay because of the benefits. Their message to me was very simple: The vote to reduce the COLA breaks faith with them, with those already retired, and with everyone who has chosen a military career.

And what about those bright young people who are deciding right now whether to sign up and perhaps make a career out of the military? What are they thinking about their Congress and their future?

We need to fix this, and fix it right now, starting with our vote this evening—not next month, not later

this spring, not next fall, but right now.

I know there is going to be a lot of debate. Hopefully tonight we will see the cloture vote and move to the debate. I know there will be a list of pay-fors. As I said earlier, the people whom this protects and ensures they have a COLA and retirement they can depend on are people who served this country and put their lives on the line. We have an obligation—an obligation today, tonight, and tomorrow—to finish this and put their COLA back in place.

I know we will hear arguments about the deficit and all these explanations. But I can't say enough about the payment that has already been made by our military, by the people who served not only on the frontlines but throughout this world, protecting our country. I hope we put aside our political debates and our politicking, and get on with doing what is right.

When we put this in perspective about the 6,800 who perished in the two unpaid-for wars—$2 trillion-plus unpaid for—this is a $6 billion issue over the next 10 years. It is a small amount to make sure we solve this problem for our retirees.

The military coalition—an incredible organization of many of our military organizations around the country—has sent a letter today supporting S. 1963, the bill we have up today. So I hope Members on both sides put aside this whole argument on the pay-for and let's get on with doing what is right with our retirees. They have paid the price, they have served our country, and it is time to pay the bill—and that is voting for this piece of legislation tonight, voting to close it in cloture, and then moving on to final passage.

I look forward to the debate.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. 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. WICKER. Madam President, I wish to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I see that S. 1963, a bill to repeal certain reductions made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, is on the calendar. I didn't vote for the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, and my no vote was cast for one reason—this so-called CPI-minus-1-percent injustice done to military retirees. Military retirees under the age of 62—according to this newly passed bipartisan budget bill signed by the President—will not be able to keep up with the cost of living because their annual cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, would be reduced each year by 1 percent.

I think we have clearly pointed out to the American people the injustice of this provision in the Budget Act. An enlisted person would lose approximately $80,000 out of his or her pocket over their lifetime. These military retirees have fulfilled every part of their bargain. After they have done their share and subjected themselves to worldwide duty—perhaps serving in a war zone any number of times—the government comes along in the form of this bill and says: We have changed our minds. We are not going to give you your full cost of living. We are going to take a percent of that each year. For officers it is even more than $80,000 over their lifetime.

I believe most Americans now realize that it was a mistake to do this. It needs to be corrected, and we need to go back and keep our promise to military retirees. We have an obligation to do this for our military retirees.

At the same time, we have an obligation to future generations not to go back on the budget savings that were so hard fought in this budget act. I supported the level of budget savings, but I didn't like the way they were done.

Time and time again I, along with Senator AYOTTE, Senator GRAHAM, and others came to the Senate floor and pointed out that there were other ways to pay for the savings that needed to be made in the budget. There are better ways to do that than taking it out of the hides of the people who volunteered to serve their country in the military.

We have a bill, S. 1963, that we will be considering, and it is authored by Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BEGICH. I like the idea of addressing the problem. There is only one fault in the bill. It does not have a pay-for. So of the budget savings that we made last December, some $6 billion of that would simply go away and we would end up spending that $6 billion we were planning to save.

Our obligation needs to be to the military people and to future generations. Why do we need to cut $6 billion? Why do we need to stay with the $6 billion in budget savings? Because we have an obligation to do something about the debt. That was the whole reason for the budget bill last December. We are drowning in a sea of debt to the tune of $17 trillion-plus and growing every day. We need to rectify the wrong done to military people, and at the same time we need to find the budget savings elsewhere.

Today I will vote to proceed to the bill. I will do so in the hope that Republicans and conservatives will be allowed to offer amendments in the regular order and find the $6 billion in savings needed over a 10-year period to pay for this bill.

There is a proposal by me, Senator AYOTTE, and Senator GRAHAM that would use an Obama administration pay-for to pay for the cost of rectifying the wrong to the military retirees. It is a closing of a loophole in the U.S. Tax Code. The loophole I am referring to allows people to improperly claim an additional child credit.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that this change could save approximately $20 billion over the next decade. This was an issue identified by the Obama administration's Treasury Department and their inspector general. We are not taking something from the Heritage Foundation. This is something by the Treasury Department of the Obama administration and their inspector general.

I simply submit this to my colleagues. Let's rectify the wrong done to the military retirees and also admit we have an obligation to future generations and not add to the debt any more than this Congress has already done. We can fulfill both of these obligations today, and the way to do it is to vote for cloture on the motion to proceed, which I, and I believe many of my Republican colleagues, will do.

In return, we ask for regular order on this important bill. Allow amendments and pay-fors through the Ayotte-Graham-Wicker legislation or perhaps through another amendment. If there are Members on the other side of the aisle who have a better pay-for, bring that to the floor, offer it, let the sun shine on these suggestions, and let the American people know where we stand on righting the wrong and protecting future taxpayers.

I say to my colleagues, vote yes on cloture on the motion to proceed. I say to the leadership, don't lock it down this time like it has done in the past. Don't fill up the amendment tree. Allow Republicans and Democrats—who have other ideas about how to protect our future generations from a sea of debt—to bring those ideas to the floor, vote on them, and let the American people see that we can correct this wrong to the military without adding $6 billion to the debt.

I hope we will have a bipartisan consensus and begin this new year with regular order and allow the elected representatives of the States to work their will rather than having deals cut behind closed doors.

I thank the Presiding Officer and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 298, S. 1963, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

Harry Reid, Mark L. Pryor, Mark Begich, Kay R. Hagan, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1963, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Barrasso	Harkin	Paul
Begich	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Blunt	Heller	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Boxer	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Brown	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Johanns	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Scott
Carper	King	Sessions
Casey	Kirk	Shaheen
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Lee	Thune
Coons	Levin	Toomey
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	
Franken	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—5

Coburn	Graham	Rubio
Corker	Johnson (WI)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 0. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of S. 1963.

I ask unanimous consent that after my remarks, Senator BROWN from Ohio follow me for a time not to exceed 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, this is a bill Senator PRYOR and I have introduced to repeal the harmful cuts to military retirement pay in the recent Bipartisan Budget Act. As the Senator from the most military-friendly State in the Nation, I am pleased that we have just voted to advance this important legislation that will affect so many brave men and women from North Carolina and around the country who serve our Nation in the military.

These harmful cuts to military retirement pay were included in the recent bipartisan budget that passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support. While I supported the Murray-Ryan budget because it rolled back across-the-board sequester cuts that threaten our military capabilities and the safety of our troops, I am opposed to the provisions in this budget that reduce these cost-of-living adjustments for military men and women who have served our country with honor and distinction. Without action these cost-of-living cuts will take effect in December of 2015. By passing this legislation this week we can keep our promise to our servicemembers and veterans who do not deserve to have their retirement benefits cut.

The proposed cuts would affect our current and future retirees who are still serving our country on Active Duty. If allowed to remain, the cost-of-living cuts would cost a typical retiree over $80,000. In my State of North Carolina, close to 90,000 retirees as well as thousands of servicemembers still on Active Duty would bear the brunt of these cuts.

I recently heard from a veteran from Apex, NC, who served in the military for 21 years, including two tours in Afghanistan, one in Saudi Arabia, and one in Korea. He said the cost-of-living cuts changed the promise made to his family. After moving 12 times in 21 years, his family made decisions on where to live, what house to purchase, what job to take, and how to save for his son's education based on this pension income.

I also heard from a woman whose husband is an Active-Duty marine stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. She wrote:

> My husband has served 16 years in the infantry, four tours in Iraq and is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan soon. He has kept his promise to the U.S. and earned his benefits in full. We have lived with long-term separations, uncertainty and financial stress. Please do not add to that. The money may not sound like a lot to some, but it means a whole lot to us.

Once again, that woman's husband is an Active-Duty marine.

This is unacceptable. We have made a commitment to these brave men and women, many of whom have deployed multiple times to combat zones overseas. We must keep our promises to our servicemembers after they have sacrificed so much for us.

These cost-of-living cuts would negatively impact not only individual servicemembers but also the military as a whole. I serve on the Armed Services Committee. Two weeks ago military leaders testified that retirement benefits are an integral part of a servicemember's decision to remain in the military or to further reenlist. We cannot overlook the consequences these cuts would have on the retention of servicemembers, particularly midgrade officers and noncommissioned officers who are considering the length of their future service, nor can we overlook the effect they would have on the military's long-term readiness.

I am pleased that we have acted to prevent the cost-of-living cuts for the most severely wounded military retirees and Survivor Benefit Plan recipients, but our bill would go further. This would repeal these cost-of-living adjustment cuts for all military retirees. Yes, it is true that our country faces difficult fiscal challenges. However, we can never balance the budget on the backs of those who have answered the call to duty. We must keep the promises we have made to our veterans, who have put their lives on the line to protect us. I urge my colleagues to support our legislation that will ensure current and future veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate the words of Senator HAGAN, who has been a leader in the Senate on issues for our veterans, for their health care and Camp Lejeune and so many other ways, looking out for pensions and health care for those who have earned it and sacrificed for us. She, as do I, believes it is an honor to honor those who have sacrificed for us.

CVS TOBACCO SALES

Today I was at a CVS drugstore in Lakeland, OH, a city west of Cleveland, thanking and celebrating, if you will—perhaps a strong word—CV's decision they announced last week that they would stop selling tobacco products at their 7,000 stores and pharmacies and that they would invest in a national smoking-cessation campaign designed to help people quit smoking. CVS's CEO said that is ''the right thing to do for customers and our company to help people on their path to better health . . . Put simply, the sale of tobacco is inconsistent with our purpose.''

That is good news.

In my State one in every five deaths is connected to tobacco. Ohio ranks sixth in the adult smoking rate, and 16,900 children in Ohio under 18 start smoking each year. The Presiding Officer knows what we know about tobacco. We know that every year in the United States of America 480,000 people die of tobacco-related illnesses. Do you know what else we know? Because 480,000 Americans die from tobacco-related illnesses, we know that the big tobacco company executives understand they have to find 480,000 new customers every year to buy their products.

The Presiding Officer knows there is nothing particular about his age or

mine, but they do not aim at people such as us. They do not aim at people in their forties, fifties, and sixties to get them to join to replace those 480,000 people who have passed away; they aim at people the age of our pages who are sitting in the well.

In fact, they don't aim at only 16- and 17-year-olds, they are aiming at 12-, 13-, 14-, and 15-year-olds.

Joining me at CVS today were two young women, Shanisha Collins and Melissa Renton. They both smoke and are both working to quit smoking. Both are doing very well as they quit smoking. They both started smoking, they told us, as teenagers, and CVS is working with them in their smoking-cessation campaign.

We were also joined by Michael Roizen of the Cleveland Clinic who has done remarkable work in preventive care in a preventive medical practice, if you will, at the Cleveland Clinic. He is a heart doctor who also has done so well in various kinds of care to help people quit smoking, to help people lose weight, and to help people prevent diabetes—all of the preventive care he has worked on.

We were also joined by two nurse practitioners, Lauren and Molly, who as part of the CVS clinic have helped people do to better manage their health.

The point is CVS has made this decision. It isn't earth-shaking. Half of the cigarettes bought today are from gas stations, and that is not going to change much. Cigarettes are going to be available. It is a legal product. In fact, people should have the right to buy cigarettes if they choose to. But the point is tobacco companies shouldn't be able to target young people the way they do.

We have seen major progress. Fifty years ago the Surgeon General issued his groundbreaking report on the health effects of tobacco use. Look at the progress we have made. Some 42 percent of adults smoked cigarettes in 1965. Today 18 percent of adults smoke cigarettes. It has been a huge public health victory, and it has been a huge public health victory in small steps and large steps.

First, the report was very important. We remember as kids—the Presiding Officer is old enough to remember this, as I am—we could smoke anywhere in our society. State governments then began to prohibit smoking in public buildings and then began to prohibit smoking in other publicly owned buildings—government buildings. Then people couldn't smoke in public places in many States around the country.

