

reduce pollution in our country, but we need to make sure we find a way of doing this without increasing family electric bills, losing manufacturing jobs, or losing steel jobs.

They say we should trust China that they won't cheat and somehow send cheaper goods over here. But this is the same country that sends us fungus in their diapers, leaded toys, toxic baby bottles, poison dog food, harmful building materials; they dump steel on our shores, hack into our computers, and spy on us. Hardly a country I would trust.

They say that we're going to get 200 tons of steel to build a windmill, and that's true, but it takes 90 tons of steel to build a clean coal power plant. What we ought to be doing is spending our money tearing down our old dirty coal plants, building new ones, and using our massive resources.

Let's use the oil off our shores to fund clean coal technology, build nuclear power plants, get a million more jobs in America, and clean the air in our country. Put a cap on emissions, okay. But let's put a cap on job losses. That's how we help our country.

MEMORIAL DAY AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. As America celebrates Memorial Day next week, let us not forget what this day represents. This is a day of reflection to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for this country—the men and women who served our country. This includes thousands of immigrants who, although not officially citizens, died defending America's values we all share.

In fact, one of the first U.S. servicemen killed in combat in Iraq was an immigrant, Marine Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, only 22 years old.

On Memorial Day, immigrant families will also share America's reflection of those who gave their lives. But America must not accept immigrants one moment and reject them the next.

Congress must look past tough political decisions and work on real comprehensive reform for the sake of those immigrants and their families that already gave so much to this country. I urge my colleagues and President Obama to work with the CHC to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

WISE WORDS FROM AMERICAN HISTORY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, "In the situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth . . . , how has it happened, sir, that we have not once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding?"

"The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, how it is probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

"I therefore beg—that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberation, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business."

Mr. Speaker, with this advice by Benjamin Franklin in 1787, our ancestors knelt in prayer each day before designing and drafting the powerful U.S. Constitution. We continue that wise tradition. Each morning we pray to the Almighty. Then we pledge to the Flag. Then we get on with the people's business.

We would do well to remember the words of the Old Book, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

And that's just the way it is.

VERMONT DAIRY FARMERS

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

Mr. WELCH. I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the ever-worsening plight of dairy farmers in Vermont. Frankly, dairy farmers around the country.

The life of a dairy farmer is hard always. Never easy. Long hours, uncertainty in the markets, competition from factory and farms make it tough for family farmers in Vermont and elsewhere to survive and thrive. It's even tougher these days.

With the cost of production of milk at about \$18 per hundredweight, it's well below the \$11 per hundredweight that farmers are being paid. It's no wonder that so many farmers are having to sell their herds and walk off the land they love.

But dairy is so important to Vermont—economically, culturally, environmentally, and historically. We need to do all we can to help this sector and to help our farmers.

That's why I and 23 of our colleagues are calling on Secretary Vilsack to consider the cost of production when setting milk prices. We need to act now to resolve this crisis. Even more importantly, we need to find a long-term solution that will help create stable and sustainable dairy in this country.

LAKE ALICE SCHOOL

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. I rise today to celebrate a gem of western Nebraska, Lake Alice School. The school

first opened its doors in 1915, and it will bid its farewell on Monday. A farewell will actually be held with an open house at the school, allowing anyone who is or has been associated with the school to reflect on its impact to our community and what it has meant to so many people through the years.

Nearly 7,000 students from Scottsbluff and the surrounding area have passed through the school during its 93 years. I'm proud to have known Lake Alice students, teachers, graduates, and faculty throughout my life. The school provided a quality education and serves as a point of pride for the community.

It will hold a special place in our hearts. I hate to see the doors close, but I know the memories will last forever.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN BATAAN, CORREGIDOR AND LUZON

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill bestowing a collective Congressional Gold Medal to our soldiers involved in the World War II battles of Bataan, Corregidor, and Luzon.

This bill is particularly important to my State because nearly 2,000 New Mexican soldiers were captured as prisoners of war and subjected to the Bataan Death March of 1942. More New Mexico families per capita were directly affected by this than any other State.

American POWs were forced to endure a tortuous 65-mile, 5-day march in tropical heat, without food or water, followed by 3 years of brutal imprisonment. In the end, one-third of Bataan's 12,000 defenders never returned home.

We must never forget the courage that these veterans demonstrated before any more of our heroes of Bataan, Corregidor, or Luzon pass on. I urge my colleagues to honor them with the Congressional Gold Medal that they have more than earned.

GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. PENCE. On his second day in office, the President announced his plans to close Guantanamo Bay in an effort to improve America's image around the world. But Republicans went to the floor of this House and we went to the airwaves. We even went to the Internet at GOP.gov to inform the American people that Guantanamo Bay holds some of the most dangerous terrorists on the planet; men like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind the September 11th attacks, and Abu Zubaydah, a key facilitator of the 9/11 attacks.

