

for giving tax cuts to billionaires for two years when we can't even give our seniors on Social Security \$250 for one.

Speaking of Social Security, this bill represents the single greatest threat to the program since President Bush wanted to privatize it. This bill requires a \$111 billion infusion from general funds into the Social Security Trust Fund to make up the difference for cutting two percent from the employee payroll tax. Next year, if the economy hasn't recovered sufficiently, Congress will not have the stomach to let the tax holiday expire—no Member of Congress will want to "raise" payroll taxes by two percent. Any future extension of this tax holiday necessarily means that Social Security will compete with other federal programs, such as veterans, medical research, and defense, for its funding. This dangerous precedent means that Social Security's dedicated funding, payroll taxes, is under attack. This opens the door to means testing and benefit cuts for beneficiaries. Make no mistake, Social Security's opponents will be enticed to move in for the kill by moving to privatize the program.

I don't oppose extending the middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent or 99 percent of taxpayers. In fact, before this compromise was struck, I supported raising the threshold from \$250,000 to something more reasonable, such as \$400,000, because where my constituents live there is a much higher cost of living than in other parts of the country. However, to hold extending those middle-class tax cuts hostage to pass a bill that will cost more than TARP, more than the stimulus, and add \$860 billion to the national debt, is not acceptable.

Mr. Chair, it's hard to climb the ladder of prosperity if the middle rungs are missing. This bill does nothing to restore those middle rungs; instead, by giving the most to those who need it the least, it perpetuates the failed thinking that somehow the rest of us will benefit. I for one won't pay this ransom—my vote—for a few crumbs when we should be getting what's fair for our constituents. I will vote no on the underlying bill and I ask my colleagues to do so as well.

TRIBUTE TO THE DAPHNE HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS—ALABAMA'S 6A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding achievement of the Daphne High School Trojan varsity football team in capturing the Alabama Class 6A title.

On December 3, the unbeaten Trojans held tough, despite a determined Hoover High School that was knocking on the one yard line, to cinch a 7 to 6 victory at the State Class 6A championship game. It was truly a classic in Alabama high school athletics.

I would like to congratulate the Trojan coaching squad, Glenn Vickery, Brian Campbell, Milton Sutton, Mike Vickery, Lawrence Yelding, Bart Sessions, Mike Barnard, Benny Houston, and Nathan McNair as well as the entire Trojan varsity team, including, Israel Lamprakes, Leo Battiste, Kyndal Minnefield, T.J. Yeldon, Torren McGaster, Tyrell Hollaway, Ryan Anderson, Justin Jackson, Chris

Hill, T.J. Fleeton, Chris Sain, Cartels Young, Horace Johnson, Russ Mosely, Douglas Perdue, Adam Lofton, Brandon Roberts, Trey Jenkins, Zack Morgan, Markell Jones, Jonathan McGaster, Robert Nettles, Jr., Rodrick Tate, Michael Pierce, Jalan Coleman, Trey Rembert, Josh Johnson, Zach Houston, Preston Conley, Trey Thomas, Bennett Barr, Patrick Wilson, Clark Newsome, Daniel Coole, Jeremy Freeman, Zach Sanchez, Malik Pruitt, Dominic Edney, Zack Taylor, Caleb McMillan, Cain Knox, Kevin Wilson, Pierce Parker, Josh Kirchharr, Willie White, Trent Johns, Greg Jenkins, Nic Morgan, Andy Headley, Ben Lewis, Ashton Mcquiter, T.J. Jackson, Carlos Barrera, Jordan Davis, Colton Byrd, Jonathan Perry, Anthony Rudolph, Lucas Carson, Cameron Lemcool, Hunter Broadus, Elliot Williams, Kevin Caldwell, Matthew Mabry, Jeremy Sparks, Ronnie Williams, Monya Brown, Robert Alexander, Jonathan Parslow, Jacob Olmsted, Ryan Olson, Dalis Houston, Clay Myers, Blake Douglas, Adam Daniel, Serge Kolotov, David Phillips, Alex Jackson, James Reynier, Eric Lee, David Carroll, Ryan Pugh, and Duquan Able.

