

The Constitution itself provided for that in that it said the State legislatures would select the U.S. Senators. As long as that was the case, every U.S. Senator knew if they created an unfunded mandate, if they took away States' rights or did anything to harm the States' power that was granted to them under the United States Constitution, they would yank that Senator back, and he would never come back to the U.S. Senate and would probably never get elected to the House of Representatives. But that was the check and balance that the brilliance of the Constitution provided.

Since 1913, when that was repealed through the 17th Amendment, there has not been any check or balance on our power grab and usurpation of States' rights. It's time to do something about it, and we saw that by the unfunded mandate requiring billions of dollars that could bankrupt our States being shoved down their throats by a bill that was signed into law today.

The way that can be handled is under article V. It's the part of article V that has never been used before, and that is the part that says that if two-thirds of the States—that's 34—make an application to the Congress for a convention to make amendments to the Constitution, it has to be provided, and then you have a convention and you create an amendment, one or two, whatever is necessary, to finally put back in place, after 97 years, a check and balance on this body usurping powers granted to the States and reserved to the people.

It's high time that's done. It doesn't need the President's authorization, so there's no need for an override of a veto if he doesn't let it happen. We will probably need people who would be open to that idea in charge here in this House, but it needs to happen so that we don't keep this train running so fast down the track the wrong way that it derails and takes the Nation with it.

We cannot continue this kind of unfunded mandate. It's time for an amendment to the Constitution to put a check back on our unbridled usurpation of States' rights, and I look forward to that happening. We've got 39 States that want to do something about this unholy bill that was passed. Well, this is what they can do, and we can change things and get back on track.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEN BROWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I am absolutely delighted to be here with my colleague DINA TITUS from Nevada, and I rise today to honor the dedication and service of a true veterans' advocate, Kenneth Brown.

From 1943 to 1945, Mr. Brown served in the United States Navy during

World War II as a United States Navy Armed Guard gunner's mate. After receiving an honorable discharge, Mr. Brown dedicated his life to improving the quality of life for Nevada military veterans and their families.

In 1987—and this is just an extraordinary act that he performed—Mr. Brown purchased 83½ acres of land in Boulder City, Nevada. He donated this parcel to the State of Nevada, encouraging the State to use this land to build a veterans cemetery.

On April 6, 1990, Mr. Brown's dream was realized and the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery was officially dedicated. His generous donation and tireless efforts helped Nevada provide its veterans a final resting place in dignity, respect, and honor.

In recognition of his contribution, the Governor declared April 6, 1990, as "Ken Brown Day." Mr. Brown has received countless honors paying tribute to his 50 years of service to Nevada veterans and their families, including the key to the city of Las Vegas for heroism and vision in supporting veterans in Nevada, and the God and Country Award from the United States Navy Armed Guard.

It is truly an honor for me to stand here today and recognize my friend, and he truly is my friend, Mr. Ken Brown, for all of his work that he has done for the veterans community and for helping to bring a veterans cemetery to southern Nevada, where all veterans and their spouses can be buried with dignity.

I cannot tell you how many times I have seen Mr. Brown at our VA cemetery in Boulder City honoring our war dead and being there as an inspiration to those veterans who came home, served their country admirably, and will one day be at that cemetery. He has done a wonderful thing for not only the State of Nevada, not only its veterans, but for mankind.

Mr. Ken Brown, I salute you and I thank you. My respect and admiration are yours today.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with a Department of Defense policy that has taken jobs away from hardworking Americans in the textile, apparel, and footwear industry at a time when they need these jobs most.

DOD is allowed to purchase textile, apparel, and footwear products from an organization called Federal Prison Industries, an entity that uses prisoners in U.S. jails as labor.

In the 2008 Defense authorization bill, Congress required the Department of

Defense to implement strict rules to govern its use of Federal Prison Industries. Congress took that action so DOD would not unfairly exploit its access to virtually free prison labor and put law-abiding U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear workers out of work in the process.

Unfortunately, DOD has not followed congressional intent and has written those rules to include loopholes that give Federal Prison Industries an unfair advantage.

I am going to repeat that, Madam Speaker, because I think it's important.

Unfortunately, Department of Defense has not followed congressional intent and has written those rules to include loopholes that give Federal Prison Industries an unfair advantage.

It is very troubling that a Federal agency would not follow the will of the Congress and, instead, establish policy that destroys American jobs and the industrial base on which it depends.

Madam Speaker, over the past 17 years, the United States has lost over 29 percent of its manufacturing base. That's over 5 million jobs. When do we say enough is enough?

Madam Speaker, it is unacceptable for a Federal agency to adopt policies that cause even more manufacturing job losses. For the good of American workers in the textile, apparel, and footwear industries, I encourage the Department of Defense to reconsider its approach to this issue.

Madam Speaker, at a time that this country owes China over \$800 billion, we borrow money from the UAE, we borrow money from Japan, and here we are trying to put our textile workers out of work by having a Federal industry known as the Prison Industries to be competitors to the American worker is just wrong.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I will ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform. I will ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I would ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right for this country. And I will ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right for the American people.

I will then say, three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

□ 1700

HONORING KEN BROWN—"MR. VETERAN"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ken Finis Brown, affectionately known throughout Nevada as "Mr. Veteran."

