

must now seize every single opportunity to do so because it appears time might be running out.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON H.R. 1105, THE OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL, AND THE NEEDS TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PROMOTE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, last night Members on both sides of the aisle rose repeatedly and applauded the remarks of President Obama, who called upon the American people to show their resilience that they have on so many occasions in the past to rise above the difficulties that we face and to lead our country out of this serious economic crisis.

However, today in the light of day, this Congress has taken a very, very different approach to try to solve those problems: the big government approach.

Today, during the debate on the omnibus spending bill, I had planned to offer an amendment. My amendment would have protected the private property rights of citizens and also highlighted the philosophical differences between the Democrat majority and the Republicans. I would note that not a single amendment was made in order as a result of the vote on this nearly \$500 billion spending package. Apparently, the majority believes that government knows best and the leadership of their party in this Congress are the only ones who know best how to dole out Americans' hard-earned money and property and they have no qualms about robbing Peter to pay Paul. Despite the lip service the majority gives about the spirit of the American people, the majority's policies clearly demonstrate that they believe something quite different, that the people cannot be trusted to make the best use of their own money and property nor can they be trusted to turn our economy around.

Republicans actually believe in the American people, and they have put their policies where their mouths are. Republicans unabashedly believe that Americans know best how to control their own money and have advocated for targeted tax relief to individuals and small businesses to help the economy by putting money back into the hands of Americans.

In addition, Republicans believe that the right of private property is a fundamental right that the founders of this

Nation consciously sought to protect from overly zealous government bureaucrats. The need for private property protections is especially important in trying times like these when politicians get the idea that they know best the uses for Americans' money and property.

I have sponsored legislation to protect private property from aggressive government use of eminent domain powers, and that is what the amendment I offered at the Rules Committee to the omnibus spending measure would have done. My amendment would have prevented funds in this gigantic spending bill from being used to seize private property from one person to give to another. This seems simple enough, but the majority decided to block this amendment, which would have prevented the use of any of the funds in this massive nearly \$500 billion spending measure from being used for that purpose, to take people's property for private economic development purposes. But the majority decided to block the amendment and not allow a vote on the House floor. In fact, the vote to stifle debate on this amendment occurred on a purely partisan basis in the Rules Committee.

It seems clear that the majority's solution to the current economic crisis is to spend other people's money. The truth is that we are beginning to see the results that this laboratory of big government spending is producing, and it is no surprise that the results are dismal. The government simply cannot operate as efficiently nor adapt as quickly as individuals and entrepreneurs.

The likely response by the government to its own failure will be more spending, as is evident from the trillion dollar stimulus package that Congress passed 2 weeks ago as well as the nearly half trillion dollar omnibus spending bill we voted on today. There is no end in sight to the unprecedented levels of spending we are witnessing, and that is precisely why we should draw a very clear line now.

House Republicans believe that instead of spending ease, we need a spending freeze. We may now see a budget deficit of \$3 trillion this year alone. That's \$3 trillion. Divide that by the 300 million people in the United States, and it's nearly \$10,000 for each person in the country that the government will spend more than the government will take in, \$10,000 per person more that will be spent on all these massive government programs than the government will take in. This is beyond unacceptable. We need reform, and it is clear that Congress must have this reform forced upon it.

That's why over 160 bipartisan cosponsors have joined me in an attempt to force the Federal Government to rein in spending and eliminate the deficit by amending the Constitution to require it. Earlier this year I introduced a balanced budget constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 1.

This legislation has already garnered over 160 bipartisan cosponsors, and it requires that total Federal outlays cannot exceed total revenues. We'd have 5 years to bring this into line.

It is time we started the process of reforming the way this government spends money.

This is a simple concept but one that is lost on a congress determined to put political considerations above the common good. Simply put, this constitutional amendment would bind the hands of congress by cutting up its credit cards.

