

the Capitol urging him to restore the rights of Members and staff to offer tours to our constituents.

The red coats of the CVC do not own the Capitol. Members of Congress do not own the Capitol. The American people bought and paid for it, but the CVC red coats now block Americans from seeing the Capitol with their Congressmen or staff.

We are headed to a train wreck when CVC red coats turn away thousands of American families from the Capitol over spring break. They say, sure, we'll handle your constituents, no problem. Actually, they're going to block the access of the American people to the Capitol.

Now, a recent Facebook posting by a CVC red coat reflected a stunning arrogance that should not be tolerated towards American citizens.

I urge Members to sign the bipartisan Loebbeck-Kirk letter to ensure that your constituents can see the Capitol when they want, with their Member of Congress, and not be blocked by the CVC red coats.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA LOOKS TO BRING HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE BUDGET PROCESS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last week President Obama continued to bring real change to Washington by announcing his plan to bring honesty and accountability to the budget process.

For the last 8 years, the Bush administration and Washington Republicans masked the true costs of their budget by refusing to include funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and refusing to include any funding for natural disasters, even though we all knew they would happen. These accounting gimmicks were used to make deficit projections look smaller than they actually were.

These tricks will soon be a thing of the past, as President Obama wants the American people to have facts so they can hold us all accountable. That's the way government should work, and thanks to President Obama's commitment to honesty in government, it will be instituted as part of his budget outline later this week.

Mr. Speaker, for years, congressional Democrats criticized the Bush administration for using these gimmicks, and so we commend President Obama for this very welcome change.

#### EARMARKS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President is expected to sign the omnibus appropriations bill this week, once the Senate acts on the bill.

Since the President made numerous promises to reduce earmarks during his campaign, the American people should know what is in the bill that he will be signing, another 1,100-plus page bill. This is a \$410 billion spending bill which contains 8,500 earmarks, including \$300,000 for migrating loons in Nevada, \$900,000 for planetarium equipment in Chicago, \$190,000 for trolleys in Puerto Rico, \$3 million for a foot bridge in St. Louis, \$380,000 for a lighthouse in Maine, \$1 million for red snappers in Florida, \$7 million for sea turtles in Hawaii, and on and on.

Migratory loons in Nevada? Red snappers in Florida? Trolleys in Puerto Rico? In a time of trillion dollar deficits, enough is enough!

#### 92ND ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, 92 years ago, President Wilson signed a bill and the people of Puerto Rico became U.S. citizens.

Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States is as close as it is complex. In some instances, promises of equal treatment took too long to redeem, and there are aspects of the relationship that should trouble men and women of conscience.

But like so many American stories, this is a chronicle of progress and a determined march towards a more perfect union. For me, as for millions of my constituents, the pride we feel in being Puerto Rican is matched by the pride we feel in being American citizens. To those who express concern that any further strengthening of the bond between Puerto Rico and the U.S. will result in a weakening of Puerto Rico's identity, I submit that history and experience demonstrate otherwise.

The people of Puerto Rico have been fighting for our country ever since they became citizens. American soldiers from Puerto Rico, fiercely proud of their country and their island roots, provide powerful testimony that these feelings complement, rather than contradict, one another.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I salute the 4 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico.

#### GOVERNMENT MEDDLING IN MARKETS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Pilgrim's Pride Poultry Company announced the closing of three chicken processing operations throughout the southeastern United States.

In and around my district in North Louisiana, 1,300 jobs were lost. It is important for the American public to know why and how these jobs were

lost. In addition to the decline in consumer protein demand, Pilgrim's Pride was most affected by high feed prices causing a loss in the last year of over \$1 billion, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The main cause of these high prices was Federal mandates to increase the use of ethanol. This large spike in corn prices is being felt throughout the country by consumers and producers alike. Is this a foreshadowing of more disasters to come because of the governmental manipulation of the energy markets?

Just like the mortgage debacle, governmental meddling in markets continues hurting the working family, both directly and indirectly.

#### FAIRNESS IN TAXES

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama offered his first budget to this House last week, and it calls for fairness that hasn't been seen in this American government for a long time, fairness in taxes between the most wealthy and the least fortunate, people who need help and people who need to provide help, a budget that provides for health care, for energy, for veterans, most of all, for the issues that are most important to the American public. Investments in our infrastructure, which will spur this economy and stimulate the economy.

I would ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join with the Democrats in supporting our President who was elected with overwhelming numbers and still has overwhelming support. Confidence and support for this President is what's necessary to give people the confidence to invest in our economy and get us out of this recession.

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#### BUDGET

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, in the President's address to the joint session of Congress, he said unequivocally he was opposed to bigger government. Yet the President's budget does exactly the opposite. Big government is back and is bigger than before. Under the President's plan, the national debt will double to \$20 trillion. We cannot sustain this; we cannot afford this, and we simply must say, "No."

The President said, "If your family earns less than \$250,000 a year, you will not see your taxes increase a single dime. I repeat: not a single dime."

Yet the President's budget calls for significant tax increases that will be paid by every American, by 100 percent of us. Let us remember it is not the

government's money we talk about and spend. It is the American people's money. We cannot afford to continue to run this government on a credit card. We are going to have to do more with less, and that means finding ways to cut government spending.