Congratulations, gentlemen on a truly amazing season and Alabama Class 6A victory.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF KENT SYLER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Kent Syler for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Kent Syler has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Kent and I both attended Middle Tennessee State University, where we both served as student body president. Kent then came to work for the Tennessee State Democratic Party, where I served as chairman. As my district Chief of Staff, he has managed an outstanding staff in Tennessee, represented me at events when Congress' voting schedule has prevented me from being home, and provided me with advice and counsel on some of the toughest challenges facing our nation.

So many of my legislative accomplishments would never have been possible without Kent's invaluable contributions and hard work. In the early 1990s, Kent traveled with me to Romania to visit orphanages and talk with Romanian policymakers about the country's adoption policies. His hard work helped lead to the easing of Romania's cumbersome adoption restrictions, allowing hundreds of Romanian children to find loving homes in the United States. Kent also inspired the first regulations on the 1-800 and 1-900 number in-

dustry, prompted by a late night TV session when he was on bottle-feeding duty with his then-baby daughter Liala. The Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act is now law, and Liala is now a student at MTSU.

Kent and I have done our best to stay true to our principles over the years, and we have never lost faith in MTSU's Blue Raiders. Kent has always had his finger on the pulse of the community, a valuable attribute that has made him a trusted advisor.

Kent is an institution in Rutherford County, which has seen enormous development and nearly tripled in population since he and I first began working together three decades ago. Together, we have worked to improve the quality of life in our community through the expansion to Stones River National Battlefield, the development of the Greenway system and improvements to MTSU.

Kent is one of three men who have stood by me from the very beginning, through victories and disasters—through hell and, literally, high water in the aftermath of tornadoes and severe flooding. Along with Jimmy Stubblefield and Billy G. Smith, Kent has been there every step of the way.

Kent has dedicated his entire adult life to me and to our community. I can't ask for much more than that. He was best man at my wedding. He met his wife Lynell while working for me, and I've watched their daughters Liala and Emily grow up to be bright, accomplished young women.

Madam Speaker, any success I've had is Kent's success. He is a dedicated public servant, a respected leader in his community and a trusted friend. Kent, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you, Lynell, Liala and Emily all the best.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Ladies and gentlemen, thanks for coming to the oldest post of the Marine Corps, the Marine Barracks of Washington, D.C. A little history on this hall—it is now called the Crawford Hall, named after that great band director that you see on the wall over there. But this was the original stomping grounds of John Philip Sousa.

And this was where John Philip Sousa, who was raised in Washington, D.C. a block-and-a-half from the Marine Barracks of Washington, wrote his many, many military marches. So this is sacred ground for the Marine Corps . . . the grounds were actually discovered by the then-Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Burrows, and the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.

It's good to have you here. We're honored to have many distinguished guests with us today.

First, the chairman's lovely wife, Patty. Patty, thank you for braving the rainstorm. I was watching the weather—being a good pilot, I pay very close attention to the weather—and I managed to pick the one day that there was supposed to be heavy rain and a flood in Washington, so I'm glad you're here. And for everybody else that managed to get it out, thank you for being here.

From the great state of Missouri, Representative Emanuel Cleaver is here; Representative Todd Akin, Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, Representative Paul Broun of the United States Marine Corps, from the great state of Georgia. From the great state of Arkansas, Representative Vic Snyder, United States Marine Corps; and Representative Jane Harman from the great state of California.

The 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, and former National Security Advisor, General Jim Jones, and the former first lady of the Marine Corps, his lovely bride Diane. The Under Secretary of the Air Force, former chief of staff of the House Armed Services Committee, and a secret and latent admirer of the United States Marine Corps is with us, [the Honorable Erin Conaton].

A particularly warm welcome to the men and women who really do the heavy-lifting for the committee: Paul Arcangeli is here, the chief of staff of the House Armed Services Committee. Debra Wada is here, the deputy staff director for the House Armed Services Committee. Paul Lewis is here today, general counsel to the House Armed Services Committee, and Will Ebbs is here as a professional staff member and a close personal friend of the United States Marine Corps.

General Joe Dunford, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and his bride Ellyn are with us. Sergeant Major Carlton Kent, sitting at the head table, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps; the current first lady of the Marine Corps, my lovely bride Bonnie, sitting next to the chairman and a host of fellow general officers from around the national capital region are all here.