We remember people used to smoke on airplanes. Then over time smoking was restricted to, I remember, aisles 18 to 35 or something—so you could smoke if you were in one of those aisles but not in a seat in front of that or behind that—whatever it was. Now smoking is banned on all flights. We have seen major progress made.

CVS is one step in that. We have sent a group of us led by Senator HARKIN—Senator BLUMENTHAL has been involved, and a number of others—asking the other drugstore chains—Walgreens and Right Aid—to do the same, to quit selling cigarettes there.

So we have seen progress, but it is still a major public health problem. In one of the places it is particularly a problem. I said at the beginning of my remarks that 480,000 people in America die from tobacco-related illnesses every year—heart diseases, cancer, a whole host of illnesses that are connected to smoking or chewing tobacco. So they aim at children, for sure, with their targeted campaigns, but they also go overseas. The tobacco companies are trying to undermine public health laws, particularly in poor countries around the world.

If someone is a public health official in India, they have to worry about cholera, malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, child diarrhea. They have to worry about all the things that kill people prematurely in that country. When the tobacco companies come in—whether they are American companies, British companies or companies from any other country—they don't have much defense against that. That is why I know the Presiding Officer from Indiana has been a real leader in opposing bad trade policy for our country.

But one of the elements of a bad trade policy is giving U.S. tobacco companies too much power to go into far too many of these countries to cajole, threaten, and even undermine public health laws.

In fact, we have seen in more than one country—thought to be a poor country, without too many people, and that does not have many public resources, and where people are very poor—we have seen tobacco companies threaten those countries that are about to enact a health care law, and that country backs off because they don't have the dollars or the resources to fight the tobacco companies' efforts in court.

We have a lot of work to do.

I wanted to share what happened today in Lakewood, OH, with my colleagues, how important it is, and what a huge public health victory. Again, I want to emphasize how successful these efforts to curb the use of tobacco are—the greatest preventable killer in the country—and how successful we have been. More than 40 percent of people smoked in 1965 and today fewer than 20 percent. That is because of a partnership among government, local officials, public health officials, the American Cancer Society, and the American Heart Association. So many of these organizations have stepped up in a way that has mattered—the American Lung Association and others—to protect the public interest and especially to protect children.

I applaud the efforts of that company and the efforts of so many of my colleagues who have been working on this issue.

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. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING PAT MULROY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedicated service of my friend Pat Mulroy who is retiring from her position as general manager of the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

In Nevada, as well as much of the Southwest, water is an important and scarce resource; and since 1989, Pat has been an unparalleled leader for Nevada and the Nation in managing our precious water supplies. I applaud her tremendous abilities and vast understanding of our region's water demands, which helped her lead our State through unprecedented strains on our water resources.

During her time at the water district and the water authority, Pat worked tirelessly to invent solutions to solve Nevada's complex water problems and has been instrumental in finding a balance between regional growth and water conservation. In a 6-year span, from 2002 to 2008, the population in the Las Vegas area increased by more than 400,000 people. Yet Pat's innovative conservation techniques have helped reduce Southern Nevada's water usage by a third.

Over the years, I have watched Pat rise to challenge after challenge. Early on, she initiated negotiations with water purveyors in Arizona, then Utah, California, and Mexico. Pat has proven herself as a powerful and effective voice for Nevada when negotiating Colorado River system agreements, and her strong leadership helped her build unmatched partnerships with the States that share the Lower Colorado River Basin. Through Pat's persistence and proactive response to climate change and western water issues, she has truly helped shape Southern Nevada and the region into what it is today.

Pat has received many acknowledgements and awards for her hard work, including the National Jewish Medical and Research Center's Humanitarian Award, the University and Community College System of Nevada Board of Regents' Distinguished Nevadan Award, and the Public Education Foundation's Education Hero Award.

Many know Pat as an expert on water issues, but I also know her as loving wife to her husband Robert, a devoted mother, and an active leader in her community. I think so highly of Pat and believe she has done such important work for our State and our country. She will surely be missed, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN JOHN JAMES McGINTY III

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to report some sad news to my colleagues. John James McGinty III—raised in my hometown of Louisville, KY—succumbed to bone cancer on Friday, January 17, after 73 years of life. Although his wife Elaine passed in 1991, he is survived by his sons Michael and John IV. Mr. McGinty was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who received the Medal of Honor for his exemplary record of valor in the Vietnam War. Our country owes him, as we do all of our veterans, an unimaginable debt of gratitude for his service.

John J. McGinty III was born to John and Eve McGinty on January 21, 1940, in Boston, MA. The family soon moved to Louisville, where John completed grammar school and began high school. The call to serve his country, however, rang more loudly and clearly than the school bell. After a year and a half, he dropped out and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in February 1957.

John enlisted in the regular Marine Corps the following year. He served as a drill instructor and a brig officer until 1966, when he volunteered for duty in Vietnam. In June of that year he took part in Operation Hastings, during which his service to his country would extend above and beyond the typical call of duty. Three days into the operation, McGinty's company, reduced to a strength of 100 men, was ordered to withdraw. On July 18, Sergeant McGinty's platoon was providing rear security for the withdrawal when they were attacked by what was estimated to be 1,000 North Vietnamese soldiers.

Amidst the chaos of the attack, two squads from his platoon were cut off and nearly surrounded. Sergeant McGinty rushed through the jungle under a hail of gunfire to find his men in dire straits—20 were wounded and their medical corpsman had been killed. Showing little regard for his own shrapnel wounds to his leg, back, and left eye, Sergeant McGinty reloaded the wounded men's weapons and, according to his Medal of Honor citation, ''directed their fire upon the enemy.'' When the attackers inched closer and closer to his men, Sergeant McGinty drew his .45-caliber pistol and killed five enemy soldiers at point-blank range. Then, with enemies at all sides and still taking heavy gunfire, he accurately called in naval airstrikes to within 50 yards of his position.

His actions that day were consistent with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps, and at a White House ceremony on March 12, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson bestowed upon then-Second Lieutenant McGinty the Medal of Honor.

Although he retired from the Marine Corps as a captain in 1976, Mr. McGinty continued to work to better the lives of America's service men and women. He worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs in various capacities, and along with fellow veterans, made several trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to visit with American troops. He would, however, stop wearing his Medal of Honor after becoming a born-again Christian in the early 1980s. His son Michael McGinty explains, ''He didn't have a problem with the honor.'' Rather, it was the medal's depiction of the Roman goddess Minerva that ran contrary to his deeply held belief that the reason he was still alive is the one true God.

Captain McGinty was modest about his own heroic actions. His son Michael has said, ''My father used to say that he did what any Marine sergeant would have done in that situation.'' There can be no doubt, with his record of valor, however, that CAPT John James McGinty III is indeed a hero, and America has lost a hero with his passing. John's service to his country, both as a U.S. Marine and as a private citizen, is deserving of the highest praise and respect of this body. Thus, I ask my U.S. Senate colleagues to join me in honoring and mourning this fallen soldier with roots in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All Kentuckians, and all Americans, should be honored that he fought to protect us, and grateful for his service and sacrifice.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr HELLER. Mr. President, today it is with great pride I congratulate all of the 2014 Winter Olympians, especially Tim Jitloff, David Wise, and Chas Guldemond, the three Nevada proudly call their own.

A Reno native, Tim Jitloff grew up on skis and has been claiming international titles since 2005. Tim's unwavering dedication to his sport has developed him into a two-time Olympic athlete, qualifying for the Men's U.S. Ski Team for the first time when he was just 19 years old. In Sochi, he will compete in Alpine skiing's super combined giant and common slalom. Tim's successes extend not only to a first place finish at the 2013 U.S. Championship, but off the snow where he is a determined advocate in the fight against breast cancer, as his mother is a survivor. Tim's passion for service is marked by the respect he has earned on the big snow as well as his earnestness and resounding hard work.

David Wise's Olympic status begins in the Reno snow where he began skiing as a 3-year-old. He turned professional at an early age after securing his first U.S. national title when he was 15. His wins include The Dew Tour, The Grand Prix, and repeat Winter X Game titles. David continued his achievements in 2013 when he qualified for his first Olympics in this year's debut sport of ski halfpipe. David's dedication to his passion, family, and faith personifies a true talent, unmatched and inspiring for all of Nevada.

Chas ''Chuck G'' Guldemond has been a driving force in snowboarding since moving to Lake Tahoe in 2005. Working a series of odd jobs to pay his own way for the sport for years is just one of the testaments of character Chas contributes to the 2014 U.S. Olympic team. Chas has had seven healthy seasons of competition and won almost every major event in snowboarding since his early days of participating in the sport. In Sochi, he competes as one of the biggest names in slopestyle. The dedication and sacrifices Chas has made in pursuit of his dream are commendable.

Steadfast in their training, each one of these athletes reminds us that even the seemingly unfathomable is possible. Our American pride grows stronger as these Nevadans compete in Sochi. It is an honor to watch them and the entire team compete in the name of a United States victory in these 22nd Winter Olympics. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these and all of the remarkable athletes on their accomplishments thus far. We wish them a safe and gold-winning trip to Russia.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GERARD GRIMALDI

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the work of Gerard Grimaldi. Gerard has a long history of public service in Kansas City, stretching back to his time serving as an aide to Senator Tom Eagleton and later as an aide to Congressman Alan Wheat. More recently, since 2001, Gerard has ably served as vice president of health policy and government relations for Truman Medical Centers. Everyone who knows Gerard respects him, and everyone who gets to work with him considers themselves lucky.

A few years ago, I asked Gerard to serve as my nominee on a volunteer community advisory panel for the Bannister Complex in Kansas City, MO. This opportunity required a significant time commitment from Gerard—time he would normally spend with his beautiful wife and four lovely children—to serve on a panel which offered Gerard no personal or professional benefit. Not only that, but this panel was created to help facilitate constructive community dialogue around some sensitive issues in a very heated environment. But, true to his background as a public servant, Gerard didn't hesitate when I asked him to volunteer.

Gerard not only served on the community advisory panel for over 3 years, but he also was the chair of the panel, heading a diverse group of community leaders. This panel worked diligently to facilitate constructive community input and to help ensure transparency by government agencies involved in the Bannister Complex environmental cleanup and redeployment efforts. The work Gerard and the panel did was successful and has now come to an end.

In the course of my adult life, I have been fortunate to meet many outstanding public servants—men and women who exemplify leadership and a genuine desire to contribute to the greater good. Of those public servants, Gerard is one of the best. I am proud that he is a Missourian, and I am honored to be able to recognize him here today.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Gerard Grimaldi for his exemplary public service to Kansas City and the great State of Missouri.●

BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bear Paw Development Corporation of Northern Montana, which celebrates its 45th anniversary this month. Bear Paw Development is a proven leader in providing economic and community development solutions to challenges faced by northern Montana's small businesses and local and tribal governments. On behalf of all Montanans, I commend Bear Paw Development for its 45 years of outstanding work to build economic momentum and institutional support to ensure a brighter future for our State.

Bear Paw Development Corporation, one of the oldest federally recognized economic development districts in the Nation, provides information, technical support and hands-on assistance for northern Montana, helping business owners and local leaders take hold of their potential and build on their success. The dedicated employees of Bear Paw Development assist our communities in every aspect of planning and development, from providing business loans and small business counseling to facilitating investment in critical infrastructure projects.

As a farmer, I have a special appreciation for their work in value-added agriculture. Bear Paw serves as one of four centers in the Montana Food and Agriculture Development Center Network, working with farmers to create greater market access so that Montana agricultural products can compete on a global scale.

Working with local governments, Bear Paw coordinates millions of dollars of investment every year into infrastructure. Through the construction of drinking water systems, wastewater systems, bridges, and other community infrastructure projects, Bear Paw's work is vital to the residents, communities and businesses of northern Montana.

Since the creation of Bear Paw Development's revolving loan fund, they have assisted hundreds of small businesses with their financing needs to either start a new business or expand an existing one. In total, through more than 330 individual loans, Bear Paw Development has disbursed $21.7 million to businesses in northern Montana, helping to create or retain a total of over 1,240 jobs.