Because of the strong Republican leadership in the House and the Senate—even our Democratic colleagues in the last week joined us—denying any and all funding for closing Guantanamo Bay in the war supplemental bill.

But now we read that the President is renewing his effort to close Guantanamo Bay, despite a recent Pentagon report that nearly one out of every seven terrorist detainees previously released from Guantanamo Bay may have returned to their terrorist activity. Yesterday, the director of the FBI raised concerns about transferring these men to our local communities.

Despite these warnings, the President continues to bow to world opinion. Let me say emphatically: Mr. President, public safety comes before public relations. The American people don't want to know how closing Guantanamo Bay will make us more popular; they want to know how closing Guantanamo Bay will make us safer.

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TAX SIMPLIFICATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. SCHRADER. In my home State of Oregon, 98 percent of our businesses are small businesses. In fact, small businesses employ 57 percent of Oregon's workforce. During Small Business Appreciation Week, I want to commend all of the small business owners in my home State and across the country who drive the economy and keep the dream of American entrepreneurship alive.

It is with that in mind that I speak about an issue that all small business owners face: the complexity of our Tax Code. Whether we're talking about dollars spent or time lost, tax complexity is an enormous drain for small businesses. With 3.7 million words, 70,000 pages, individuals and companies spend close to \$265 billion just to fill out their taxes. Sadly, our small business entrepreneurs pay the majority of that.

That's why I introduced H.R. 1509, the Home Office Deduction Simplification Act that would provide small businesses with a simple \$1,500 home office deduction to claim a credit that very few use today.

During Small Business Appreciation Week, I encourage all Members to consider ways to aid small businesses.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, health care reform is one of the most important issues Congress will tackle. Health care costs are too high, and we need real reform that ensures every American has access to affordable

quality care. The single most important tenet of high-quality care is the doctor-patient relationship. It used to be that doctors visited the patient's house. Today patients visit the doctor's office, but the principle remains the same: doctors and patients are in charge of individual health care decisions. Our top priority must be preserving and protecting that relationship.

To that end, I am proud to be sponsoring and supporting the Medical Rights Act, which will guarantee the rights of patients to control their own health care by banning government interference in those decisions. As Congress moves forward on health care reform, we need to ensure that patients and their doctors, not government bureaucrats, remain in charge of health care decisions.

CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to honor and recognize our Nation's military and their families. As Memorial Day approaches, we remember the sacrifices of daily military life, but we also remember the legacy of service that blazed the trails of the American West and the avenues of freedom around the world.

Last weekend we laid to rest the bodies of 57 Tucson-area Civil War soldiers who were stationed in the Arizona Territory in the 1800s. They served in the Cavalry and the infantry as cooks and as scouts on the frontlines of American expansion. As we led the motorcycle escort to their final resting place near Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista, hundreds of our Nation's veterans and supporters showed through their outpouring of patriotism that the underpinnings of Memorial Day are important every single day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering all of the servicemembers and their families who have sacrificed for our great Nation both abroad and here at home.

INTRODUCTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are hurt by identity theft every year. My legislation, the Social Security Number Fraud and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2009, H.R. 2472, will enable the Social Security Administration to work with the Department of Homeland Security in searching for records to identify individuals and employers who are using false names, false Social Security numbers, multiple individuals

using the same Social Security number, the fraudulent use of Social Security numbers taken from dead people, and individuals who had applied and received a Social Security number but who are not legally entitled to work in the United States.

According to the most recent national survey by the Federal Trade Commission, 8.3 million adults in the United States were victims of identity theft and 1.8 million adults in the U.S. reported their personal information fraudulently used by somebody else. This legislation, H.R. 2472, will end a bureaucratic loophole that keeps Federal agencies from cooperating in the fight against identity theft. I strongly urge its passage.

RESTORING FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, President Obama and this Congress inherited a fiscal and economic downturn the likes of which we have not seen in this country in generations, including a record deficit and soaring unemployment. Democrats have been committed to fiscal responsibility since taking control of the House in 2007. The first thing the Democratic-led Congress did in 2007 was re-impose PAYGO budget rules in the House. As a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, I applauded that and supported that strongly and continue to. We are working hard to reform our Nation's health care system, which will reduce the deficit, save money for consumers and improve efficiency in the health care system. 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.

THE TAX KNOWN AS CAP-AND-TRADE

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, in order to seem like they are keeping the promise of no new taxes, some Democrats have simply stopped calling their tax policies taxes. For example, this week they're calling a \$645 billion tax increase cap-and-trade. But the Democratic chairman emeritus of the House Energy Committee, Congressman DINGELL, warned that most Americans didn't know that cap-and-trade was—quote—"a tax, and a great big one." Cap-and-tax supporters suggest this money is pulled out of thin air. The truth is that each year under cap-and-tax, every American household will have to come up with an additional \$3,100 just to heat the house, run the washing machine or use energy. Most families don't have an extra \$3,100 just