The time to act is now, and if President Obama is serious about his call to rein in spending, then he should join in our call for a balanced budget constitutional amendment to force the Federal Government to do so.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN BAUER AND HIS WIFE, KARI BAUER

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

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Staff Sergeant Justin Bauer and his wife, Kari.

Staff Sergeant Bauer and his wife, Kari, were both from the State of Colorado. Staff Sergeant Bauer joined the Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne and stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sergeant Bauer and his wife lived in my district, the Eighth District of North Carolina.

By the words of the sergeant's co-soldiers, he was a leader extraordinaire. He was a noncommissioned officer that exemplified what was meant to be in the leadership role of being a noncommissioned officer. His soldiers looked to him as a friend and a leader and, by all accounts, was an outstanding soldier in our Army.

I bring Sergeant Bauer's attention to the floor, Mr. Speaker, because Sergeant Bauer died in service to his country on January 10 in Iraq. He was a person that accepted the risk of his profession. His wife, Kari, accepted the risk of being a military spouse. And I simply want to honor his memory but not dramatize his memory because that would not be fitting to the soldiers that represent our great Nation.

And by honoring the sergeant and his wife, Kari, I also want to extend that honor to all of our military personnel that serve this Nation knowing the sacrifices that they make and that they may be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice and are willing to do that, for this is part of their job. They accept that.

Today I have a letter that I want to present as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that we will be sending to Kari. But in this honoring of Justin Bauer and his wife, I also want to honor all of the military that serve this Nation and their families that make up the heart and soul of our Nation's spirit.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2009.

Mrs. KARI BAUER,
Moss Court,
Fayetteville, NC.

DEAR MRS. BAUER: I wish to once again convey my deepest condolences for the loss of your husband, Staff Sergeant Justin Bauer. My entire congressional staff also joins me at this time in sending our deepest sympathies and understanding during this period of bereavement.

Staff Sergeant Bauer served his country and the American people in the most honorable of ways. Staff Sergeant Bauer's absolute selfless service, professionalism and loyalty to country will continue to serve as the pinnacle for which we will continue to honor his service to our great nation. His leadership and "high regard" as viewed by his fellow Soldiers were so strongly conveyed to me in the words spoken at the memorial service.

I hope that time and memories will help lessen the burden of your sorrow, and that you may draw some measure of comfort knowing that others care and share in your loss. Please know that we have shared in your pain and sorrow and pay our final respects to undoubtedly one of our nation's best. If I can be of any assistance please contact my Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 225-3715 or in Fayetteville (910)-920-2070.

I also wanted you to know that I went on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today to offer my appreciation for the sacrifice that your husband made, the loss you endured. And that the two of you represent why our military and our military families are the heart and soul of our country. Thanks again to you and Justin.

Sincerely,

LARRY KISSELL,
Member of Congress.

□ 1700

WE NEED TO FOCUS ON OUR TRADE DEFICITS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, last night, President Obama said that in this time of economic insecurity, America must avoid the possibility of protectionism. My friends, where are the fearsome red-herring protectionists?

We all believe in free trade so long as it is fair trade, and I believe most of all in free trade among free people. Our Nation boasts the most open markets in the world, but one must recognize that America hasn't had a balanced trade account since 1975, yes, 1975.

That's 34 years of regression on the jobs and trade front, 34 years of wandering in the wilderness, 34 years of deluges of imports dwarfing our exports, 34 years of outsourcing our good jobs by the millions. Thousands of America's best companies have been sacrificed, Maytag, Trico, Playtex, Levis, Zenith, Georgia-Pacific, Champion Spark Plug. The list is endless.

Now we are watching major segments of our banking system disintegrate while we buy foreign televisions, foreign clothing, foreign automobiles, foreign food, all while our beautiful Na-

tion begs China, undemocratic China, for money.

It's pretty clear we need to focus on our trade deficits as a causal factor in our other deficits. The human and economic tragedies continue to mount. The massive hemorrhage of U.S. wealth instructs us in its raw truth. So-called free trade agreements began in 1975. Back then we had a surplus of \$12.4 billion in goods with the world. We have now sunk in 2008 to \$677 billion in trade deficit, three-quarters of a trillion dollars, and all the lost jobs that go with it just disappear.

