

border war zone. Meanwhile, the administration just whistles past the graveyard.

And that's just the way it is.

#### CANDY FOR THE WEALTHIEST AMERICANS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, this week, the Senate and the House will be asked to vote on a package of tax extenders and other provisions that will provide great benefits for many hardworking American families and for low-income people. Unfortunately, this comes at a very high price to the American people and to the national debt.

We are being asked by Republican leaders in the Senate to give benefits to the very wealthiest Americans, including an estate tax provision that will benefit only 6,600 families—the wealthiest families in America.

This is like going to the hospital with a serious illness and having the doctor say to you, I'm going to give you \$250,000 worth of care that's really going to help you; but in order to get it, you're going to have to eat \$100,000 worth of candy that's going to do nothing for you but add a lot of weight down the road—to our national debt and to our children and grandchildren.

This is a bad deal for the American people, and I hope my colleagues will reject it.

#### HONORING SILVER STAR RECIPIENT CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TWO MARK ROLAND

(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. Madam Speaker, the Army's third highest award for combat valor is the Silver Star. Today, it is my honor to praise a Silver Star recipient from my district in State College, Pennsylvania, Chief Warrant Officer Two Mark Roland.

In August at Fort Bragg, he received the award for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States from Lieutenant General John F. Mulholland, commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Bragg. The award comes from the President of the United States.

While serving as the Intelligence Sergeant for a Special Forces Operational Detachment at Firebase Ripley in Afghanistan, Roland cleared and destroyed enemy fighters at close range, rescuing eight Afghan soldiers and leading the actions of the detachment's split team to a battlefield victory.

The citation reads that Roland distinguished himself by inspiring those

around him to extraordinary collective valor. His personal courage and commitment to mission accomplishment in a combat zone, under extreme circumstances, greatly contributed to mission success.

Roland and all of the other servicemembers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve our praise and our gratitude for daily risking their lives for freedom. A Silver Star is our Nation's token of our greater thanks.

#### VOTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S TAX PROPOSAL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, we will probably be voting on the President's tax proposal this week—a very difficult vote. I really don't know how I'm going to vote.

On the one hand, I see the benefit of getting timely temporary and targeted relief to people, which helps the economy with unemployment compensation, unemployment compensation that is most needed for the people of the purple hearts of this Bush recession.

On the other hand, I see the money going to the upper 2 percent—the millionaires and billionaires—who will get \$700 billion over 10 years, which will put a deficit on our children and grandchildren for years to come—something we can't afford. When it comes time to affording it on reckoning day, it's going to hurt people getting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and that's something I can't see.

The estate tax will benefit 6,600 families, to the tune of \$25 billion, and I see that as wrong, too; but I understand the need to stimulate the economy and to get middle class tax cuts to the people earning less than \$250,000.

I ask my constituents to contact me at [www.Cohen.house.gov](http://www.Cohen.house.gov). Let me know what you think.

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#### VIRGINIA OBAMACARE RULING

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, earlier this week, a Federal judge in Virginia acted to defend the American people from an unconstitutional mandate to purchase health insurance. It really shouldn't be a surprise that a Federal judge recognized what many of us noted months ago: the Constitution does not give Congress and the President the right to force Americans to purchase a particular good or service.

Instead of finding ways to bring down the cost of insurance so that anybody

can afford at least basic coverage, ObamaCare puts the Federal Government squarely in charge of the health care industry and then makes every American participate. The government defines what insurance is, what it does, what it covers and doesn't cover, and then forces you to buy it. Even with this unconstitutional mandate, health care costs will rise faster because of ObamaCare.

The next Congress will act to repeal this mandate and all the other bad ideas in ObamaCare because we, too, have a responsibility to protect the Constitution of the United States.

#### TAX CUT PROPOSAL

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I, along with many of my Democratic colleagues, continue to fight for economic priorities for middle class Americans and for provisions that will create jobs and grow the economy. However, the tax proposal announced by the President calls for sharp differences in the policies and priorities of the Democratic and Republican parties.

For instance, the Democrats continue to fight to maintain tax cuts on incomes up to \$250,000 per couple and \$200,000 per individual, while Republicans continue to demand tax cuts for all incomes, including millionaires and billionaires.

The Democrats also strongly support the extension of unemployment benefits to help out-of-work Americans make it through the recession, while the Republicans are willing to hold the middle class and the unemployed hostage to benefit the wealthy.

The Democrats are championing the needs of low-income families by fighting to extend the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit. In addition, we are fighting to continue the college tuition tax credit to help students or working class families afford college.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support a tax cut proposal that will benefit our working class families and grow the economy.

#### EXTENDING THE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of extending tax cuts to American families and businesses.

This week, we have a choice. Congress can continue the campaign politics of the past year or Republicans and Democrats can set aside their talking points and get something done for the American people. I support the latter.