

Major General Larry Nicholson of the Marines. These leaders will fight for victory to protect American families by defeating terrorists overseas.

Even liberal Newsweek highlights the success of the surge in the March 8 edition with the title, "The Surge is Working" with the subtitle, "All Signs Point America's Way."

Though the Taliban is entrenched in Helmand province, its grip is slipping in the rest of Afghanistan. These developments undercut the common belief that America is doomed to fail. In fact, Afghanistan's demography, sociology, military situation, and politics all favor Obama's counterinsurgency strategy. If the Taliban can't gain popular support or silence, it can't win.

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was honored to open the House this morning during this most important Women's History Month.

Our Nation's foremothers stood up to injustice and, by changing the course of history, opened the doors of opportunity to all of America's daughters. It is our duty to recognize and honor their tireless efforts.

This past summer, our great Nation celebrated the 160th anniversary of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. This groundbreaking convention was dedicated to the key principle in the Declaration of Independence that we are all created equal.

From securing a woman's right to vote in 1920 to serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have come a long way.

In this Congress alone, we have much to celebrate: Speaker PELOSI is the first woman to lead this esteemed body, and Senator Clinton made "18 million cracks" in the Nation's highest glass ceiling as the first woman to run a formidable Presidential campaign.

Yet as we celebrate these important milestones and look back at all we have achieved since 1948, we know our journey toward true gender equality is not complete. We must continue to fight for equality this month. We honor the women who blazed the trail for all women.

GIVE NAVY SEALS MEDALS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, three of our tenacious Navy SEALs captured one of the worst terrorists in the world: Ahmed Hashim Abed.

In 2004, four Blackwater security guards were transporting supplies in Fallujah, Iraq. They were caught in an

ambush and murdered by those cowards in the desert. These Americans were set on fire, mutilated, dragged through the streets, and hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River.

Abed, the terrorist, was the mastermind behind the massacre of these Americans. But Navy SEALs McCabe, Keefe, and Huertas captured this outlaw. But now for some odd reason, they are being put on trial—the SEALs, not the terrorist.

The whiny terrorist later claimed he was punched in the stomach during his capture on the battlefield. It hurt his little terrorist feelings, it seems. Now the SEALs face a court martial.

Congress should commend the valiant actions of these Navy SEALs, and I have introduced a resolution to do just that. These SEALs should be given medals and sent out to bag another one.

And that's just the way it is.

CREATING JOBS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, during the 111th Congress, we have made great strides in creating jobs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was the largest middle class tax cut in history. One year ago, the economy that was declining by 6 percent is now expanding at about that rate because of this significant program.

The Recovery Act has already worked to save or create as many as 2 million jobs, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. In 1 year, the Recovery Act has provided \$120 billion in tax cuts for 95 percent of the working families as well as businesses across the country; loaned nearly \$20 billion to small businesses to expand and create jobs; and funded more than 12,500 transportation projects nationwide; kept teachers, police officers, and firefighters on the job; and accomplished much more.

IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Many of you may remember in the 1992 campaign for the Presidency, James Carville made famous the phrase "It's the economy, stupid," because they posted that sign on the campaign war room to remind the candidate and the staff that that was the number one issue the American people wanted focused on.

Well, you know, Mr. Carville ought to pull that signage back out and take it over to the White House and maybe take one down the hallway here to the Speaker's suite to remind the majority and the leadership that that is what the American people want us focused on. It is not a government takeover of health care; they want us to focus on the economy and creating jobs.

I don't know why that seems to be something that they don't want to do. The President said at the beginning of the year that he was going to pivot from health care and focus "like a laser" on jobs and the economy. And here we are now demanding that we put our full attention on the government takeover of health care by the end of next week.

You just want to remind them: It's the economy, stupid. Let's focus on it.

BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday I introduced a constitutional amendment bill to balance the Federal budget. I am proud that 36 of my colleagues have joined me in cosponsoring H.J. Res. 78, and I urge all Members of Congress who believe that government should live within a budget join me and my colleagues to pass this bill.

Balancing the budget is a simple concept that Alabama families follow every day. Without question, there are many steps that must be taken to improve our financial situation, but balancing the budget on a yearly basis is the only way to ensure that we don't repeat the mistakes of our past.

We know we can achieve this goal because we have done so in the past. From 1998 to 2001, our country achieved balanced budgets through adherence to PAYGO. Forty-nine States currently require an annual balanced budget. Passing a constitutional amendment is a long process but is absolutely necessary to ensure America remains strong for generations to come.

I urge the entire Congress to join me in this effort. I want to thank you for your support.

HONORING DAVID HAMES

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a noble and humble man lost in the devastating earthquake in Haiti. David Hames of Colorado Springs, Colorado, left an enduring legacy of selflessness and faith.

David lived a life completely devoted to his family and to his Savior, Jesus Christ. He and his beloved wife of 13 years, Renee, have been blessed with two beautiful adopted sons, Aidan and Zander, who will remember their father's unending love.

He blessed the world with his talent for filmmaking. This was embodied in his award-winning and innovative children's educational video series, "Cranium's Ark."