The evidence is all around us. Americans are working harder each year, increasing their productivity but then seeing no increased wages. More lost purchasing power, the dollar isn't worth as much. Their health and pension benefits, disappearing. This is not a recipe for a healthy economy, a strong nation or a middle class.

The challenge is trade is not a zero sum game. Other nations don't play by the same rules. Other nations manage their markets. Other nations manipulate their currency. Other nations aren't democratic and they have no rule of law.

Let's look at the raw facts, as ignoring our trade deficits won't help our Nation crawl out of our deep economic hole. Let's stop digging and start crawling out.

When you focus over a quarter of a century on more outsourcing of jobs and importing goods than on exporting goods and creating jobs here, our country ends up indebted and we are indebted to China, indebted to Mexico, indebted to Japan and all the other creditors who will be knocking on our grandchildren's doors.

When you conduct two wars and don't pay for them, you make it even worse. But not to recognize those two deficits, the trade deficit as well as the budget deficit, is to live in a world of delusion.

In 2008, our largest trade deficit was in oil with countries in the Middle East, and the bottom line is that that trade advantages them, not us.

If you look at overall trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico, that's governed by NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. We are now at record imports from both countries, not exports, record imports, \$74.2 billion in the red with Canada last year and \$63.5 billion in the red with Mexico.

The same is true with Communist China, where we are in a \$266 billion deficit, a record high. Japan is no different, \$72.6 billion there.

The top trade gap we continue to face is imported oil. Overall, the U.S. imported 3.6 billion barrels of crude oil in 2008 worth \$342 billion, our chief strategic vulnerability.

Unemployment continues to rise nationally, over 7.2 percent, and in districts like mine and many counties over 12.5 percent. Dr. Peter Morici of the University of Maryland has writ-

ten, "Lost growth is cumulative. Thanks to the record trade deficits accumulated over the last 10 years, the U.S. economy is about \$1.5 trillion smaller. This comes out to about \$10,000 per worker," and every American middle class family feels it.

How are we going to change this, Mr. President? America needs balanced trade accounts, not delusion. We need open markets, not closed markets. We need a rule of law, not undemocratic practices. We need realism, not delusion.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT MARC J. SMALL

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young American hero who has given his all in service to our Nation, a 1970 graduate of Methacton High School, Marc Small of Collegeville, Pennsylvania. He represented the very best of our community and country when he decided in 2003 to follow in the patriotic footsteps of his father, Sergeant Major Murray Small, U.S. Army, Retired, and he enlisted in our U.S. Army.

As importantly, in following his mother's compassionate and caring nature, he chose to become a medic with the Army Special Forces to assume the responsibilities of caring for his comrades in arms as well as some of the poorest people on this earth. As testament to his intelligence, motivation and courage, in less than 5 years this remarkable young man quickly rose to the rank of staff sergeant, learned the invaluable skills necessary to heal soldiers and civilians and earned the extraordinary honor of wearing the treasured "Green Beret."

Tragically, on February 12, 2009, at Faramuz, Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Marc J. Small, of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) U.S. Army, succumbed to wounds sustained in combat. Before his life was cut short, this young warrior had treated hundreds of Afghani civilians and in the process displayed the very best of the American spirit and character.

By the loss of Staff Sergeant Marc J. Small we are a much lesser Nation and community, but only for the briefest of periods. Because given the very special nature of this healer and warrior, I am certain that from this tragedy other young men and women will be inspired by the heroism and selflessness of Staff Sergeant Small. From their skills, valor and compassion, the best traditions of our Nation will live on, as they must, for this world remains a very challenging place, and the need for our Nation to tend to the needs of poor and oppressed in many remote regions of the world is great.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we take a moment to reflect on the service Staff Sergeant Marc Small has made on our