Welcome on this radiant morning as we gather to pay tribute to a national hero, an all-around friend to men and women from all branches of service, but in particular, to the United States Marine Corps.

I'm keenly aware of the chairman's adherence to punctuality during committee hearings, having testified before him more than one or two times. So before he puts down the gavel on me, I'll call the chaplain up, we'll ask for grace and then we'll be on for breakfast, and I'll join you after breakfast. Bon appetit.

AFTER BREAKFAST REMARKS

[Someone asked me], "How do you like your new job?" And I think I've been in it about six weeks. I said, "Oh, it's great. There's nothing going on here, just JSF, EFV, 'don't ask, don't tell'—among a few other things."

Speaking of "don't ask, don't tell," I talked to Admiral Willard yesterday, who is the PACOM commander out at Camp Smith in Hawaii, and we were talking about some joint matters and personnel matters and that kind of stuff.

And I said, "Hey, Bob, how's Korea going?" He said, "You know, this is—as you might imagine—consuming an awful lot of my time." And we talked about Korea for just a little bit. And I said, "Bob, I'll make a deal: I'll trade you 'don't ask, don't tell' for North Korea." And there was silence on the phone. For 40 seconds, you could sense that he was churning the idea—he says, "No, I'll take North Korea."

While we gather here, it's 9:00 am, and it's about 5:30 in the evening in the Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. The sun has just gone down. The night is beginning to cool off rapidly, and Marines are finding their way in from patrols and convoys from all over those 10,000 square miles. And they're coming in, looking for some place to eat chow.

And I doubt seriously that the chow that they're going to find will be quite as good as we have here this morning. Contrary to pop-

ular belief, I did not fix this breakfast at 2:00 this morning. It was done by the great chefs that you see running around in here and taking such great care of us. But the 20,000 Marines and sailors will have just come in [to their Forward Operating Bases] all across Helmand Province. Some are getting ready to go out on their night patrols.

The [Marines there] have many things in common. They're tired and they're hungry. Some will have had a rougher day than others. We are in a particularly nasty part of Afghanistan. There is much good news in the Helmand province, but there are also some tough spots that the Marines and the sailors, and those coalition and allied forces are working their way through, up in the northeast corner [of the Helmand Province].

But they all have one thing in common. They may be tired; they may be scared. They may have just seen one of their brothers fall. They may be hungry. But all in all, all 20,000 are a happy lot. Chairman Skelton and I were out on the portico and watched Old Glory being raised up over Marine Barracks Washington, and a lone bugler played. And I was standing there alongside the chairman and thinking, what is it about Marines that they find solace in something as heart-warming as raising the American flag?

I thought about it and I came to the conclusion that there really are about three things that live in the soul of every U.S. Marine. They're almost spiritual in nature. I'm not talking about Baptist or Catholic or Jewish. I'm talking about that sense of spirit that resides in a force such as the United States Marine Corps. These spiritual things define who we are and they define and help explain, to some measure, why we've been able to do the many things the Marine Corps has done over its 235 years of service to our nation.

First, all Marines have a love of country. It's at their core; it's at their very roots. They believe in the ideals of our nation and they feel it's their duty as a citizen to serve this country in some capacity. They chose the Marine Corps over other options. We didn't join them; they joined us.

Second, Marines are willing to sacrifice in service to our country and in service to their fellow Americans—through frequent deployments, through separation from family members and a willingness to give their life for their country and their fellow Marines. This is the life of a U.S. Marine.

Finally, a commitment to a higher calling—a calling that is larger than themselves, that binds them and all Marines together. This commitment to our Corps, to our country and all that it represents can be seen here at Marine Barracks Washington, on-board the mighty Navy vessels of the 15th, the 26th and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Units—which are at sea today as we have breakfast, and in the Helmand province, with the 20,000 Marines and sailors in southern Afghanistan.

Ladies and gentleman, Chairman Isaac Newton Skelton, IV, known to many as Ike, is a true patriot, an American statesman, and most notably, he has lived his life in service to our great nation. Like our Marines, Chairman Skelton has loved his country above all else, having served it faithfully as a U.S. Representative for over 33 years.

He has willingly sacrificed what most Americans hold dear, a private and personal life. He has sacrificed his family time, his time away from his wife, from his children, and now, from his grandchildren. And like many of his fellow Marines, he has grown old during a time of war. And lastly, no one can doubt his willingness to be part of something that's greater than himself, as he has served his fellow Americans for [these many] years.