Over the next 45 years, I fully expect Bear Paw Development to continue its historic and significant success in the areas of business growth, alternative energy, workforce development, community improvement, and of course, agriculture. Its continued commitment to the economic growth and diversification of northern Montana will continue to be a shining example of the role economic development districts can play throughout our country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:04 p.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2954. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2954. An act 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; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3590. An act to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3964. An act to address certain water-related concerns in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, 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–4591. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Chariton, IA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0255)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4592. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gainesville, TX'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0586)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4593. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Chatom, AL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2012–1186)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4594. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Donlin Creek, AK'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0786)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4595. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Class E Airspace; Danville, IL'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0657)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4596. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Sisseton, SD'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0641)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4597. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Leesburg, VA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0033)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4598. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (8); Amdt. No. 3570'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4599. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (15); Amdt. No. 3569'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4600. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (39); Amdt. No. 3567'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4601. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (36); Amdt. No. 3568'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4602. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0704)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4603. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0724)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4604. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Maule Aerospace Technology, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0725)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4605. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; EADS CASA (Type Certificate Previously Held by Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0688)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4606. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4607. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Schempp-Hirth Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0661)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4608. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; AgustaWestland S.p.A. (Type Certificate previously held by Agusta S.p.A.) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0604)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4609. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0416)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4610. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0365)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4611. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0706)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4612. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0557)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4613. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0421)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4614. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0340)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4615. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0603)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4616. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1030)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4617. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0304)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4618. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; CFM International S.A. Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0407)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4619. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Various Aircraft Equipped with Wing Lift Struts'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0023)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4620. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2009–0811)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4621. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4622. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–

2013–0879)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4623. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0370)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4624. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Loup City, NE'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2013–6070)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4625. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Sikorsky) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0636)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4626. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; CENTRAIR Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0018)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4627. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0634)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4628. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0095)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4629. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–1003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4630. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher, Segelflugzeugbau Gliders'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–4–0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4631. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0575)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4632. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2013–0635)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–195. A resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of East Hanover, New Jersey urging Congress to dedicate additional federal funds for highway maintenance and infrastructure improvements in New Jersey; to the Committee on Appropriations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2007. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for regulating clinical and health software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2008. A bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2009. A bill to improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans in rural and highly rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2010. A bill to amend the Water Conservation and Utilization Act to authorize the development of non-Federal hydropower and issuance of leases of power privileges at projects constructed pursuant to the authority of the Water Conservation and Utilization Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER) (by request):

S.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representatives Office in the United States Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1143

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1143, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 1352

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1456

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1456, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 and establish a private right of action to enforce compliance with such Act.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1827, a bill to award

a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

S. 1828

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1828, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to establish requirements for the adoption of any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of an airman or an air traffic controller for a sleep disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1943

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1943, a bill to incentivize State support for postsecondary education and to promote increased access and affordability for higher education for students, including Dreamer students.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1963, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.

S. 1972

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1972, a bill to prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of an individual's status or history of unemployment.

S. 1977

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1977, a bill to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, relating to an annual adjustment of retired pay for members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62, and to provide an offset.

S. 1978

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1978, a bill to increase access to primary care services through training and accountability improvements.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1987

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1987, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases for certain buildings of the Department of Veterans Affairs at the West Los Angeles Medical Center, California, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2007. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for regulating clinical and health software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about rapid advancements in health care information technology or health IT. Health IT holds amazing potential to transform Americans' everyday lives for the better. I believe that protecting this kind of exciting innovation from overregulation and excessive taxation needs to be a high priority.

That is why I am introducing the Preventing Regulatory Overreach to Enhance Care Technology or the PROTECT Act of 2014. Together with Senator ANGUS KING of Maine and Senator MARCO RUBIO of Florida, we are putting forward this pro-jobs, risk-based framework governing health IT.

Before I speak about our bill, I thank my colleague from Maine Senator ANGUS KING for joining me in this effort. I am informally telling people that our efforts might be the start of the ''surf and turf caucus'' in the Senate, the place where Nebraska and Maine come together politically to find common ground and work to address real problems in this country.

We are able to do so together because Senator KING is known as an independent thinker, a problem-solver who isn't afraid to work across the aisle in order to get things done. It is refreshing, and I sincerely appreciate his willingness to work with me.

I also give special thanks to Senator RUBIO for his interest in this issue as well. He is also an original cosponsor, and he has worked with us on this important topic.

What we are trying to do is clarify the Food and Drug Administration's oversight authority over health information technologies. Under current law dating back to 1976, the FDA can apply its definition of a medical device to assert broad regulatory authority over a wide array of health IT, including applications that do not pose a threat to human safety.

That means low-risk health IT can be treated like traditional medical devices, subjecting job creators and innovators to these challenges that really don't make sense.

The PROTECT Act fixes this discrepancy. The PROTECT Act keeps the FDA's resources focused on products that pose the highest risk to human health. In doing so it also gives regulatory certainty to innovators and job creators who are developing these new products that use data safely to improve health care and also to reduce its cost. Furthermore, the PROTECT Act relieves categories of low-risk clinical and health software from the 2.3-percent medical device tax. Most importantly, though, it protects and promotes American jobs in a key growth sector of our economy.

The mobile health and mobile application market is expected to exceed $26 billion by 2017, while the U.S. mobile apps economy is responsible for nearly half a million new American jobs. A report from Health Data Management anticipates 23-percent annual growth in this sector over the next 5 years. The FDA highlights on their Web site that 500 million smartphone users worldwide will be using health apps by 2015. The mobile analytics platform Localytics, which monitors more than 20,000 apps, has seen a 19-percent increase in new health and fitness apps in 2013 from the year prior. That is amazing.

But what is even more impressive is the health IT's ability to protect people. Consider the example of a young man named Xavier Jones whose basketball coach downloaded a $1.99 mobile application that gave him a refresher course on how to properly administer CPR. It was a skill that came in handy the very next day when Xavier collapsed in the middle of practice.

In 2012 the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs partnered to release a free Apple and Android app called the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Coach. PTSD Coach has been downloaded over 100,000 times in 74 countries. It provides reliable information on PTSD and treatments on users' smartphones.

Other types of health IT, such as electronic health records and low-risk clinical decision software, can also lower costs and can improve outcomes. Some of these technologies hold the power to quickly and broadly disseminate new information about effective

treatments and recent clinical trials. Patients want their doctors to have access to these cutting-edge therapies. Protecting low-risk health IT is about empowering people with access to information. We need to protect that kind of innovation because innovation is an equalizer for consumers.

These technological benefits don't stop at our borders. Think about this statistic: One estimate shows that mobile health deployment in Africa could save as many as 1 million lives by 2017. From assisting nurses with scheduling to reminding pharmacists to refill their stock or even tracking emerging malarial epidemics, mobile health is already transforming the landscape of the developing world in very dramatic ways.

These stories only scratch the surface of where this technology is going. It is important how we treat innovation here in the United States. Other countries around the world are looking at how our government will regulate and oversee these low-risk technologies.

Our bill makes it so low-risk, highly innovative clinical and health software technologies—and the potential they have to empower people—are not undercut by these burdensome regulations. FDA's promise to use its enforcement discretion over low-risk health IT only serves to create confusion and uncertainty in the marketplace. Regulatory discretion by its very nature is something that can easily change over time, and discretion can be misused or abused.

Clear rules should be set because the current FDA regulatory model for medical devices is not well suited for low-risk health information technologies. In a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing last year, the FDA submitted a letter to the committee that said:

> For 2011 and 2012, the average time for FDA review of medical device submissions that were identified as containing a mobile medical app was 67 days and the average total time from submission to FDA decision was 110 days.

When regulatory days turn into months, problems are going to persist, and that is not something we should leave to discretion. The regulatory time line for risky devices should not be the same for low-risk software that gets released every 60 days, has major updates every month, and sees regular changes every week. Having an approval process that takes longer than the shelf life of the average device operating system stifles opportunity and it stifles innovation.

Innovators, regulators, and consumers need clarity and certainty into how these regulations are going to be enforced. Since mobile wellness apps and most clinical decision support technologies pose little risk to patients, they should not be subject to the same costly painstaking processes as medical devices. The answer is the commonsense, risk-based regulatory approach the PROTECT Act provides. It protects innovation, it protects jobs here in the United States, and it protects jobs in this U.S.-based job sector. Most importantly, it protects patient safety by giving the FDA continued authority and oversight over health IT that is risky and by creating an appropriate regulatory framework for that which is lower risk.

With the introduction of the PROTECT Act, I would also like to acknowledge the great work of Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee, Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah, Senator MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado, and others who have undertaken this effort in the past. These Senators have helped to lay the groundwork for the development of a risk-based framework for health IT. The ideas included in the PROTECT Act would not be possible without the progress they secured in previous Congresses and in the FDA's Safety and Innovation Act.

I am committed to working with anyone on these issues to exchange views and to exchange ideas so we can get the right policy balance our country needs and deserves.

Again, I thank my friends Senator KING from Maine and Senator RUBIO from Florida for joining me in this important effort. Together, we can achieve our shared vision of protecting patient safety, protecting innovation, and protecting U.S. economic job growth and opportunity.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to join the Senator from Nebraska. I love the idea of the surf-and-turf caucus reaching across the country to try to find commonsense solutions. I often think about legislation and what we are attempting to do, and there is an attempt to codify common sense, to try to bring to the regulatory process, as it deals with medical devices, a little more thoughtfulness and cautiousness as it affects health information technology.

The first part of the bill actually sets up a process whereby we can examine in a thoughtful kind of way some of these issues to reduce the regulatory burden and at the same time foster innovation and, very importantly, protect patient safety. It sets up a process involving the National Institute of Standards and Technology and other parts of the administration so that the regulatory process in this area can be rationalized across agencies and better coordinated.

The heart of the bill, however, as the Senator just outlined, is our attempt to differentiate between medical software, which has a direct impact upon patient health, and software that is more peripheral and can range from the app I have on my iPhone, which is a pedometer that tells me how much I have walked each day and how much I should walk each day, to the kind of software that is being developed across the country to assist medical practices in their billing and in the operational part of the medical business.

I think one of the most important points, as the Senator pointed out, is that software evolves almost overnight, and if you go through this burdensome regulatory process—whether it is 60 days, 120 days, or 1 year—to get your software approved and then you find there is a bug you have to fix, that could restart the whole regulatory process. So I think we should acknowledge that this is a bit of preemptive legislation because the FDA thus far has not intruded very deeply into this process, and we believe it is important in order to define the areas where regulation and the protection of patient safety is important, but software that manages the billing process of a medical practice should not fall into that category and should not be subject to that level of regulation. That is really what we are talking about.

As the Senator mentioned, this law goes back to 1976. In thinking about 1976, Gerald Ford was President and software was a mink coat. We weren't really thinking about what we are doing today, and of course the legislation did not anticipate the kind of intense innovation and new thinking that is going on that is able to protect people's health just by giving them information about themselves. No doubt the time will come when a smartphone will be able to do blood pressure or temperature or certainly provide one's heart rate, and that is information we should have ourselves, not necessarily regulated by the Federal Government.

I am delighted to join the Senator from Nebraska and the Senator from Florida in introducing this piece of legislation. I think it is important. It is part of a larger project to try to bring our Federal regulatory process into the 21st century where time is of the essence, innovation is at the speed of light, and that we can't burden our people who are creating these innovations with a lengthy and, yes, expensive process that has a tendency to discriminate against smaller entrepreneurs and businesspeople.

I compliment the Senator from Nebraska for bringing this piece of legislation forward. I am absolutely delighted to join her in its sponsorship, and I look forward to moving it through the legislative process. There is a companion piece of legislation in the House, and I think this, as I said at the beginning, is an effort to get as close as we can to legislating common sense in this area, and I believe it will make a difference for businesses, for people, for patients, and for the health care system in America.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2732. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOZMAN,

Mr. COATS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1963, to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2732. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COATS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1963, to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF REDUCTIONS MADE BY BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013.

(a) REPEALS.—

(1) ADJUSTMENT OF RETIREMENT PAY.—Section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 is repealed as of the date of the enactment of such Act.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title X of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 (division C of Public Law 113–76) is hereby repealed.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIRED TO CLAIM THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(e) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO QUALIFYING CHILDREN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), no credit shall be allowed under this section to a taxpayer with respect to any qualifying child unless the taxpayer includes the name and taxpayer identification number of such qualifying child on the return of tax for the taxable year.

