

ravages of fire. Thomas Marovich had wanted to be a firefighter since he was a little boy and, by all accounts, had an exemplary life ahead of him. He was only able to live 20 years of that life, sacrificing the rest of it for the safety of our community. And for that, we owe him and his grieving family our eternal gratitude.

THE COMMUNITY LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS ACT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there's a health care bill that the Democrats have proposed here in the House that would have a major impact on the way that health care is provided in this Nation.

One of the areas that hasn't been talked about a lot is long-term care. Specifically, the CLASS Act, Community Living Assisted Services and Supports Act, is included, which would mandate government-sponsored, long-term care insurance on all Americans. Now, unfortunately, the \$50-a-day allocation for long-term care insurance is only a portion of the actual cost for the long-term care. Consequently, this is a huge unfunded mandate on who, Mr. Speaker? On you, the American people.

Instead, Congress should consider positive solutions which would make long-term care insurance more accessible by allowing it to be covered under FSAs and cafeteria plans and other patient-centered plans. Without a doubt, Americans need a plan in advance for long-term care. They should be allowed to work with family and trusted advisers to ensure their long-term needs are covered. The government should not limit the type of long-term care Americans may select.

This is just another example of the government telling people what kind of care they should need and may receive.

GOSPEL MUSIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we've had a long session of hard work, and I believe this is an appropriate ending to be able to honor some of America's culture. And so I rise today to acknowledge the passing of H.J. Res. 12, to designate September 2009 as Gospel Music Heritage Month and honor the gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States.

I thank the majority leader and the Republican leadership. I thank the chairman of the committee, Chairman TOWNS, and Ranking Member ISSA of Government Oversight, all of those who have worked, along with my 16 cosponsors who recognize the value of the

songs sung by the likes of Mahalia Jackson singing Precious Lord; Yolanda Adams, The Battle is the Lord's; Sandi Patty; and the work that Elvis Presley did when he sang his gospel songs; Israel, out of Lakewood Church; Kurt Carr with This Little Light of Mine; Donnie McClurkin, Just Stand; and Rev. Gregg Patrick, who is both a producer and a singer.

We have a wide vastness of musical talent in this Nation. I'm glad we're celebrating gospel music.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE HURTING

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting and losing jobs at an alarming rate. The President and the Democrats in Congress promised that their trillion dollar stimulus bill would create jobs immediately and keep unemployment below 8 percent. But since the President signed his so-called stimulus into law, the national unemployment rate has reached 9.5 percent, a 26-year high, and over 2 million more jobs have been lost.

It's clear the Democrats \$1.1 trillion stimulus scheme isn't working. It's clear Democrats are on the side of more government, more taxes, and more debt. House Republicans are on the side of the American people, fighting for working families and small businesses to put America back to work.

The American people deserve real solutions for real recovery, and House Republicans will continue to fight for these solutions on behalf of the American people.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 30, 2009.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Today, on July 30, 2009, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider three resolutions for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with 33 U.S.C. 542. The resolutions authorize Corps surveys (or studies) of water resources needs and possible solutions. The Committee adopted the resolutions by voice vote with a quorum present.

Enclosed are copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR.

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2819—BLACK RASCAL CREEK, MERCED, CALIFORNIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United

States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the reports on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin Streams, California, published as House Document No. 367, 81st Congress, 1st Session, and other reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, and other related purposes in the vicinity of the Black Rascal Creek Watershed, Merced, California.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2820—DEADMAN'S RUN, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the reports of the Chief of Engineers on the Missouri River and Tributaries, published as House Document Numbered 475, 78th Congress, and other reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, and other related purposes in the Deadman's Run Watershed, located in the vicinity of Lincoln, Nebraska.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2821—HYDROELECTRIC POWER, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM, ILLINOIS, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, AND WISCONSIN

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Corps of Engineers, entitled Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System: Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated December 15, 2004, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in determining the feasibility of incorporating hydroelectric power into the improvements of the navigable portions of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River system, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LET'S TAKE CARE OF AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a year ago today, when we recessed for the August break, there were some of us who stayed here on the House floor and continued to talk about energy and American independence in energy. Eventually, the powers that be turned out most of the lights, turned off the microphone, turned off the cameras, but we talked on that Friday, and then we continued to talk through most of the month of August, even though a formal session did not occur. And we talked about the need to be energy independent.

Now we've gone a year from that, and what has happened in that 1 year? Well, things have only gotten worse as

far as energy independence has gone. Let me give you one example.

In 2008 at this time, in the United States proper we had 1,808 rigs drilling for crude oil and natural gas. A year later, we only have 1,128, so that means 680 rigs fewer now than we did a year ago producing oil and natural gas. What has happened? Well, things have only gotten worse.

We have, or this body passed, barely, legislation to punish energy consumption by the cap-and-tax bill, which means that if you use energy in this country, natural gas, electricity, you use gasoline, you're going to have to pay more down the road. Hopefully, the Senate will not pass this legislation.