Born and raised in the great state of Missouri—or as he would say, Mi-zoor-uh—he's a

Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Missouri. He was a Missouri state senator before he joined Congress. And since 1977, Chairman Skelton has represented the 4th district of the "Show-Me" state, an area where the chairman's hero president, Harry S. Truman, was born and raised. For 33 years, Chairman Skelton has kept his constituents and our nation's best interests at heart.

However, for all the countless things he has done in Congress, he is known best for his love and care of the U.S. military serviceman and woman. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Goldwater-Nichols Act. I'm told the only reason his name is not on that bill is because at the time he was too junior a U.S. congressman. But historians say that it was largely his commitment to the bill that helped carry it across the finish line.

Chairman Skelton is known throughout the military as the father of professional military education. Our own Marine Corps University exists down at Quantico in its current form almost singularly due to the support of Chairman Skelton. It exists with a robust staff, professorships, research capability, all because of your efforts, Chairman. You have always recognized the importance of a thinking officer corps.

His prescience is paying huge dividends throughout the world today, as we continue to fight a complex and adaptive enemy in some of the world's toughest spots, all with the keenly educated minds of our young men and women. He has been a leading voice in seeing the fight through in Afghanistan. Before it was popular, he recognized the importance of a stronger military presence in Afghanistan, knowing that failure would only strengthen the resolve of a vicious ideology.

Chairman Skelton is no stranger to the U.S. Marine Corps. Each year since 2001, when U.S. Marines from Task Force 58—5,000 strong—made their debut in Afghanistan, and throughout the many long years in Iraq, Chairman Skelton travelled to theater over and over again to speak and spend time with men and women from all services, but in particular to his Marines, always ready to provide help in any way possible.

He is equally comfortable talking to a lance corporal, a machine gunner, or a three-star general. And if you asked him this morning, he would probably tell you he'd rather talk to the lance corporal. And I can't say I blame him.

For those of you who don't know, Chairman Skelton is a military history buff. He is particularly fascinated with the World War II Pacific campaign, so much so that on a trip last year through the Pacific region—many of you that are here having breakfast with us this morning were on that trip—he made a point to schedule a stop on the island of Iwo Jima, where he laid a wreath at the memorial on Mount Suribachi.

He has been previously honored by the Marine Corps on three different occasions. He is the 1994 recipient of the Marine Corps University's Chapman Medallion, honoring his efforts to enhance professional military education in our Corps. He is a 2001 recipient of the Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award, honoring his leadership and support of the United States Marine Corps. He is an honorary graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

I spoke earlier of the three almost spiritual things that embody a U.S. Marine: love of country, willingness to sacrifice, commitment to something larger than themselves. Ladies and gentlemen, Ike Skelton has all three of these characteristics in spades. Thus it is fitting and appropriate that we recognize him for his unyielding support and devotion to corps and country.

Chairman, today you join your father, who was a Navy man. You join your son Jim, who is an Army colonel, and your son Ike, who is a Navy captain. And as a proud member of the U.S. military, you join them today in the ranks. And now, sir, you have true family bragging rights on all of them because you're about to become a member of the world's finest fighting force.

In the 235-year history of the United States Marine Corps, only 73 other Americans have been awarded the title honorary Marine. It was established to reinforce the special bond between Marines and the American people. Finally, it was established in recognition of individuals who have distinguished themselves through noteworthy service to Corps and country.

Chairman, in honor of all that you stand for, in honor of all that you have accomplished, and in honor of all that you have done for the United States of America and its Marine Corps, you are, without question, deserving of the title of United States Marine. Chairman, will you please join me up front?

CITATION

To all who shall see these presents greetings, know ye that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, fidelity and abilities of the Honorable Ike Skelton, I do appoint him an honorary Marine of the United States Marine Corps for his unyielding support and devotion to Corps and country. In testimony thereof, I, General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, have hereunto inscribed my name. Done in the city of Washington, this first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and in the 235th year of the independence of the United States of America.