#### THE PASSING OF REV. MICHAEL "THE SOWER" GUIDO

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to pay tribute to the life of a constituent of mine, Dr. Michael Guido. Rev. Guido, known to millions as "the Sower," died at the age of 94 last Saturday.

Michael Guido came to Metter, Georgia in 1943 for a preaching trip. After he met the woman who would later become his wife, he decided to stay. Sixty-six years later, he leaves behind his bride, Audrey, and a ministry that is broadcast on over 100 television stations and 400 radio stations around the world. He also wrote a column, "Seeds from the Sower," which was published in over 1,300 newspapers across our land.

Rev. Guido built an impressive ministry, but his goal was not fortune or fame; it was just to live his life like the sower in Christ's parable—sowing the word of God on sometimes stony ground and keeping faith in his God and with his fellow man. His brother, Larry, carries on Rev. Guido's work, and his memory will live on in the souls he helped lead to God during his long life.

The Bible says, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favor rather than silver or gold." Michael Guido made a good name for himself, which lives on in the loving favor of literally millions of souls, which is worth more than all the silver and gold in all the world.

#### SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Sierra Pacific Industries just announced the closure of its sawmill in the little town of Quincy, California, in my district, throwing another 150 families out of work. They made it very clear that the recession was not the cause; it was merely the catalyst. The real cause is that the regulatory costs and litigation, because of regulation, now exceed their profit margin. In fact, two-thirds of their timber harvest this year is tied up as a result of government actions.

Sierra Pacific constructed this small log mill when Congress passed legislation promoting tree thinning in the surrounding forests to prevent forest fires, but that law has not been implemented because of endless litigation by environmental groups who are using an impenetrable web of environmental laws.

In their press release, Sierra Pacific notes, "Nearly two-thirds of the current year's timber sale program is enjoined or withheld from sale pending the outcome of litigation."

So, Mr. Speaker, today, another 150 families in the little town of Quincy are out of work, direct casualties of this retrograde, Luddite ideology.

#### HONORING TANYA LOMBARDI

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Kidney Month and in honoring Tanya Lombardi, a courageous kidney donor.

Four years ago, Tanya joined a local book club in Danville, California. There she met Maxine Moir. Maxine needed a new kidney, but couldn't find a donor. In response, Tanya offered her kidney to Maxine, displaying great compassion and courage. This past December, Tanya provided Maxine with a miraculous holiday gift. Since the successful transplant, Tanya and Maxine take weekly walks and remain close friends, a friendship extending from a unique and incredible relationship that began at the book club.

Selfless donors like Tanya gave more than 13,000 kidneys in 2008, but many more people need help. Brave acts of kindness like those by Tanya Lombardi continue to bring hope to thousands of people and show that each of us can make a difference.

I urge my colleagues to join me during National Kidney Month in recognizing the selfless acts of kidney donors across America.

#### HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to express my appreciation for the great work the American Legion does for our Nation's veterans.

As a proud Legionnaire myself, this morning, I had the great honor of addressing the Commander's Call. This afternoon, I will meet with fellow Minnesotan Legionnaires Brad Lindsay, Bill Goede and Marie Goede, Floyd Kumerow, Robert Hirmer, and Chuck Kruger.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I look to the American Legion for guidance on the priorities of our Nation's veterans. It is because, every day, the Legion is out there, working with our veterans. They understand what is needed.

I see it as this Congress' responsibility to work with the VA budgets that are not just sufficient but timely to make sure that they're predictable and that we serve our veterans the way we should. We have an absolute respon-

sibility to knock down the backlog of claims that our veterans are facing, and we need to ensure that the recently enacted GI Bill is put to use as it should be. In all of this, the American Legion is a crucial partner.

There is another side to the Legion that doesn't get mentioned that much. It is the daily activities serving our veterans and their communities. From their great civic education programs, Boys and Girls State, to youth baseball and other programs, this is the truly great work the Legion does, and I want to commend them. We are all better for it. Our Nation's veterans are better for the work the Legion does.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, I rise today to join my colleagues in marking the 92nd anniversary of President Woodrow Wilson's signing of an Act of Congress, conferring United States citizenship upon the people of Puerto Rico. This act marked an important advancement in the United States-Puerto Rico relationship, and although it is still an unfinished journey, it brought our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico into the American family.

The people of Puerto Rico have a rich and a beautiful culture. Their work to preserve and to celebrate their culture and their contributions to our democracy and defense of our Nation are unmatched by any State.

Today, we recognize the act that conferred them citizenship, and we commemorate this event with them as we look forward to their continuing political progress. The people of Guam join our fellow Americans in congratulating Puerto Rico.

#### JOB CREATION

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, we are looking for job creation opportunities during these tough economic times.

This morning, I heard ideas from an unexpected source. I was at a bipartisan symposium with Senators, Governors, former Prime Minister Tony Blair, and business leaders. What I heard from the business leaders is that one of the best sources of job creation we have is in creating new green collar, clean energy jobs to respond to our climate crisis, which will also help us in our economic crisis.

Jeff Immelt of GE told us about the need for a smart grid so we can create green-collar jobs. Mr. Hayes from Florida Power and Light told us about the great technologies in solar power. We