''(2) REFUNDABLE PORTION.—Subsection (d)(1) shall not apply to any taxpayer with respect to any qualifying child unless the taxpayer includes the name and social security number of such qualifying child on the return of tax for the taxable year.''.

(2) OMISSION TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR.—Subparagraph (I) of section 6213(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(I) an omission of a correct TIN under section 24(e)(1) (relating to child tax credit) or a correct Social Security number required under section 24(e)(2) (relating to refundable portion of child tax credit), to be included on a return,''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on February 12, 2014 at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on the ''Bipartisan Support for Improving U.S. Elections: An Overview from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.''

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee (202) 224–6352.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 10:30 a.m., on February 12, 2014, to conduct a business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas Hicks and Myrna Perez to be members of the Election Assistance Commission.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee at (202) 224–6352.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on February 13, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled From Poverty to Opportunity: How a Fair Minimum Wage Will Help Working Families Succeed.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Sarah Cupp of the committee staff on (202) 224–5363.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elizabeth Lievens and David Pope, interns in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Sweitzer, a military fellow in the office of Senator PRYOR, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the calendar year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the letter of resignation of Senator MAX BAUCUS of Montana dated Thursday, February 6, 2014.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters relating to the resignation of the Senator from Montana, MAX BAUCUS, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2014.

Governor STEVE BULLOCK,
Montana State Capitol,
Helena, MT.

DEAR GOVERNOR BULLOCK: In order to assume the responsibility of serving as the United States Ambassador to China, I write to resign my seat in the United States Senate effective upon my appointment as Ambassador. Representing the people of Montana for 40 years has been the honor of a lifetime. I am grateful for the trust Montanans have bestowed on me and the opportunity to contribute to our great state and nation.

Respectfully,

MAX BAUCUS.

FEBRUARY 7, 2014.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN: In accordance with my letter of February 6, 2014 to Governor Bullock, this is to clarify that my resignation as United States Senator became effective at the close of business on February 6, 2014.

Sincerely,

MAX BAUCUS.

PROVIDING FOR EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1954 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1954) to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BEGICH. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read for a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1954) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1954

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTION ON SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC SERVICES IN CRITICAL ACCESS AND SMALL RURAL HOSPITALS THROUGH 2014.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue to apply through calendar year 2014 the enforcement instruction described in the notice of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services entitled ''Enforcement Instruction on Supervision Requirements for Outpatient Therapeutic Services in Critical Access and Small Rural Hospitals for CY 2013'', dated November 1, 2012 (providing for an exception to the restatement and clarification under the final rulemaking changes to the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system and calendar year 2009 payment rates (published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2008, 73 Fed. Reg. 68702 through 68704) with respect to requirements for direct supervision by physicians for therapeutic hospital outpatient services).

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAYO CLINIC

Mr. BEGICH. I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 339 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 339) commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mayo Clinic.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BEGICH. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 339) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Monday, January 27, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.''

READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address take place on Monday, February 24, following the prayer and pledge; further, that Senator KING be recognized to deliver the address.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of February 10, 2014, appoints the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) to read Washington's Farewell Address on Monday, February 24, 2014.

Mr. BEGICH. 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. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1963, the military retirement pay restoration bill, postcloture; that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and, finally, that all time during adjournment and recess count postcloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1963.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BEGICH. Senator-designate WALSH from Montana will be sworn in at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow. Senators will be notified when the next vote is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:38 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ROBERT O. WORK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ASHTON B. CARTER, RESIGNED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

MARK GREEN, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CASSANDRA Q. BUTTS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

MATTHEW T. MCGUIRE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE IAN HODDY SOLOMON, TERM EXPIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS ONE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MARK L. DRIVER, OF COLORADO
LAWRENCE RUBEY, OF MARYLAND
TODD M. SORENSON, OF TEXAS
SHERYL A. STUMBRAS, OF FLORIDA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MONICA MCQUEARY AZIMI, OF FLORIDA
DAVID A. BRUNS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ANNA MARY COBURN, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW EVAN COHEN, OF CALIFORNIA
ANNE MARIE DEL CASTILLO, OF FLORIDA
JAMES J. DOBSON, OF MARYLAND
KRISTINE ANN HERRMANN–DELUCA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
DAVID ISAO HOFFMAN, OF CALIFORNIA
BRIONI E. JAMES, OF WASHINGTON
BENJAMIN D. KAUFFELD, OF VIRGINIA
MARK A. KERR, OF FLORIDA
KENT ADAMS LARSON, OF VIRGINIA
WENDY S. MARSHALL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STACIE E. MARTIN, OF NEW YORK
PAUL G. MCDERMOTT, OF CALIFORNIA
TATIA L'KAE MILLER, OF NEW YORK
SAM F. NASSIF, OF TEXAS
JOHN R. PASCH, OF MAINE
JULIA BECKER RICHARDS, OF TEXAS
PETER RILEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
HEATHER ANN SCHLIDGE, OF VIRGINIA
JAIDEV SINGH, OF WASHINGTON
ZERIC KAY SMITH, OF NEW YORK
LEWIS J. TATEM, OF VIRGINIA
W. DAVID YOUNG II, OF NEW YORK

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MICHELLE BAHK, OF NEW YORK
LAURA MARIE BUTLER BERGER, OF OHIO
SUSAN BETSY BRUCKNER, OF CONNECTICUT
SCOTT CAMERON, OF CALIFORNIA
SUSAN L. CHEUNG, OF PENNSYLVANIA
SUSAN CHUWA EASLEY, OF TEXAS
ERICKA ERSLAND, OF FLORIDA
BRIAN G. FINK, OF MICHIGAN
CHITAHKA N. FLOORE, OF COLORADO
MARTY D. GEORGE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TIMOTHY HART, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL E. HARTER, OF VIRGINIA
BLAIR ANDREW KING, OF MARYLAND
TALY S. LIND, OF NEW YORK
HANNAH MALONEY, OF OHIO
CLARE DAVINA MASSON, OF WISCONSIN
ELIZABETH MENDENHALL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
JUANA MORALES, OF FLORIDA
MEGHAN WATKINS TIERNEY NALBO, OF VIRGINIA
JESSICA PEARCH, OF MARYLAND
LESLIE CARL PETERSEN, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY PRUETT, OF TEXAS
SONJAI REYNOLDS COOPER, OF MARYLAND
AARON H. RUBLE, OF CALIFORNIA
EDUARDO SANTOS, OF FLORIDA
DANIEL CURTIS SWIFT, OF VIRGINIA
RYAN M. WEDDLE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JAMES B. WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA
AMY FRANCESCA WIELKOSZEWSKI, OF ARIZONA
KARL WILLIAM WURSTER, OF WASHINGTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION INTO AND WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

SCOTT S. SINDELAR, OF MINNESOTA

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

JEANNE F. BAILEY, OF ILLINOIS
CLAY M. HAMILTON, OF TEXAS
KATHERINE C. NISHIURA, OF FLORIDA
BOBBY GENE RICHEY, JR., OF TEXAS
CHRISTINE M. SLOOP, OF OREGON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TRAVIS D. BALCH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANTHONY G. CRUTCHFIELD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF THE DENTAL CORPS AND ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL FOR DENTAL SERVICES, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 3036 AND 3039(B):

To be major general

COL. THOMAS R. TEMPEL, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL E. CANNON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

AIZENHAWAR J. MARROGI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

THOMAS E. BYRNE
JAMES H. CHANG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER D. COULSON
JACKIE A. HUBER
JAMES NUGENT, JR.
FREDERICK D. PASLEY

LEO A. RYAN
MICHAEL WOODRUFF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

RALF C. BEILHARDT
JERRY M. CARBONE
LISA A. FRANKLIN
WILLIAM J. GREENWOOD
BRETT H. HENSON
TAWANNA MCGHEETHONDIQUE
RICHARD V. RITTER
RICHARD L. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

MICHAEL P. ABEL
HANS E. BAKKEN
DOUGLAS B. BEECH
RICHARD A. BICKEL, JR.
DANIELLE N. BIRD
LORANEE E. BRAUN
SCOTT E. BRIETZKE
RICHARD O. BURNEY
ARTHUR L. CAMPBELL III
AUSTIN H. CHHOEU
DAVID W. COLE
WILLIAM P. CRUM
PETER J. CUENCA
KURT G. DAVIS
SHAD H. DEERING
KENT J. DEZEE
CHARLES S. DIETRICH III
MARTIN DOPERAK
MARY J. EDWARDS
MELISSA L. GIVENS
JOSEPH D. GRAMLING
BRET A. GUIDRY
CHAD A. HALEY
DONALD L. HELMAN, JR.
JEFFREY V. HILL
SEAN A. HOLLONBECK
DEAN H. HOMMER
DANIEL J. IRIZARRY
CHRISTOPHER G. JARVIS
DWIGHT C. KELLICUT
MARY M. KLOTE
JEFFREY K. KLOTZ
GREGORY T. LANG
CHRISTOPHER L. LANGE
BRENT L. LECHNER
CHRISTINE F. LETTIERI
PEDRO F. LUCERO
JAMES H. LYNCH IV
LOUIS R. MACAREO
CHRISTOPHER B. MAHNKE
ROBERT F. MALSBY III
MARK W. MANOSO
CHRISTOPHER R. MARTIN
GREGORY J. MARTIN
LARRY J. MCCORD
IAN K. MCLEOD
LEAH P. MCMANN
CHRISTIAN J. MEKO
MICHAEL J. MINES
JEFFREY S. MORGAN
PAUL M. MORRISSEY
ROBERT J. OCONNELL
MICHAEL E. PARKER
TARAK H. PATEL
JEREMY G. PERKINS
KRISTOFER A. RADCLIFFE
THOMAS J. RICHARD
INGER L. ROSNER
DEAN A. SEEHUSEN
CASTANEDA A. SIEROCKA
KAREN E. SMITH
MARSHALL H. SMITH
BENJAMIN SOLOMON
SCOTT R. STEELE
TIMOTHY S. TALBOT
RENEE THAI
SEAN F. THOMAS
KIRK H. WAIBEL
JUSTIN T. WOODSON
JOHNNIE WRIGHT, JR.
D001883

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

EDWARD AHN
IAN W. BALDWIN
STEVEN E. BRADY
SHEILA L. BURNS
BRIAN K. CARR
CESAR B. CASAL
CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN
DAVID C. COLLVER
WILLIAM J. COOK
JENIFFER G. H. COX
KEVIN S. COX
SHANNA L. CRONIN
CHRISTOPHER C. CROSS
NORBERTO O. DALUZ
GRETCHEN L. DAVENPORT
SHESSY T. DAVIS
CHRISTIAN E. DELUKE
MATTHEW E. DYSON
CRAIG C. FORD
JUSTIN P. FREELAND
JERROD B. FUSSNECKER
ROBERT L. GADDY
RICHARD M. GALLAGHER
EDWARD P. GILMAN
ELISABETH L. GILMAN
MICHAEL F. HAYDEN
ERIK S. HENDRICKSON
ADAM M. HILL
JONATHAN D. HOAG
MATTHEW P. HURT
AARON R. INKENBRANDT
DAVID M. JONES
CHRISTOPHER M. JUDAH
NOLAN T. KOON
RYAN D. KROHN
DAVID C. LAI
RACHEL A. LANDSEE
RYAN A. LITTLE
BRIAN D. LOHNES
MICHAEL J. LOVELACE
BRENDAN J. MAYER
MEGHAN A. MCENERNEY
ROBERT N. MICHAELS
ROBERT E. MURDOUGH
JOHN A. NELSON
MIKE S. NI
LAURA A. ODONNELL
JOHN C. OLSON
ANTHONY M. OSBORNE
KIRK W. OTTO
BENJAMEN J. PERRY
DAVID L. PETERSON
MARK S. PITZAK
ROBERT K. PRUITT
STEWARD M. REYES
GEOVANNY A. ROJAS
EMILY M. ROMAN
LUKE S. ROSE
ROBERT C. ROTEN
SARAH J. RYKOWSKI
DOUGLAS J. SACKETT
DOUGLAS M. SCHAEFER
CRAIG J. SCHAPIRA
PAUL M. SHEA
CHRISTOPHER L. SIMONS
BURT D. SMITH
CORMAC M. SMITH
JOHN T. SORON
KENTON E. SPIEGLER
DAVID H. STEM, JR.
ANGELA D. SWILLEY
BRETT A. WARCHOLAK
ALAN W. WEHBE
EDWARD L. WESTFALL
JENNY S. WHITE
MALCOLM H. WILKERSON
JOHN R. WITHERS
JOSHUA J. WOLFF
ABRAHAM L. YOUNG
D012017