You have plenty of things hanging in your office, and I'd appreciate it if you'd take [one of] them down [to make room for this citation]. But this is your certificate of being a United States Marine. Chairman, you are loved by those 202,000 Marines that are on active duty and the hundreds of thousands that have had your fingerprints on them over the last many years that you've been not only a U.S. Congressman, but, in particular, the Chairman.

Sir, you have loved your Marines. You have loved our men and women. And we are very, very grateful for all that you have done for us. It is our pleasure and our honor to make you a United States Marine.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF LAPEER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIRMAN DAVID TAYLOR

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the dedicated public service of Lapeer County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Taylor. On December 31, 2010, David will retire after 14 years as a Member of the Board. He has been Chairman since 1999, leading Lapeer County for over an entire decade. Despite the various challenges and economic difficulties across the State of Michigan, Chairman Taylor has remained resilient and has kept the county on the right path—always working to serve the best interests of the people he has had the privilege to represent.

David's decision to run for County Commissioner came in 1997. But before this, he brought with him a unique background and perspective to help in his new role as leader of the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Taylor was born in Pontiac; he worked on his family farm in Dryden. Later, he was employed for 30 years at the General Motors Pontiac Truck Plant. He then moved on to Metamora Township and served as the Zoning Administrator and was a delivery man for Champion Bus and Truck.

During his time as an elected official, Mr. Taylor has filled numerous committee spots and other posts to help move Lapeer County forward and to create a brighter future for the next generation to follow. He has been a shining example of strong leadership and has provided solid vision for Lapeer County.

It has been my privilege to work with him on a vast array of issues that are vital to Lapeer County during my role as a federal legislator. David has been a tremendous partner, friend and asset to my office. He is always looking to improve the quality of life for all residents and discovering new ways to make Lapeer County a wonderful place to live, raise a family and work.

I commend Chairman Taylor for all his efforts and personal sacrifice during his tenure on the Board. I know David will always have Lapeer County's best interests at heart which is evident by his charity work. We fully know and understand that we are not doing our job if we do not provide a better future for our children . . . and their children. David's work with the Shriners International and their Motorcycle Drill Team is just one of the many examples of how Mr. Taylor is committed to his community and those who will eventually take the reins as leaders.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I want to extend my best wishes to David Taylor on this special occasion. He will be severely missed on the Board, but his presence will still be felt by those who continue to serve. I hope he enjoys doing the things he loves most like spending time with his family, hunting, snowmobiling, volunteering and traveling. His service to the citizens of Lapeer County, the State of Michigan and our Nation is officially recognized and greatly appreciated.

TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise to revise my remarks regarding the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

I request the record reflect that Ms. Tammy Fisher is from West Texas, not East Texas.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF BILLY G. SMITH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Billy G. Smith for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Billy G. has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Billy and I have worked together since my first campaign for Congress in 1984. In the Upper Cumberland, Billy emerged as a man who could get things done. After the election, he became my field representative for the area, and he has served my constituents there ever since. My younger staff members fondly say that Billy is old school, and, Madam Speaker, that's just fine by me. Billy is an old soul of the Upper Cumberland — a man who knows his neighbors, memorizes the best fishing holes, and earns his community's trust.

To say Billy has deep roots in the Upper Cumberland would be an understatement. As a boy, Billy helped his father work the farm with mules instead of a tractor. He served as Putnam County Sheriff in the 1970s and has worked as a police officer, a factory foreman, managed food and beverages for a hotel, opened a restaurant called Billy G's, and rented out a building complex. He knows everyone there is to know and is an institution unto himself.

In his 26 years as my field representative, Billy has helped thousands of constituents who have come to my office on the courthouse square in Cookeville. He has warmly received individuals, families and business owners looking for assistance with a federal agency. He has ensured countless people received the Social Security and veterans benefits they deserve. He has heard the concerns and touched the lives of many families in need of help, and he has always kept me informed of the needs of my constituents in Clay, Jackson, Putnam, Overton and Smith counties. Just this year, he found himself trying to help constituents who had lost property in the wake of damaging floods. He could easily sympathize; his own childhood home also was severely damaged in the storm, but Billy was still in the office ready to help anyone he could.

In all his time working for me and the residents of the Upper Cumberland, Billy has never taken a full vacation, so it may come as no shock to many that Billy has made plans to go into business for himself once again. Most folks who had such accomplished careers would already be well into retirement, but Billy