

We are constantly reviewing the progress and spending of our recovery programs to ensure a strong return on every public dollar spent. We're also working to cut programs that don't work or government contracts that don't deliver for the American people. We're working hard to reform our Nation's health care system, which will reduce the deficit, save money for consumers, and improve efficiencies in the health care system.

In a key step, we scheduled oversight hearings and carefully reviewed all Federal spending within the committee's jurisdiction to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse.

I applaud President Obama and the Democratic Congress for taking these critical steps and we will continue working with him to reduce our Nation's deficit and debt.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WILKES VFW POST 1142 HONOR GUARD

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Wilkes County, North Carolina, VFW Honor Guard. This band of brothers has faithfully served the veterans and families of Wilkes County for the past 12 years by honoring the lives of deceased veterans in Wilkes County.

Every member of the Honor Guard volunteers his time throughout the year to execute the Honor Guard's primary duty of performing military funeral rights for deceased veterans. Their commitment to those who have served our Nation demonstrates that they not only understand and revere the life of sacrifice chosen by those who serve in the Armed Forces, but they also know the toll military service takes on the family of veterans.

In paying their respects to deceased veterans, the Wilkes VFW Honor Guard is offering a tangible thank you to veterans' families and also preserving an American tradition of marking the death of veterans with dignity and respect.

I commend the Wilkes VFW Honor Guard members for their selfless service to their community and their Nation. They are true patriots.

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday this Nation recognized the 55th anniversary of a great Supreme Court case—Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. That case overruled a case called Plessy v. Ferguson, which legalized segregation in this country.

The people who brought about the Brown v. Board of Education effort did much to start the civil rights move-

ment and kindled a spirit and a spark in America that has led to more equal justice and a better nation that we are continually improving upon.

John Hope Franklin, who recently died and has been honored by this House, researched the law on the subject; and Thurgood Marshall, who later became a United States Supreme Court Justice, argued the case on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

On this, the 55th anniversary of that historic case that kindled a movement in this country that went from the streets and the churches to this Congress, we need to recognize those who have fought so valiantly for justice and liberty and civil rights in this Nation. I appreciate their efforts and what they've done for our Nation.

CALIFORNIA BAILOUT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of California boasts the highest tax rates, the highest number of unemployed residents, the lowest credit rating and largest deficit in the United States of America.

Businesses are leaving the State in droves because the tax burden continues to hammer them. Spendacrats in California have been running their State for decades, just like the new left government in D.C. wants to run the entire country: tax and borrow and spend and spend.

Some spendacrats in D.C. want the American taxpayer to bail out California by cosigning a guarantee for their municipal bonds, placing the full faith and credit of the United States taxpayer on the hook.

Texas taxpayers and other States with responsible government shouldn't be forced to send their money to a State that mismanages its money, wastes its resources and spends money it doesn't have on programs that don't work. Why doesn't California cut its spending binge and addiction to government programs rather than expect the rest of us to bail them out?

Next we'll hear that taxpayers will make money off the California bailout investment, just like we were promised would happen with all the money we gave Wall Street. Yeah, right.

And that's just the way it is.

FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Mr. TEAGUE. In 2007 when I announced that I would be running for Congress, people were surprised to find an oilman like myself campaigning on a platform that emphasized energy independence through a focus on renewable energy. But I told people in Hobbs, Roswell, Carlsbad and across southern New Mexico that technologies like wind, solar and biofuels were not

only good for the environment but would also create jobs in our communities and bolster our national security.

One area in which we can do a lot of good is biofuels. My State of New Mexico is fortunate to have several biofuel organizations on the cutting edge of research. Both private companies and the national labs in my State are making excellent progress towards commercially producing oil from algae and other green sources.

The United States currently uses 20 million barrels of petroleum each day. American biofuels producers are aiming to reach 1 million barrels a day of biofuel production, which will really be sending a message to OPEC that America is serious about her energy independence.

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QUALITY SOLUTIONS FOR PATIENTS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, I was privileged to give the weekly Republican address. And as a doctor, I've seen firsthand the difficult challenges that face health reform, and at first glance, the task really seems daunting. However, working together we can achieve real results for the American people. We can lower out-of-pocket costs for families and reduce the Federal deficit, which is ballooning out of control. We can increase the quality of care by increasing the choices and information patients have in order to work with their doctor, the doctor they choose to decide the best care possible. Let's begin by ensuring families can keep their current coverage, as the President has promised to do. Then we can work to lower the cost of health care by giving patients flexibility and choice rather than one-size-fits-all, government-run health care. Working together, we can achieve real results and make health care more affordable and accessible.

We all agree, improving our system will make America more competitive and give families peace of mind. Let's work together to put the doctor and patient back in control.

RESTORING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, after 8 years of economic policies that have left our Nation's fiscal house awash in red ink, this Congress is taking important steps to restore fiscal responsibility. We inherited a fiscal and economic mess that included soaring unemployment, a record deficit and a

housing crisis. Faced with the worst recession in a generation, this Congress took unprecedented action in an effort to end our economic slide and turn our economy around.