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

RYAN M. OLEKSY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

SEAN T. HAYS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

LAKENDRICK D. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOHN E. SIMPSON III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BILL W. BROOKS, JR.
MICHAEL W. COSTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES R. KELLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CLENNON ROE III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD P. OWENS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ANTHONY REDMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JEFFREY P. WOOLDRIDGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT M. MANNING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BILLY A. DUBOSE
JOHN P. MULLERY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER S. EICHNER
JAMES SMILEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RANDALL E. DAVIS
PAUL E. RICHARD
WADE E. WALLACE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DAMON L. ANDERSEN
JAMES Y. MALONE
RICHARDO A. SPANN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

PAULO T. ALVES
THOMAS E. JAMES
PATRICK J. TOAL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CHRISTIAN D. GALBRAITH
JACOB A. HAGAN
BYUNG H. KIM
MARK J. LEHMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TIMOTHY J. ALDRICH
MARCO R. GOMEZ
LONNIE M. MCGHEE, JR.
DAVID W. PECK
CODY D. STEWART
CHRIS A. STOREY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

KENNETH L. AIKEY
DONALD A. FRITZ
JACOB R. LEWIS
LEAH R. PARROTT
JAMES H. RAMSEY
SCOTT B. ROLAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TERRY H. CHOI
JASON D. ECK
CLARK E. HOWARD II
SHAWN E. MCGOWAN
PETER D. NELSON
CHRISTOPHER T. PIENKOWSKI
JOHN A. TAPP IV
FREDDIE D. TAYLOR

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

MEGAN M. DONNELLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

DANIELLE L. LEIBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be commander

MICHAEL R. CATHEY
DIANA TOROK

To be lieutenant commander

MELISSA C. AUSTIN
BENJAMIN R. BLEVINS
ANDREW C. BRIGHT
CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS
JUSTIN A. DYE
JOHN A. ENGLER
NAZIMA N. KATHIRIA
MICHAEL A. KUHNE
FRANKLIN C. MARGARON
CHRISTOPHER S. MUDGE
CHARLES G. ROGERS III
BRIAN W. SHIPPERT
DENISE M. THIGPEN
ANDREW J. YOUNG

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LINDA MARTIN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Linda Martin, a finalist for the 2014 School Counselor of the Year award. This distinguished award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors school counselors "who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to students, the school community, and the school counseling profession."

Mrs. Martin has led the Comprehensive Guidance Program at Palm Lake Elementary School for 20 years. As an innovative teacher, she founded the Kids Who Care program to serve Palm Lake Elementary, the Orlando community and Nkomo Primary School, a sister school in South Africa. Her classroom lessons cover a wide range of topics including character development and leadership.

Mrs. Martin's remarkable service has also been recognized on the county and state levels. In 2012, she was named Orange County School Counselor of the Year, and, in 2013, was awarded Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Florida School Counselor Association.

School counselors play an invaluable role in students' academic and personal development, teaching important life skills and compelling them to strive toward their goals. It is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Martin for her exemplary dedication to the students of Palm Lake Elementary.

RECOGNIZING WTOC OF SAVANNAH'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize WTOC–TV of Savannah, which celebrates its 60th anniversary on February 14, 2014. WTOC provides our community with up-to-the-minute, accurate news.

WTOC, or Welcome To Our City, went on the air on February 14, 1954, making it the first television station in Savannah. WTOC began as a radio station, WTOC–AM 1290, in October of 1929 and added an FM station in 1946. As WTOC–FM was a CBS Radio affiliate, WTOC–TV affiliated with CBS as well and has been with the network ever since.

WTOC has been a leader in Savannah area news, topping the Nielson ratings almost every year since its inception. The station won both an Emmy and an Edward R. Murrow award in 2003. Many of it's individual reporters have earned major awards for their stories and editing, including an Emmy for a 2006 story about 3rd Infantry Division fighters in Iraq. WTOC lives up to its slogan as "The Southeast News Leader."

From hard-hitting local news to Emmy-winning sports coverage, WTOC–TV has set the standard for local news in Savannah for the past 60 years. I am proud to support WTOC–TV while they celebrate this milestone in their history. My thoughts are with them during this special time.

COMMENDING THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT'S STEPS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for the actions his government is taking to combat anti-Semitism. Under his leadership, Hungary has stressed a "zero tolerance policy" toward anti-Semitic attitudes, and has focused on law enforcement and legal measures, Holocaust education and remembrance, and support for Jewish cultural renaissance in Hungary.

Measures implemented by Prime Minister Orbán and his government, including the 50 percent pension increase to Holocaust survivors and the agreement on compensation of Holocaust survivors living in foreign countries, are only two of the numerous actions Hungarians are taking to ensure that those who have suffered have a dignified retirement.

We must never forget the terrible atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust. I want to remind my colleagues that steps can be taken to aid the painful memories and create awareness of these past events. Prime Minister Orbán is taking a leading role in the battle against anti-Semitic voices in Europe and throughout the world. Later this year, Hungary will inaugurate a memorial site to commemorate the child victims of the Holocaust. In addition, Hungary is investing resources to include Holocaust Remembrance Day in public schools and is recognizing the people who helped save Jewish lives during that time period.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in standing in solidarity with those that have been oppressed and to continue to shine light on this dark history to ensure that it doesn't happen again. I am honored to pay tribute to Prime Minister Orbán and his government for their continued service to the people of Hungary on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these remarkable efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SQUADRON ONE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation and deep respect that I rise today to recognize the contributions of the United States Navy Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW–1. For their courage while facing danger head on and their willingness to defend our nation's military, these brave individuals are to be commended.

In 1944, recognizing the need for early warning radar and aircraft to assist in protecting the United States Naval Fleet from attack by identifying ships and low flying aircraft, the United States Navy launched its first program to help minimize the impact on service members and operations. The initial program would evolve, and in June 1952, led to the establishment of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW–1, first located at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, in the then Territory of Hawaii. Soon after, a permanent detachment of VW–1 was established in the Western Pacific, where it provided heavy airborne early warning coverage and participated in the Korean War. Following its relocation to the Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, Mariana Islands, in 1957, VW–1 began to take on additional responsibilities, and in 1961, was tasked with weather reconnaissance. This increased focus on identifying hazardous weather conditions included the addition of six meteorologists and eighteen aerographers, as well as new technological equipment. During 1961 alone, VW–1 flew more than 1,000 hours of weather reconnaissance, thus identifying the squadron as the "Typhoon Trackers."

Through their valiant efforts, VW–1 provided airborne early warning support and protection for the U.S. Seventh Fleet during the Vietnam War, from 1964 through 1971. Their mission was to fly north of the DMZ in the Gulf of Tonkin, providing airborne protection for the Seventh Fleet, which was operating below the DMZ. They were tasked with warning the Seventh Fleet against enemy attacks and dangerous storms, in addition to providing radar surveillance for air strikes over North Vietnam. From 1964 through 1967, VW–1 operated out of bases in the Republic of the Philippines for an extended airborne mission time of eighteen hours. Often times these missions were extended beyond the aircraft's fuel range, requiring them to refuel at Da Nang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam before returning to their base in the Philippines. In late 1967, a detachment was established at Chu Lai in the Republic of Vietnam but later moved to Da Nang Air Base in an effort to shorten the mission time to twelve hours.

From its establishment in June 1952 until July 1971, when the unit was absorbed into

VQ–1, VW–1 completed its mission with an astonishing nineteen years of accident-free flight, totaling more than 160,000 flight hours. For its efforts, VW–1 was twice awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Individual aircrew members have received more than 1,200 Air Medals, and the unit also includes two Purple Heart recipients, whose injuries were sustained in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the brave men of Airborne Early Warning Squadron One, designated VW–1. The squadron represented an important part of the United States Military, and its gallant members are a true example of unwavering patriotism. Let us never forget their service and the sacrifices they made in defense or our nation and their fellow service members.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND COMMITMENT OF VERNA MACDONALD TO THE WESTPORT COMMUNITY AND GRAYS HARBOR REGION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of Verna MacDonald, who has dedicated herself to enriching her fellow citizens through her affiliations with the Westport Senior House, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3057, the American Legion Post #140 Lady Auxiliary, the Westport and Grayland area Volunteer Fire Departments, and the Coastal Harvest food distribution warehouse.

Verna MacDonald first moved to Westport with her husband Donald MacDonald in 1986. The unexpected passing of her husband in 1999 inspired her to get out and interact with her community. She has since been recognized as the ''Grandma'' of the city of Westport. It is difficult to find a person within the community that has not heard of the service Ms. MacDonald has provided. Her positive disposition and can-do attitude is well known.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. MacDonald has displayed a constant commitment to serving those in need through her varied volunteer activities. One of her most notable contributions to the Westport community has been her engagement with the Westport Senior House. Starting as secretary, Ms. MacDonald dedicated years to improving the building and providing meals and resources to its residents. One of her many accomplishments was securing a grant to fund a new handicapped access ramp named for her late husband. Later, as director, she worked to transform the Senior House into a certified Red Cross Emergency Shelter, equipped with cots, bedding, emergency food supplies and even a generator. Ms. MacDonald didn't stop there; she spearheaded the Westport Freedom Walk in 2006 to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack, has organized a holiday gift donation program serving the senior citizens in Grays Harbor and northern Pacific counties, and volunteers at Coastal Harvest Food Bank. Ms. MacDonald's work is boundless, and her retirement does not appear to have decreased her commitment to serving those in need.

As I close, I say with pride that our region is a better place thanks to the dedicated and selfless service of Verna MacDonald. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the Westport community for years to come. I am pleased to recognize this service today in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate Black History Month and recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York.

On September 9, 1864, the anti-slavery newspaper The Liberator included a call for the convention. Frederick Douglass, a writer, statesman and leader of the Abolition Movement, annotated an ''Address to the People of the United States.'' In his address to the people, Frederick Douglass explains, ''No notice should be taken of the color of men; but justice, wisdom, and humanity should weigh alone, and be all-controlling.''

The National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States convened on October 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of 1864 in Syracuse, New York.

In October of 1864, Frederick Douglass came to Syracuse to discuss the state of the ex-slave following the Civil War. Douglass served as convention president, which drew nearly 150 delegates from all across the nation. During the meeting, the delegates crafted a document modeled after the Declaration of Independence, entitled ''Declarations of Rights and Wrongs'', which was read during the Convention in Syracuse.

Central New York has a rich connection in history to the Abolition Movement. From Harriet Tubman and her tireless devotion to the cause, to Frederick Douglass with his Address to the People of the United States and ''Declaration of Rights and Wrongs,'' Central New York and the City of Syracuse have continued to lead the charge for equality.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize the 150th anniversary of the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States in Syracuse, New York. Let us never grow old or weary of the struggle that our predecessors led, and let us work every day to uphold the values that Frederick Douglass and so many others demanded us to do at the National Convention of Colored Citizens of the United States.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY EMERGENCY WATER DELIVERY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3964) to address certain water-related concerns in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3964, a bill that undermines long-standing local, state, and Federal agreements on the California water supply and creates a dangerous precedent for similar Congressional overreach in other states.

As the Governor of California said, this bill ''falsely suggests the promise of water relief when that is simply not possible given the scarcity of water supplies.'' Instead, it picks winners and losers, prioritizing some interests above others and disrupting years of collaboration to balance water needs.