On January 11, David arrived in Haiti for Compassion International to tell the story of orphans and widows as he had throughout the world. After a day of shooting footage, he was in the

Hotel Montana when the earthquake hit. God took David home at the age of 40. His life was an amazing journey filled with passion and faithfulness, and his legacy will endure.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, just as we are about to reach the mountaintop of health care reform, just a few feet away, opponents of health care reform say, Start over. Well, you know, there are people in this country who do have to start over. The 1,800 people or 17 a day, 700,000 a year, who go into bankruptcy because of health care costs, they have to start over. They have to start rebuilding their lives all over again. And those 14,000 people every day who lose their health insurance, they have to start over as well. They have to start the search to find out how they can protect their family with affordable health insurance.

The only people who really get to start over are the insurance companies who, when people get very sick, say, We are going to start over with another customer because you are too expensive to care for.

No, we can't start over because, if we start over, life will be over for too many Americans.

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MEDIA GIVES DEMOCRATS' SIDE ON RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Senate's reconciliation procedure is designed for legislation to balance the budget. Now the administration wants to use reconciliation to force a health insurance scheme on the American people. The health care scheme under reconciliation means decisions made by the government behind closed doors against the wishes of the American people.

A recent New York Times article claimed that Republicans have used reconciliation in the past, but failed to acknowledge that it has never been used before to enact a massive partisan policy change like a \$1 trillion government health care mandate. And the national media have largely ignored the fact that many Democratic leaders, including the President, previously voiced strong opposition to reconciliation. In fact, the nonpartisan fact checkers at PolitiFact determined that the President's support of reconciliation is a "full flop" from his earlier comments opposing it.

The national media should give Americans the facts, not just present the Democrats' point of view.

ECONOMY AND JOB MARKET ON THE RISE

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

Ms. NORTON. We've had to come to this floor, Mr. Speaker, to speak about the folks who drove this economy into the ground and just how bad it was, but there is good news to raise the spirits of the American people coming from the Labor Department and from analysts. We know that the economy has turned around, but until the job market turned around nobody wanted to hear it; now analysts tell us so has the job market.

All expected unemployment numbers to ratchet up during February because of the bad weather, including crippling snowstorms. Instead, it stood steady—too high at over 9 percent, but it showed confidence in the economy that so many employers stopped laying off people and kept people on. The biggest losses were where you might have expected, in construction, because of all the bad weather and the snowstorms.

The best sign that employers are feeling more confident is that they are getting their feet wet with many new temporary employees brought on, which is always the first sign that they are ready to bring on people full time and permanently, and the best sign may be the 2.7 million job openings. Now we have a mismatch. Thank goodness for the stimulus that went to community colleges to help us cure that mismatch.

CALLING ON PRESIDENT OBAMA TO REVERSE STEM CELL RESEARCH EXECUTIVE ORDER

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a solemn occasion.

One year ago, President Obama issued an Executive order allowing for taxpayer dollars to incentivize the destruction of human life through the use of embryonic stem cells. As a physician, a father, and a grandfather, I know that all human life is precious and begins at the moment of conception, and it is paramount that we continue to seek better medical treatments and cures for diseases. Yet I also believe that our research and decisions must be life affirming.

Lives can be saved through techniques creating embryonic-like cells from adult cells, making it unnecessary to destroy embryos. Over 73 different diseases so far have been treated with adult or cord blood stem cells, including type 1 diabetes and heart disease.

I call upon the President to reverse this order and acknowledge that research that is both morally controversial and out of date does not need to be subsidized by the American taxpayer.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND SILVIA ICHAR

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Women's History Month and to honor a small business owner from Orange County, Silvia Ichar, publisher of Para Todos magazine.

Silvia exemplifies the principles of this month through her magazine, which showcases the women of the arts, business, community service, and politics. As a small business advocate and entrepreneur, she has demonstrated leadership in communicating the importance of women-owned and minority-owned businesses, in particular in the growing Hispanic business sector.

She has received numerous business awards, including the Small Business Administration's award of 2009 for Small Business Journalist of the Year. She has also served as a board member for various Hispanic business organizations, including the California and the Orange County Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, the Latin Business Association, and the National Latina Business Women Association. I am very proud of Silvia's achievement and her small business advocacy.

LET'S PASS HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Obama spoke about health care. He said, If not now, when? And if not us, who? President Obama was correct. He knew that the duty and the obligations of this House are to pass momentous legislation to help the American people. It's engraved above the Speaker's rostrum in words from Daniel Webster, Let us gather all resources and do something worthwhile and momentous and great while we are here with the resources of this country, something to be remembered.

Health care has been on the American agenda for 100 years, starting with Teddy Roosevelt in 1912. It went through Harry Truman, through Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, and today Barack Obama. We are here to fulfill Ted Kennedy's dream and the work of many Congresses and the American people.

I have had several constituents come to me and tell me of serious, serious illnesses they've had, that they would have gone broke if they didn't have insurance. And if they didn't have insurance and their cancer surgeries weren't covered, we would pay for it in the tax we pay that we don't know about of \$1,000 per person for uncompensated care.

Let's do something worthwhile. Let's pass health care.