First was the recovery package that invested in needed infrastructure and provided tax relief to 95 percent of working Americans. And now, with a budget that calls for health care reform, job creation, clean energy and investments in education, we will grow our economy while cutting the deficit by two-thirds over the next 5 years. By providing real oversight and honest accounting and with a commitment to fiscal responsibility, we are changing the way business is done in Washington.

NATIONAL ENERGY TAX KILLS 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, it is troubling that with so many other strategies to move our country to a cleaner energy future, there are still some advocating that we impose a national energy tax. This tax will attack the budgets of American families, costing an extra \$3,000 each year. And it will drive businesses and the jobs they create overseas.

The administration and Democratic Congress who claim to be opposed to offshoring of American jobs are encouraging companies to leave America. This Nation does not need to impose new taxes on its citizens to achieve the common goal of a clean energy future. We have the natural resources here that can provide the revenue and the bridge to that future. We have the scientists and entrepreneurs that will create the next generation of energy resources. And we have the citizens who understand the benefit to their lives and to their budgets of commonsense conservation. We should explore, innovate and conserve, not tax and eliminate jobs.

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINE WILLIAMS, A TRUE LAS VEGAS PIONEER

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

Ms. BERKLEY. I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a true Las Vegas pioneer, Claudine Williams, who died last week at the age of 88. Claudine was a smart, savvy, tough businesswoman with a heart of gold and a true commitment to the community she helped shape into the 21st century, Las Vegas, known around the world. As the first woman to own and run a casino on the Las Vegas Strip,

the famous Silver Slipper, Claudine redefined Nevada's gaming industry and in the process opened the doors for countless others to follow in her footsteps. She was a generous philanthropist, contributing millions of dollars to local charities. And while she had very little formal education herself, she was a major contributor and supporter to the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Claudine was a gracious hostess for the millions she welcomed through the doors of her successful hotel casinos. Claudine was truly one of a kind. She is irreplaceable. She will be missed. But her charitable contributions and the many lives this fabulous woman touched both inside and outside the gaming industry will continue to enrich Las Vegas for decades to come. I loved her. She is truly a dear woman. And I will miss her terribly.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Small Business Week on behalf of the millions of small businesses across the country.

As a family business owner and chairwoman of a Small Business subcommittee, I know firsthand that these small firms are the driving force behind job creation and our economic recovery. Therefore we have an obligation to assist these hardworking Americans during these difficult times.

The Recovery Act was an important first step generating \$21 billion in new lending and investment opportunities for entrepreneurs. However, we must go further and relieve the pressure small businesses experience from the skyrocketing cost of health insurance. Finally, we must help small businesses get the resources they need like those found in the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act that the House will take up this week.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are critical both to job creation and our Nation's recovery. During National Small Business Week, Congress should renew our commitment to giving them the assistance they deserve.

CONGRATULATING AVERETT UNIVERSITY IN DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House unanimously passed a resolution I was pleased to introduce in recognition of Averett University's 150 years of service and leadership to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Nation. Averett University stands at the center of knowledge and innovation in southern Virginia. Founded in historic Danville in 1859, Averett stands as a testament to the virtues of progress and opportunity.

It began as a school for young women at a time when educating women was an unconventional notion. Continuing in this spirit, Averett was among the first colleges in Virginia to give tangible meaning to the terms "lifelong learning" and "career education" by creating an accelerated program of higher learning for working adults.

Today Averett has an enrollment of over 2,500 students and offers 32 major academic fields of study. The university was recently recognized nationally by U.S. News and World Report as one of the leading baccalaureate-granting colleges in the South. For over 150 years, Averett University has contributed to the strength of our Nation by providing men and women with the tools of thought and the spirit of service.

I congratulate them on this accomplishment and look forward to their next chapter.

HONORING THE REVEREND JOHN PRATT

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

Mr. TOWNS. I rise to talk about the passing of Rev. John Pratt of the Zion Shiloh Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. He pastored that church for 30 years. John Pratt is going to be missed in the Borough of Brooklyn. He was the kind of person that was always involved in community efforts. Whatever you needed to have done, John Pratt was a person that you could count on. Not only that, he was unusual in many ways, because you could talk to him and, of course, he wouldn't call a press conference on you. You just could have a discussion with him and then he would do whatever it was, and you didn't have to worry about him calling a big press conference to let the world know that you had asked him to do something.

He was the kind of person that was able to pull people together. He was a coalition builder. We are going to miss John and his coalition skills because he could talk to anybody at any point in any time. And that was the thing that he was able to do so well.

I will never forget that when my mother passed, how John was there on behalf of my family. So let me say to the Pratt family that you have my support in every way. If there is anything I can do, just let me know. I would be delighted to do it, because he was there for me, and I want to be there for you.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk this morning about a matter of