The President has directed his Administration to work with California and local jurisdictions to provide information, flexibility in federal law, and emergency grant assistance to respond to the drought. Congress should not act unilaterally to preempt the efforts the State has already undertaken to respond to this disaster.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

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 $17,258,482,479,004.37. We've added $6,631,605,430,091.29 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE RUSSELL HOUSE FOR ITS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Russell House for its 20 years of service to South Central Missouri. Since its founding in 1994, the Russell House has provided a safe haven for victims of domestic violence. In addition to shelter, the Russell House provides a wide range of free services to both residents and non-resident families as they transition to a life free of abuse. The Russell House also educates the community on preventing violence and intervention.

During the first years of service, the house could only shelter seven victims but thanks to the continued support of the Phelps County Family Crisis Services organization the Russell House now has the capacity to provide shelter for 64 people at any given time. Over the past 20 years of service to the community the Russell House has sheltered more than 2,000 adults and 1,800 children. I applaud the hard working staff and supporters of the Russell House for their hearts of service and dedication to the families of Missouri. It is my pleasure to recognize their efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

IN TRIBUTE TO DR. NICHOLAS J. CONTORNO

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a published composer, arranger, educator, guest conductor, saxophone soloist and composer in residence. He was a highly successful and visible educator at all levels of school bands both as a conductor and clinician. On February 2, 2014 Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno passed away leaving his wife Lucille, two daughters, Camille and Gina, and a host of family and friends to remember his many accomplishments.

Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno retired in 2007 after 24 years as the Director of Bands and Orchestra at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees in music education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was granted a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Composition from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He began his teaching career in 1961 as an Instrumental Music teacher in the Glendale (WI) Public Schools and also served as Director of Bands at Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. He served as Music Curriculum Supervisor and Director of Bands at Kettle Moraine High School in Wales, Wisconsin. Dr. Contorno's work with young musicians made him one of the most beloved composers for concert and jazz bands.

Dr. Contorno was an A.S.C.A.P. award winning composer and arranger. He is listed in ''Leaders of Secondary Education'' (1972), ''World's Who's Who of Musicians'' (1977), and ''Encyclopedia of Band Composers'' (1991). As an active professional musician, he performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Holiday on Ice Orchestra, Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and Les Elgart Orchestra. In addition, he performed with many national shows and artists, including ''Annie,'' 42nd Street,'' Linda Ronstadt, Natalie Cole, Manhattan Transfer, Vic Damone, Johnny Mathis, Mel Torme, and Sonny & Cher, to mention a few. His many honors include the Hugo Anhalt Music Achievement Award (1973); National Band Association Outstanding Jazz Educator Award (1982); and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Music Alumni Achievement Award (1990).

Dr. Contorno also held memberships in numerous professional organizations, such as the American Federation of Musicians—Local 8, ASBDA, the National Band Association, and the Wisconsin Bandmasters Association. He served on the board of directors of the Festival City Orchestra of Milwaukee and the Waukesha Symphony Orchestra. He was the musical coordinator of Festa Italiana-Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1982 to 1998, served as the Musical Director/Conductor of the First Brigade Civil War Band of Wisconsin from 1970–1982 and The Milwaukee Concert Band from 1996–2002. In addition, he served as guest conductor of the Goldman Band of New York and the ''President's Own'' United States Marine Band. Dr. Contorno has a music school named after him in Gonaïves, Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to a tribute to Dr. Nicholas J. Contorno. Dr. Contorno's contributions have greatly benefitted the citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the global community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MIKE BREWER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mike Brewer, who passed away at Hospice House in Sumterville, Florida, on January 4, 2014. Mr. Brewer was born on August 8, 1953, in Chicago, Illinois to Stanley and Patricia Brewer. He married his wife, Mary Eaton Brewer, on March 22, 2003 in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Brewer, aged 60, was a devoted husband and a tradesman whose presence in the community will be deeply missed.

Mr. Brewer worked for the Building Trades in Orlando, Florida. He previously served as Business Agent for the Carpenters Local 1765 before helping to form the Carpenters Local 1820 in 1985. In the same year, he was elected Chairman of the Walt Disney World (WDW) Craft Maintenance Council, a position he would hold for twelve years. From 1987 until 2007, Mr. Brewer served as Executive Secretary and Treasurer for the Florida Council of Industrial and Public Employees. In 2008 he became a member of the Florida Council of Carpenters' Office of President. Most recently, Mr. Brewer was appointed to serve as the administrator of the AFL–CIO's collective bargaining proceedings with the Walt Disney Company.

Mr. Brewer devoted his career to his fellow tradesman and made it his life's work to better the lives of workers. He is survived by his wife Mary; daughter Sarah; stepson Robert Phan; his mother Patricia Brewer; his brother Tommy Brewer; and his sisters Janis Murphy, Susan Bane, and Debbie Cozart.

I am saddened by the loss of this valuable member of the Central Florida community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING RHONDA WHITE-WARNER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Minister Rhonda White-Warner, a former minister and a social activist. Known throughout the Bay Area as a scholar, teacher, activist, preacher, and as a dedicated mother and grandmother, Minister White-Warner has left an indelible mark on our community. With her passing on January 15, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work and the inspiring role she played in many lives through her community activism and as a spiritual leader.

Born and raised in Oakland, Minister Rhonda White-Warner's passion for helping people began at a young age. After graduating from Oakland Technical High School in 1969, she received her Masters of Divinity from the American Baptist Seminary of the West, graduating with the highest GPA in her class and advancing to candidacy for a Doctor of Ministry degree at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Minister White-Warner graduated with honors and received the Jessie Drexler Award for outstanding competency in Biblical Studies.

Minister Rhonda White-Warner had a profound sense of dedication to helping the people in her community. As HIV/AIDS began to take its toll on the community, she knew it was important for faith based groups to step up and take action. She helped to establish the East Bay HIV Faith Collaborative. This collaborative is comprised of a group of HIV/AIDS advocates who educate and provide tools to African American Faith leaders. Aside from managing programs for HIV/AIDS, Minister White-Warner also worked to address domestic violence and mental health services.

Minister White-Warner also appreciated and promoted the arts. During the 1990s, she published a monthly magazine called Tibbets. This publication served to promote African American arts. Later, she became a founding member of the Oakland Ensemble Theatre in 1993, which established itself as the sole professional theater company in Oakland.

Minister Rhonda White-Warner has left a lasting imprint on our society and communities of faith. She was a charter member of the Womanist Symposium Project at the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. This project engages womanist theology within the context of Black women in the local church setting. Their mission is to energize African American women to live positively and productively, as well as to empower and liberate African American women in the context of biblical scripture.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and social activist, Minister Rhonda White-Warner. As an Oakland-native, Minister White-Warner's efforts have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Rhonda's loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE PORTOPERA ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate PORTopera on its 20th anniversary season.

Since 1994, PORTopera has been the only company in the State of Maine performing fully staged operas with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. It has provided unduplicated opportunities to enjoy creative, inspiring opera that showcases excellence and brings the brightest stars and musical professionals to Maine.

PORTopera has generated critical acclaim from national publications, including its 2012 production of Madama Butterfly by Opera News and 2001's Le Nozze di Figaro by the Boston Globe. PORTopera has also been involved in educating upcoming generations who dream of performing in the theater through the opera-in-schools program with the University of Southern Maine and the Young Artists Program.

I am proud of PORTopera's commitment to developing and expanding the arts in Maine on many levels. The company has enriched Portland and the State of Maine culturally and has maintained a reputation for creativity, sophistication, and artistic excellence for two decades. Its work is critical to the quality of life we enjoy in our State.

As Maine's creative culture continues to develop and receive national attention, I am proud to recognize PORTopera for its leadership and success.

Bravo!

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. TROY BOWLING

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual, Mr. Troy Bowling of Lexington, Kentucky. His military service during World War II and his continued commitment to supporting our veterans and the men and women in uniform is an inspiration to us all.

At age 19, Mr. Bowling began his service as a United States Marine and was a proud member of the Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Division. During the United States' campaign to end the war against Japan, Mr. Bowling's unit was among the first to arrive on the beachheads of Iwo Jima. While attempting to secure Mt. Suribachi, his unit came under intense and concentrated fire, completely overwhelming his unit. Two projectiles struck Mr. Bowling in the chest and leg, leaving him critically wounded on the battlefield. At that moment, Mr. Bowling said he looked to the heavens and committed to serving mankind for the rest of his life if he survived.

Miraculously, a combat photographer and medical team then carried Mr. Bowling to the safety of a landing craft where he witnessed the planting of the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi—an iconic image that persists as one of the most legendary and triumphant moments of the war. The U.S. Marines eventually took control of the island; however, this victory came at a heavy cost as over 6,800 U.S. servicemembers gave their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima.

In keeping faith with his commitment to God made during that battle, Mr. Bowling has since devoted over 73,000 hours of volunteer service to others at the Lexington VA Medical Center. For over 63 years, Mr. Bowling has risen through the ranks within the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization, holding nearly every position possible including State Commander.

The Bible teaches in Proverbs 21:21 that, ''He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.'' Mr. Bowling has brought great honor upon himself through his dedication, determination, and love for serving the people of our community. Without a doubt, he has remained true to the commitment he made on the rocky terrain of Iwo Jima.

Mr. Bowling embodies the best of America's ideals, values, and commitment to serving others—never abandoning the Marine motto of Semper Fidelis, ''Always Faithful.'' I would like to thank Mr. Bowling for his many years of service to our Nation and our community. He is truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error on rollcall 38, my vote was inaccurately recorded as ''yea.'' I have always been a vocal and firm supporter of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) waivers, which save taxpayer dollars and decrease red tape by allowing federal agencies to approve the use of federal public land for recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting without needless process and paperwork that has no benefit to wildlife or wildlife habitat.

I would like to state that my intended vote was ''nay'' for rollcall 38—On Agreeing to Amendment No. 6 by DEFAZIO of Oregon.

HONORING WILLIAM ''BILL'' SINKIN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late William ''Bill'' Sinkin, a truly remarkable citizen of San Antonio. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Sinkin dedicated himself to improving and serving the city of San Antonio.

For almost 70 years, Mr. Sinkin dedicated his life to civic accomplishments and advocating for all citizens of San Antonio. He had a true passion for people, diversity, and innovation. Mr. Sinkin helped put San Antonio on the map as a tourist destination with his leadership role in creating HemisFair, a celebration of San Antonio's 250th anniversary and the first world fair to be held in Texas. Mr. Sinkin had a first-hand role in the redevelopment of HemisFair Park which eventually led to the Institute of Texan cultures, the Convention Center, and the River Walk.

Mr. Sinkin was a groundbreaking chairman of the San Antonio Housing Authority where he added 2,500 new housing units to the city, promoted diversity and hired the organization's first female executive director. He co-founded the Goodwill Industries of San Antonio in 1946, and provided employment opportunities for those affected with mental and physical disabilities and founded the Urban Coalition of San Antonio to address issues affecting low income communities.

Mr. Sinkin was a civic leader and active voice for the community throughout his entire life. As a banker, he advocated for racial equality, minority hiring, and business development by increasing minority representation and small business lending. In the way he lived his life, in the relationships he cultivated, and in the community groups he belonged to and nurtured, Mr. Sinkin fostered greater understanding between people from different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Enduring relationships were created in the Jewish-Latino and Black-Jewish Dialogues which he was instrumental in starting.

As a pioneer and avid supporter of alternative energy, Mr. Sinkin worked to raise awareness about solar power. He founded Solar San Antonio in 1999, which promotes the use of solar electricity as a major source of power and launched Metropolitan Partnership for Energy which became Build San Antonio Green. Mr. Sinkin's efforts in alternative energy led to San Antonio being designated as a Solar America City.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Bill Sinkin. His extensive record of service and achievement has truly impacted many lives and our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAN B. KIMBALL AS SUPERINTENDENT OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today in order to celebrate the service and accomplishments of Mr. Dan B. Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Parks. After 10 years, Dan will be retiring in March 2014.

During his tenure as superintendent, Dan consistently demonstrated his expertise and unwavering commitment to the preservation of our national parks. Upon his arrival in 2004, he was entrusted with managing the park's involvement in the restoration of the Everglades, the largest ecosystem restoration project in the world. He and his team faced complex challenges with skill and resolve, making invaluable contributions to the ongoing defense of the Everglades and to the balance of Florida's ecosystem.