As my colleague SHELLEY BERKLEY pointed out just a few moments ago, Mr. Brown was instrumental in providing a final sacred resting place for Nevada's veterans in 1987 when he donated the necessary funding for the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Brown personally donated the funding to purchase 83.5 acres of land in Boulder City in District Three that now serves as a cemetery for Nevada's fallen heroes. Our Mr. Veteran worked tirelessly so that military veterans in southern Nevada would have a dignified final resting place in our home State, close to their loved ones.

This unyielding effort was formally recognized by the State of Nevada when it declared April 6, 1990, "Ken Brown Day." On that same day, the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery was officially dedicated. Everyone in southern Nevada knows that this project would never have been completed without the hard work and dedication of Ken Brown.

This was just one of many awards and commendations that our Mr. Veteran has received, including a proclamation of heroism from Clark County, a God and Country award from the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, a formal proclamation from the Las Vegas City Council and keys to the city, and a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee. His efforts have been recognized, both formally and informally, by countless organizations and individuals, too many to list here.

Mr. Brown served our country admirably in the United States Navy during World War II while our Nation was fighting to rid the world of tyranny and hatred. At a time when our Nation needed heroes, Ken Brown stepped up. He answered the call.

Since his service in our Nation's armed services, Ken has dedicated his life to improving the lives of other veterans in southern Nevada through his advocacy and his own example.

Mr. Brown has also written a poem which was dedicated to our Afghan and Iraq veterans, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, and the U.S. Merchant Marines. The words of his work ring true today as our brave men and women serve valiantly throughout the world to protect our Nation.

LIFE

Dedicated to Afghan and Iraq Veterans and United States Navy Armed Guard United States Merchant Marines, 36,000 died in WWII

For love and money, our lives we pay, Baubles we earn with a whole soul's tasking; Tis heaven alone that is given away, Tis only God may be had for the asking; No price set on the lavish summer, And June may be had by the poorest comer.

Whether we look, or whether we listen, We hear life murmur, or see it glisten; Every clod feels a stir of might, An instinct within it that reaches and towers, And, grasping blindly above it for light, Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers.

Now the heart is so full that a drop overfills, We are happy now because God so wills it; We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing That the sky is clear and the grass is growing.

Joy comes, grief goes, we know not how; Every thing is happy now, Every thing is upward striving Tis as easy now for the heart to be true As for grass to be green or skies to be blue,—Tis the Natural way of living.

We must always remember that life is precious and the veterans of the great national paid with their lives for your freedom.

Madam Speaker, today we flew a flag over the Capitol in honor of Ken Brown. I want to thank Mr. Brown again for his lifetime of dedication to the United States of America and to our heroes, our men and women in the armed services.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4849

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in opposition to H.R. 4849, the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Act.

This bill will raise taxes by as much as \$16 billion and will limit business' ability to expand and create new jobs. This massive tax increase will deal a devastating blow to the Nation's and South Carolina's already struggling economy.

Democrats say they are trying to introduce legislation that will help foster job creation; but if that is truly the case, then why does H.R. 4849 place new taxes on companies doing business in the U.S. during an economic downturn?

Eighty percent of the bill's funding goes to growing State and local governments, which we all know will not solve our Nation's abysmal unemployment rate. Our Nation's economy is already on life support, Madam Speaker. We cannot afford to enact any legislation that further jeopardizes job creation.

It is time to put an end to excessive taxing and runaway spending. Instead, we should focus on the time-tested principles, such as extending the 2001 and 2003 tax relief provisions which will, just by chance, expire at the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, I came down to the floor this evening because someone has got to stand up for America and small businesses. In fact, there are other places I am really supposed to be right now, but this is exactly where I need to be right now: defending American jobs.

The truth is, this bill will not strengthen our economy or create more jobs. Instead, it will create unneces-

sary financial hardships for businesses that are already struggling to survive.

For months, Democrats have been pushing job-killing legislation, everything from stimulus to a government takeover of health care. It is time for Congress to stop spending and taxing excessively.

We should start working together on creating viable solutions that create more private sector jobs that our country and especially South Carolina so desperately need.

LEARNING THE SMART LESSON FROM THE IRAQ ELECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, as the drama was building towards this body's passage of health care reform this week, many of us may have forgotten that Friday was the seventh anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. It has been 7 years since we were assured that Americans would be greeted as liberators from the moment they touched down in Baghdad; 7 years since we were told democracy in Iraq would blossom naturally, like spring flowers; and 7 years later, with more than 4,300 Americans having been killed and hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars wasted. The truth remains: the simple act of self-governance is still a life-threatening proposition in Iraq.

To be sure, in the recent parliamentary elections many Iraqis once again showed enormous courage by going to the polls amidst violence and unrest. The problem is that it is hard to call a democratic election a success when citizens are taking their lives into their hands just to exercise their most basic democratic right.

Despite the resolve of so many Iraqi citizens, the fact is that voter turnout declined from the last national election in the year 2005.

The New York Times described the atmosphere as one of a country under siege, noting that, and I quote, "Iraqis prepared for the election the way that Americans do when battering down for a hurricane." Not exactly the festival of civic pride we normally associate with an election day.

As it is, even before Iraqis voted, this election was marred by chaos, disputed candidacies, corruption, arrests, even assassinations. Jon Stewart on the "Comedy Channel" joked that to call this election a success with just a "few" candidates assassinated is setting the bar pretty low.

What is really unsettling, Madam Speaker, is that there was a pretty aggressive propaganda campaign to convince us here in the United States that election-related violence wasn't really all that bad. In public, top military brass told us not to worry our "pretty