And we have fewer rigs and we are not more independent. We're more dependent. And who are we dependent on? We're dependent on the countries who hate us, some countries in the Middle East, some countries that we know and we have heard that actually the money that we spend on crude oil that we send them finds its way to people who don't like America and funds their organizations.

Why do we continue to do that? Because we don't take care of ourselves. We hear about clean energy, and we all want to go to alternative energy, but we're not there yet, Mr. Speaker. We need to do the simple things. We need to use and drill for our own natural gas and our own crude oil, and we can do that in the United States, in ANWR. We can do that offshore, and that keeps the money in the United States. It produces jobs for Americans, and doesn't send those jobs overseas. It keeps our oil companies and our natural gas companies in the United States. It's a good thing for America.

But because of the fear lobby, we're afraid to drill for natural gas and crude oil. And that is a mistake, because it can be done safely, and it should be done safely. The places that we drill offshore, it's been proven that it can be done safely. And we should continue to do that. So, a year from now, hopefully we won't be in a worse situation, depending on foreign countries for our energy.

We should do the obvious. Take care of America. Drill safely, drill anywhere that we have natural gas or crude oil and help bring energy back home to America, furnish jobs, keep that money in the United States and quit sending it overseas to people who don't even like the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 172. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

□ 1430

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS

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, the financial crisis has resulted in the largest transfer of wealth in U.S. history, from Main Street citizens to Wall Street titans, and Wall Street insiders made huge profits off the Ponzi scheme they set up that led to the real estate bust and to our economic demise.

As the rest of America tries to dig itself out from the rubble left in their wake, The New York Times reports today that the nine biggest banks paid \$32 billion in bonuses to their employees of the \$165 billion they got from us, the taxpayers; 4,793 bankers and traders got a minimum of an additional \$1 million each. The average dealer at Goldman Sachs will earn \$750,000 extra. Meanwhile, Wall Street is dumping their bad loans on us, through the government, while dragging their feet on the mortgage workouts.

Bear in mind, some people in this Congress and in the Obama administration decided to pay servicers to do mortgage workouts because they weren't doing them themselves. So, rather than holding them accountable and rather than this Congress' holding them accountable, the administration is paying them, and they're still not doing it.

Look at the rogues gallery. Bank of America got \$45 billion in TARP funds while pulling in \$2.7 billion in profits last quarter. They're going to pay \$3.3 billion in bonuses. Wells Fargo got \$25 billion in TARP funds and turned a \$2.6 billion profit, and they will pay \$980 million in bonuses. J.P. Morgan is one of the worst. They got \$25 billion in TARP funds, and wracked up \$2.7 billion in profits last quarter, and they will pay \$8.9 billion in bonuses.

I am introducing legislation today to place a full excise tax on all of those Wall Street bonuses, to recoup the taxpayers' money and to direct it be used to do real mortgage workouts across this country on behalf of the American people to get our local real estate markets working again from coast to coast.

You know, Wall Street gorges itself on profits while unemployment is rising across our country, while foreclosures are rising and while pink slips are rising.

Look at JPMorgan. Within one week—and this happened in Ohio—on a Friday, they invited borrowers to attend a workshop for workouts. One lit-

tle problem: Nobody from JPMorgan showed up until our office had to do their work and call their staff and get them there hours late. Only five of the original 20 borrowers who showed up to the meeting were left because they'd all taken off work, and they'd been able to get sick time to go to the meeting. Then we invited JPMorgan to a workout, and they said they'd send three staff. They didn't. The event went on with one staff member, and people left frustrated.

This is what is going on across our country, so the Obama administration called the 25 servicers up to Washington this week, and tried to talk sweet talk to them. The New York Times said it right yesterday. Here is what they said:

Why aren't these companies cooperating? We're enriching them, but beyond that, "Even when borrowers stop paying, mortgage companies that service the loans collect fees out of the proceeds when homes are ultimately sold in foreclosure. So the longer borrowers remain delinquent, the greater the opportunities for these mortgage companies to extract revenue—fees for insurance, appraisals, title searches, and legal services."

A Florida lawyer who defends homeowners against foreclosure, Margery Golant, says, "It frustrates me when I see the government looking to the servicer for the solution, because it will never ever happen."

The tax laws favor them. So, despite the Federal Government's chicken-hearted efforts, the servicers will have none of it because they can make more money with all of these bonuses and in letting people lose their homes.

Look in your neighborhood. How many more foreclosure signs do you see there? When America went to war in the early 20th century, each citizen sacrificed for the Nation. Now it's all about the big shots. It's all about their bonuses and their power.

Has greed really become the top American value? Foreclosures are rising. Unemployment is rising. Ninety percent of the people in our country say the economy is not working for them, and Wall Street banks just can't seem to help themselves. They're squeezing more profits off of our people's misery.

What is wrong with this Congress? What is wrong with the Obama administration? What was wrong with the Bush administration that preceded it? Somebody had better stand up for the interests of the Republic.

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.)