A 20-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), Dan also served as the Chief

of National Park Service Water Resources Division. He was instrumental in the successful settlement of park water rights issues in the western United States, and in the continued protection of Yellowstone National Park. In addition, he has held positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Surface Mining (OSM), as well as in various environmental consulting firms. His accomplishments have earned him a number of awards, including the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOT) Superior Service Award (1989), the Stephen Tyng Mather Award for resource conservation given by the National Parks Conservation Association (1995), and the Pacific Northwest Regional Directors Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources (2002).

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Dan Kimball. I want to offer my sincerest congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to him for all that he has done for the state of Florida and this nation. I wish him the very best on his retirement, and much success in his future pursuits.

CELEBRATING BERNITA PEEPLES

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Bernita Peeples, the newest honoree of the Yellow Rose of Texas Award for her tremendous legacy as a Texas woman of outstanding volunteer and public service. A pillar of the Belton, TX community, Bernita's life and career is a reflection of hard work, activism, and dedication to bringing news to central Texas.

Lucky enough to know what she wanted her life's work to be since she was a young lady, Bernita started her career as a reporter for The Belton Journal during her senior year of high school. In an age when the average worker stays on the job for just over four years, Bernita has been faithfully reporting to her desk for 80 years! While chronicling stories big and small, as well as producing regular and popular columns, she's seen The Belton Journal's circulation climb tenfold.

The unofficial historian of Belton, Bernita's truly seen it all. A career that began on a 1927 Royal typewriter witnessed the rise of personal computers, the Internet, and social media to transmit the news. While reporting on 13 presidential administrations, WWII, and nearly a century of American advancement and innovation, she's kept her ear to the ground in Belton, never forgetting the community she calls home.

Bernita took breaks from writing and even retired once. But like all who have a calling, she couldn't stay away from her profession and soon returned to journalism. She still has a desk at The Belton Journal office where she writes one feature per week. Even better, she still has the typewriter with which she started her career.

Bernita's work doesn't stop when the paper has gone to the printers. She's involved in many organizations, including the Bell County Historical Commission and 1874 Church Restoration, for which she posed on a motorcycle for a 2010 calendar. She didn't miss a meeting of the Belton Rotary Club for 19 years and she was the first woman to receive the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen award.

The people of Belton and central Texas are lucky to have Bernita Peeples. She's a local treasure and a fitting recipient of the Yellow Rose of Texas Award. I join all who celebrate her enormous contributions to journalism and her beloved community.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR 60TH ANNUAL TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show—the largest gem and mineral exhibition in the United States and an event that has set the standard for such shows around the world.

The show, which will be held this year from Feb. 13–16, has been hosted for the past six decades by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc. The show began as a club show and today is dedicated to presenting extraordinary mineral, gem, fossil, lapidary and jewelry exhibits that provide a rare window into private and museum collections from around the world.

The theme of this year's show is ''60 years of Diamonds, Gems, Silver and Gold'' and will feature a display of diamonds from the Smithsonian Institution.

As a result of interest generated by this long-running show, dozens of satellite shows have proliferated throughout the Tucson area—bringing with them gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and other items from around the world. This weeks-long collection of events has become known as the Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase and attracts thousands of participants, enthusiasts and buyers from across the globe.

During the showcase, Tucsonans and visitors find everything from rare diamonds to boxes made of petrified wood. There are dinosaur skeletons, loose stones, jewelry, African art, beads, polished stones, minerals and gifts of every description.

None of this would have happened without the vision and the hard work by members and volunteers of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc., which remains dedicated to promoting the study of earth sciences. I am proud to recognize the organization and its members including President Diane Braswell and Vice President John Callahan. Its other officers are Marilyn Reynolds, Ellen Alexander, Alrene Hibben, Madison Barkley, Mark Marikos, Bob O'Donnell, Mark Ascher and Robert and Elaine Royer. The chairman of this year's show is Paul Harter.

I am proud to recognize the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Inc. on the occasion of its 60th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

IN MEMORY OF HOUSTON COUNTY ICON GUY PORTER GILLETTE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Western Music Icon Guy Porter Gillette who is being honored this weekend in Houston County.

Guy left us on September 2nd, but his memory is alive and well. Guy was the son of famed photographer Guy and his wife Doris Gillette. He and his brother, Pipp, co-owned the Camp St. Café & Store where they enjoyed entertaining southeast Texas.

The brothers were raised in Yonkers, New York, but spent their summers at their grandparents' Lovelady ranch. Back in their teens, the brothers had a band called the Roadrunners. Their lead singer was a young woman named Diane Keaton, who later became a movie star. Guy met Diane while studying at The Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre in Manhattan, NY and the brothers were known for playing coffee houses in many states, but Texas kept a piece of their hearts.

They inherited their grandparents' Lovelady ranch and shortly after Guy's return to Texas he met Cathi Stas from Wheeler. They married and welcomed daughter, Dorcie in 1995. After fixing up their family homestead, Camp Street in Crockett was their next project. They turned a pool hall and barbershop their grandfather built into a new music venue where they could entertain us with a unique mix of blues, cowboy ballads and Celtic folk songs. One never knew what was on the bill at Camp Street. It could be comedy one minute and vaudeville the next—and audiences loved it.

The awards stacked up for the Gillette Brothers: the Western Heritage Award for Best Traditional Western CD of 2010; two Cowboy Culture Awards; the Wrangler Award for Best Original Composition of 2012 for the song ''Tradeoff''; as well as awards for their chuck wagon sourdough biscuits.

While cancer may have silenced Guy's tenor voice just two weeks after his father's passing, Cathi, Dorcie and Pipp have wonderful memories of music, laughter, and love to cherish.

Guy was a bright star that gave so much to Houston County, Texas. He will be missed. God bless Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF DR. AMPARO VILLABLANCA AND THE 20TH YEAR OF THE WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE PROGRAM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work of Dr. Amparo Villablanca, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of California, Davis, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr.

Villablanca, who has devoted her career in medicine to identifying and building awareness of the cardiovascular disease risk factors for women.

In 1994, Dr. Villablanca established the nation's first program dedicated to researching, preventing and treating heart disease in women. Heart disease is the leading cause of death of women in the United States, causing one in three deaths each year, more than all forms of cancer combined. Dr. Villablanca has conducted laboratory research that has advanced scientific knowledge of the unique biological causes and indicators of heart disease in women.

Dr. Villablanca has actively engaged with grassroots organizations in conducting community-based research to identify and mitigate heart disease risk factors among populations most at risk, including African American and Hispanic women. Her tireless advocacy for women's heart health earned her a place on the Woman's Day magazine Heart Health Advisory Board and the magazine's inaugural Red Dress Award.

Furthermore, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis, which recognizes the importance of research and patient-care programs to identify the risk factors and preventions for heart disease among women. As part of the program, Dr. Villablanca has hosted the annual Women's Heart Care Education and Awareness Forum since 2006 to encourage community champions for women's health and expand appreciation for lifestyles and health behaviors that benefit cardiovascular health. In 2010, Dr. Villablanca forged an innovative partnership with the UC Davis Department of Design to create and display a collection of student-designed red dresses and ensure heart-health messages reach a younger generation of women. The Forum embraces the link between health and art that the UC Davis Red Dress Collection represents and its role in engaging young women in understanding the importance of paying attention to their heart health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the ongoing work of Dr. Amparo Villablanca and the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program in providing a woman-centered, culturally sensitive and respectful approach to patient care.

HONORING MORRIS TURNER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Morris ''Morrie'' Turner, former cartoonist for the Oakland Tribune. Known throughout the Bay Area and the Nation by his cartoon strip ''Wee Pals,'' Mr. Turner has left an indelible mark on our national discourse. With his passing on January 25, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work and the inspiring role he played in breaking racial barriers as the first nationally syndicated African American cartoonist.

Born on December 11, 1923 Morrie Turner was born and raised in Oakland. His passion for drawing began as a young child. After graduating from Berkeley High School, Mr. Turner served in World War II as a mechanic for the Tuskegee Airmen. During this time, he drew comic strips for military newspapers. Once returning back to the Bay Area, he worked as a clerk for the Oakland Police Department while freelancing cartoons to newspapers and magazines. In 1964, Mr. Turner's drive and admiration for cartooning inspired him to create cartoons full time.

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Morrie Turner realized that African American kids rarely appeared in cartoons. Inspired by Charles Schulz's ''Peanuts'' cartoon, Mr. Turner began creating a comic strip featuring kids from all backgrounds called ''Wee Pals.'' In the beginning, only a few papers would run the strip. After the tragic event of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968, ''Wee Pals'' achieved national recognition, appearing in more than 100 newspapers.

Morrie Turner's ''Wee Pals'' covered issues of racism, sexism and bullying. His hope was ''to portray a world without prejudice, a world in which people's differences—race, religion gender and physical and mental ability—are cherished not scorned.'' There was a wide range of characters, encompassing many different ethnicities. The success of the comic strip inspired an animated television show called ''Kid Power.'' As he continued to produce comic strips, Mr. Turner wrote and illustrated children's books.

Renowned for his cartoons and children's books, Mr. Turner received numerous awards. Among the many prestigious awards, he received the Sparky Award from San Francisco's Cartoon Art Museum, the Anti-Defamation League's humanitarian award, the Boys and Girls Club Image Award and the California Educators Award. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Turner had the honor as one of six cartoonists with the National Cartoonist Society to travel to Vietnam and draw more than 3,000 caricatures of the service people on the frontlines and in hospitals.

Morrie Turner left an imprint on many generations by addressing these important topics still facing our Nation. He found a creative way to educate children and reach out to approximately 25 million readers with his ''Wee Pals'' cartoon. In addition, he was actively involved in educational programs and charities in the Bay Area.

On several occasions I was humbled to be one of Morrie's caricatures in his very creative, educational and funny cartoons. When I met him, I knew I was in the presence of not only a brilliant intellect but a soaring spirit. It was an honor and a privilege to have been in his presence on many occasions.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and cartoonist, Morris Turner. As an Oakland native, Mr. Turner's efforts have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the Nation. I join all of Morrie's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN COLACCHIO

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Central Florida community, John Colacchio. Mr. Colacchio is an 89-year-old veteran of the Second World War who recently participated in an Honor Flight. The Honor Flight, comprised of 50 World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans, was a one-day event in which these veterans flew from Florida to Washington, D.C. and visited the memorials to their fallen comrades. A native of Long Island, New York, Mr. Colacchio was drafted at the age of 18 after graduating from high school. He bravely fought with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division in historic battles including the Invasion of Normandy. Mr. Colacchio served with distinction for two years and nine months. He earned the rank of Staff Sergeant and was awarded a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After his service, Mr. Colacchio returned to work at the Long Island Railroad, where he worked for another 34 years. In 2008, after the passing of his beloved wife, Laura, Mr. Colacchio moved to be near his only child, in Celebration, Florida. His daughter, Barbara, is a Marine Corps veteran and served as Honor Guardian on his recent Honor Flight. On Veterans Day 2013, his daughter and friends dedicated a memorial brick in his name at the Veterans Memorial Park in Celebration.

Mr. Colacchio sacrificed greatly to help our country in a time of need. He served with dedication and bravery and has remained active in the veteran community. It is my pleasure to recognize his accomplishments and contributions to the community.

HONORING KEIFER MARSHALL, JR

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keifer Marshall, Jr., recipient of the Drayton and Elizabeth McClain Community Achievement Award for individuals who truly exemplify public service leadership. Marshall's life of sacrifice and activism reflects the very best values of central Texas.

Marshall, a native son of Temple, TX, bravely stepped forward when his country needed him most and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. Stationed in the Pacific Theater, he fought the ferocity of the Japanese head on. At Iwo Jima, the casualties of his company were the severest of the entire campaign. Out of 250 Marines, Marshall was one of the lucky few to survive.

This proud Marine is also a committed citizen. Marshall returned to Temple and began the next chapter of his life of extraordinary service. A member of numerous councils and boards, he later became a City Councilman and a two-term Mayor. Marshall was President of the Temple Chamber of Commerce, was

commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, and was awarded Temple Citizen of the Year honors in 1992. He remains a respected leader who's made a real and positive impact on his community.

Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference in the world, Marines don't have that problem." Keifer Marshall is a local treasure and a fitting recipient of the Drayton and Elizabeth McClain Community Achievement Award. I join all who celebrate his selfless service to his nation and his hometown.

HONORING GEORGE PHIL WRIGHT

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Phil Wright of Rolla, Missouri for his years of exemplary service to his country through the United States Air Force. Mr. Wright's career as meteorological technician first began when he entered the Air Force as a weather apprentice in 1964. His active military service includes assignments in Illinois, Missouri, South Carolina and Turkey. Mr. Wright was a distinguished airman earning several awards including the Air Force Good Conduct Medal and Air Force Expert Marksman Ribbon. He also completed the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

After ten years of active military service, Staff Sergeant Wright separated from the Air Force and was hired as a civil service weather observer at McEntire Air Force National Guard Base, South Carolina. He was later promoted to his most current position at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. At Fort Leonard he manages three weather technicians and provides weather support to 4th MEB, 1st of the 106th Air Assault Company, U.S. Army Engineer School, Military Police School, and the U.S. Army CBRN School. Mr. Wright has earned many awards and accolades during his time serving as a weather observer. On May 15, 2014 Mr. Wright will have completed 50 years of service to the United States Air Force Service. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

TO RECOGNIZE JACK CORY FOR HIS WORK WITH THE FLORIDA ALLIANCE OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jack Cory for his work with the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

Boys & Girls Club organizations located across Florida serve over 161,000 youths between the ages of 6 and 18 annually.

Since 2006, Jack has represented the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs—fighting to secure funding for over 40 member organizations.

This funding is vital for the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Club's mission to help young people; especially those who need us most to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible adults.

By encouraging civic involvement at a young age, Jack has also empowered entire generations of young Floridians remain active in their respective communities for years to come.

Again, I rise to recognize Jack Cory for his achievements, and his hard work and dedication to the Florida Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY OPTIONS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Options of New Jersey, as they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1989, Community Options, Inc. was established around the belief that all people should have the freedom to experience the highest degree of self-determination. The nonprofit is built around that philosophy and provides housing and support services, and advocates on behalf of people with disabilities.

Originating in New Jersey, Community Options has expanded its services across multiple states to support people with mental retardation, autism, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury and dual diagnoses. Recognizing that people with the most severe disabilities require environments and support that are tailored to very specific needs, Community Options works with state and county based authorities to facilitate community placement and work opportunities that encourage individual choice and flexibility.

Community Options is the sixth-largest nonprofit organization in New Jersey, and has developed a number of partnerships with Non-Governmental Organizations in countries across the world. Providing advocacy assistance to empower people with disabilities, Community Options believes that all people, regardless of disability level, should live and work in the community with dignity, choice and self-determination.

I have seen firsthand how their facilities in Wayne and Morristown work to create the best possible environment for persons with disabilities. This includes 24-hour residential services, supported employment to match people with disabilities for competitive jobs, entrepreneurial businesses, as well as programs supporting persons with very significant medical needs.

The mission and work of Community Options has made the nonprofit an important asset to New Jersey. Their continued dedication to support thousands of families, and champion the rights of persons with disabilities, is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Community Options, Inc. of New Jersey as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2014

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 50 on final passage of H.R. 3694, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Deliver Act, my vote was incorrectly recorded as "yes." I intended to vote "no."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP–21) reauthorization, focusing on the economic importance of maintaining Federal investments in our transportation infrastructure.

SD–406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine extreme weather events, focusing on the costs of not being prepared.

SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

SD–226

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine bipartisan support for improving United States elections, focusing on an overview from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

SR–301

Special Committee on Aging

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship.

SD–562

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.
SR–301
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
SR–428

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy
To hold an oversight hearing to examine lessons for Federal policy from state efficiency and renewable programs.
SD–366
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine fisheries treaties and Port State Measures Agreements.
SD–419
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Indian Law and Order Commission Report, focusing on a roadmap for making Native America safer.
SD–628

FEBRUARY 13

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert O. Work, to be Deputy Secretary, and Michael J. McCord, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary (Comptroller), both of the Department of Defense.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior.
SD–366
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine how a fair minimum wage will help working families succeed.
SD–430
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the intelligence community, focusing on keeping watch over its contractor workforce.
SD–342
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 149, to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and the nominations of Steven Paul Logan, John Joseph Tuchi, Diane J. Humetewa, Rosemary Marquez, Douglas L. Rayes, and James Alan Soto, all to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress.
SD–538

11:30 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine Syria spillover, focusing on the growing threat of terrorism and sectarianism in the Middle East.
SD–419

2 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security
To hold hearings to examine enhancing our rail safety, focusing on current challenges for passenger and freight rail.
SR–253
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SD–138

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christine E. Wormuth, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, Brian P. McKeon, of New York, to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, David B. Shear, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and Eric Rosenbach, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense, all of the Department of Defense.
SD–G50

MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SH–216

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

MARCH 11

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold closed hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SR–222

MARCH 13

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

APRIL 3

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, **Pages S837–S858**

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2007–2010, and S.J. Res. 31. **Page S852**

Measures Passed:

Supervision Requirements for Outpatient Therapeutic Services: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 1954, to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014, and the bill was then passed. **Page S855**

Mayo Clinic 150th Anniversary: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 339, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mayo Clinic, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S855–56**

Measures Considered:

Bipartisan Budget Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1963, to repeal section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. **Pages S837–48**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. 26), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S847**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014; and that all time during adjournment and recess count post-cloture. **Page S856**

Appointments:

Washington's Farewell Address: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of February 10, 2014, appointed Senator King, of Maine, to read Washington's Farewell Address on Monday, February 24, 2014. **Page S856**

Washington's Farewell Address—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address take place on Monday, February 24, 2014, following the prayer and pledge; provided further, that Senator King be recognized to deliver the address. **Page S856**

Resignation of Senator Max Baucus: Senator Max Baucus, of Montana, submitted a letter of resignation from the United States Senate, effective February 6, 2014, in order to prepare for duties as Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. **Page S855**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Mark Green, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of two years.

Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S856–58**

Messages from the House: **Page S850**

Measures Referred: **Page S850**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S837, S850**

Executive Communications: **Pages S850–52**

Petitions and Memorials: **Page S852**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S852–53**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S853–54

Additional Statements: Pages S849–50

Amendments Submitted: Pages S854–55

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S855

Privileges of the Floor: Page S855

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—26) Page S847

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:38 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S856.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 4021–4030; and 1 resolution, H.J. Res. 109 were introduced. Pages H1718–19

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1719–20

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2385, to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to set the rate of pay for employees of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection in accordance with the General Schedule (H. Rept. 113–349, Pt. 1) and

H. Res. 475, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3193) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from February 13, 2014, through February 24, 2014; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–350). Page H1718

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Messer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1689

Recess: The House recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H1690

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a recorded vote of 241 ayes to 123 noes with 1 answering "present", Roll No. 57. Page H1699

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. Page H1691

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act: H.R. 2431, amended, to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 21 nays, Roll No. 55 and Pages S1691–93, S1697–98

Supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine: H. Res. 447, amended, to support the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 381 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 56. Pages H1693–97, S1698–99

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1697–98, H1698–99 and H1699. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING DRUG SHORTAGES AND RECENT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THEM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Examining Drug Shortages and Recent Efforts to Address Them". Testimony was heard from Marcia Crosse, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; and Douglas Throckmorton, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs, Food and Drug Administration.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND SOUNDNESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3193, the "Consumer Financial Protection and Soundness Improvement Act of 2013". The Committee granted, by record vote of 6–4, a structured rule for H.R. 3193. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–36 modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from February 13, 2013, through February 24, 2014: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 3, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. In section 4, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of February 12, 2014, providing for consideration or disposition of a measure relating to the public debt limit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Hensarling and Representative Waters.

BUSINESS MEETING

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a business meeting on member access requests. This was a closed meeting.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook for fiscal years 2014–2024, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine prospects for Democratic reconciliation and workers' rights in Bangladesh, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, and Portia Y. Wu, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, both of the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Bruce Howe Hendricks, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Mark G. Mastroianni, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Leslie Ragon Caldwell, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''United States Security Policy and Defense Posture in the Middle East'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1872, the ''Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014''; and H.R. 1869, the ''Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2014'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Training, hearing entitled ''Serving Seniors Through the Older Americans Act'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Department of Energy Oversight: Status of Clean Coal Programs'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on African, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Worldwide Persecution of Christians'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications,

hearing entitled ''Bioterrorism: Assessing the Threat'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, hearing entitled ''Al Qaeda's Expansion in Egypt: Implications for U.S. Homeland Security'', 2:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing on H.R., the ''Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2014'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled ''Asylum Fraud: Abusing America's Compassion?'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the following legislation: H.R. 4011, the ''Alaska Bypass Fair Competition Act of 2014''; H.R. 3308, the ''Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2013''; and H.R. 2804, the ''All Economic Regulations are Transparent Act of 2013'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''DC Navy Yard Shooting: Fixing the Security Clearance Process'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on the Environment, hearing entitled ''Ensuring Open Science at EPA'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Building on the Wireless Revolution: Opportunities and Barriers for Small Firms'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3676, the ''Prohibiting In-Flight Voice Communications on Mobile Wireless Devices Act of 2013''; General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; H.R. 1378, to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the ''James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse''; H.R. 4005, the ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014''; and other matters cleared for consideration, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3865, the ''Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014'', 10:15 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 11 through February 14, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at approximately 10 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1963, Bipartisan Budget Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: February 11, to hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert O. Work, to be Deputy Secretary, and Michael J. McCord, of Ohio, to be Under Secretary (Comptroller), both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 13, to hold hearings to examine semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, 10:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: February 11, to hold hearings to examine the budget and economic outlook for fiscal years 2014–2024, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: February 13, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine enhancing our rail safety, focusing on current challenges for passenger and freight rail, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: February 12, Subcommittee on Energy, to hold an oversight hearing to examine lessons for Federal policy from state efficiency and renewable programs, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

February 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, both of the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: February 12, to hold hearings to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP–21) reauthorization, focusing on the economic importance of maintaining Federal investments in our transportation infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: February 11, to hold hearings to examine prospects for Democratic reconciliation and workers' rights in Bangladesh, 10 a.m., SD–419.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine fisheries treaties and Port State Measures Agreements, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Syria spillover, focusing on the growing threat of terrorism and sectarianism in the Middle East, 11:30 a.m., SD–419.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, all of the Department of State, 2 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: February 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, and Portia Y. Wu, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, both of the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., SD–430.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine how a fair minimum wage will help working families succeed, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 12, to hold hearings to examine extreme weather events, focusing on the costs of not being prepared, 10 a.m., SD–342.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the intelligence community, focusing on keeping watch over its contractor workforce, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: February 12, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Indian Law and Order Commission Report, focusing on a roadmap for making Native America safer, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Bruce Howe Hendricks, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Mark G. Mastroianni, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Leslie Ragon Caldwell, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SD–226.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold an oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the Section 215 telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, 10 a.m., SD–226.

February 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 149, to provide effective criminal prosecutions for certain identity thefts, and the nominations of Steven Paul Logan, John Joseph Tuchi, Diane J. Humetewa, Rosemary Marquez, Douglas L. Rayes, and James Alan Soto, all to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: February 12, to hold hearings to examine bipartisan support for improving United States elections, focusing on an overview from the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, 10 a.m., SR–301.

February 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, 10:30 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: February 12, with the Special Committee on Aging, to hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship, 10 a.m., SD–562.

February 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 10:30 a.m., SR–428.

Select Committee on Intelligence: February 11, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John P. Carlin, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

Special Committee on Aging: February 12, with the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to hold a joint hearing to examine the challenges and advantages of senior entrepreneurship, 10 a.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, February 12, Full Committee, hearing ''Overcoming Obstacles in Acquisition Reform'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Secretary's Vision for the Future—Challenges and Priorities'', 9 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1963, Bipartisan Budget Act.

At 12:15 p.m., Senator-designate John Walsh from Montana will be sworn in.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 3193—Consumer Financial Protection Safety and Soundness Improvement Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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