

of over 20,000 Poles killed in the Soviet Union in the Katyn Forest in 1940. He was traveling with the Polish President to mark the 70th anniversary of the massacre.

I join with Chicago's vibrant Polish American community and with Poland's friends around the world in mourning the loss of the 96 men and women who lost their lives on Saturday.

CONSTELLATION FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2011 recommends canceling NASA's Constellation Space Program. In agreement with Neil Armstrong, I am very concerned this proposal will leave our Nation with no means of transporting our astronauts to and from the International Space Station and could set the U.S. space program back decades.

To this day, we enjoy countless practical benefits from Apollo technology in things that affect our everyday lives, such as improved weather forecasting, which is vitally important to those of us who live in Louisiana and on the gulf coast.

The Michoud Assembly Facility in my district was slated to build components of the Constellation Program. Michoud now faces the prospect of losing thousands of high-skilled jobs. This world-class manufacturing facility has been used to build the Saturn rockets for Apollo and the main fuel tanks for the Space Shuttle, among other notable achievements. If the President's proposal is adopted, we will lose all that experience and manufacturing know-how, along with 9 billion tax dollars already spent developing the Constellation Program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask Members to please heed the gavel.

AMERICANS AND THEIR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment gives the American people the right to petition the Congress for redress of grievances and to express freedom of speech.

Several weeks ago, the chairman of the committee that I serve as a ranking member on, Energy and Commerce, Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, sent a letter to several U.S. corporations for having the temerity to express their dis-

pleasure with the health care bill and to inform their employees and stockholders of the consequences of that piece of legislation. He has opened an investigation into those companies, and we have a hearing next week.

Two days ago, Chairman WAXMAN sent a letter to the American Farm Bureau, opening an investigation into their activities expressing their displeasure with the EPA endangerment finding and the pending cap and trade legislation in the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned when one of the premier committee chairmen of our great House of Representatives appears to be using his power to intimidate Americans from expressing their First Amendment rights to petition the Congress for redress of grievances. I think that's a sad state of affairs, and I think that is something that maybe should be investigated.

TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

(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, since coming to Congress, I have kept my promise to provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses in my district; and I am proud to report that on Tax Day millions of Americans will pay less in taxes and keep more of their hard-earned money in their own pockets, where it belongs.

In the past year, Congress has enacted over \$800 billion in tax cuts, including the largest package of tax cuts in history in the Recovery Act, leading Reagan's adviser Bruce Bartlett to say that Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President.

A recent report by Citizens for Tax Justice has found that, for 2009, 98 percent of working families and individuals in Nevada benefited from at least one of the tax cuts in the Recovery Act, saving an average of \$841. For folks in my district struggling to make ends meet, \$841 could be a mortgage payment that helps them avoid foreclosure and could make a real difference in their lives.

□ 1030

INTERNET GAMBLING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, every day, dozens of Web sites entice Web surfers to bet online with free software offers. Online poker sites advertise openly on TV. Stores carry books on how to get rich by gambling online. The only problem is that online gambling is illegal. That is why Congress passed the

unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, to provide the necessary tools and mechanisms to effectively enforce the law.

This year, Americans will send billions of dollars to offshore, unregulated, online casinos. The Justice Department has warned that many of these sites are fronts for money laundering, drug trafficking, and even terrorist financing.

At its core, the law is about protecting American families from addiction, bankruptcy, and crime. All you need is a computer, a credit card, and Internet access, and with that, players are able to play 24 hours a day from the privacy of their homes. Real lives, including those of minor children, are being affected by illegal online gambling, and it's time that this administration enforce the law on this issue.

TAX CUT FOR AMERICA AND THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I commend my colleagues and President Obama for working diligently to enact a variety of tax cuts totaling \$800 billion. These tax cuts are broad based and touch on many aspects of American life, from investing in small businesses, to buying a home, to sending your children to college, to buying a car.

I believe that tax cuts are helping American families and businesses across the country and injecting consumer demand into the economy and spurring business investment and job creation.

The Recovery Act provides immediate tax relief to 95 percent of American workers and their families. The Making Work Pay tax credit provides a tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and up to \$800 for couples filing jointly. This tax credit helps over 240,000 families in my congressional district.

In addition, the first-time home buyers tax credit was increased to \$8,000. An estimated 35,000 households in New Jersey have taken advantage of the tax credit. So I ask to keep America moving in the right direction.

FUNDING THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the President moves to Florida to salvage or to attempt to salvage a deteriorating political situation caused by accepting NASA Deputy Director Garver's poor decision to cancel Constellation.

Constellation consists at least of two parts: the Orion capsule for the astronauts designed to be 10 times safer

than the space shuttle, and the Aries rocket to send into space. But the alleged savings are more than offset by unintended consequences, because the industrial base that builds the rocket to put people towards the moon also builds the rockets to shoot down incoming missiles from North Korea, Iran, and other bad guys. And if you take the space component away, the defense side costs doubles, triples, maybe even more. And the Augustine report, which this administration is not following, noted this potential industrial-based problem, but NASA either refused to pay attention or chose to ignore the warning.

Regardless, the solution to escalating defense costs and to maintaining the dominance in space will be dependent upon fully funding the Constellation program. And, Mr. President, anything less than that is totally unacceptable.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, "Alice in Wonderland" is in American theaters now, but not even my fellow Kentuckian Johnny Depp could argue that down is up when we're talking about Federal taxes.

As you've heard this morning, even President Reagan's domestic policy adviser has said that taxes are considerably lower by every measure since President Obama became President.

This Congress has done an incredible job in lowering taxes for the American people. This year, the average refund for working families will be \$3,000, which is a 10 percent increase over last year. We are taking less and less out of the American working family's paycheck. In fact, the Federal taxes as a percentage of the national economy is at its lowest rate in nearly two generations.

No, only in a fantasy world like "Alice in Wonderland" could you claim that this Congress has not done a great job in lowering taxes for the American public, and we will continue to make sure that American families have the best standard of living we can possibly create.

DUBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention today to the DuBois Area Middle School and its outstanding level of excellence. It has been awarded, for the second time, the designation of the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch program.

The National Forum sponsors this program, and schools are chosen for the honor of achieving academic excel-

lence based on the rigorous 37 criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. They must be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

The school is one of 15 in the State and only 200 nationally ever to be honored as a School to Watch. It is the first school in the State to receive a redesignation for 2010 to 2013, and it first achieved the honor in 2007.

The National Forum looks at these schools as part of the effort to identify and learn from high-performing middle schools, and to have the Schools to Watch serve as resources for other schools. There are 18 States participating in the program.

To achieve this award, high-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their path towards excellence. They have a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decisionmaking.

And I want to congratulate Principal Mike Newman and the teachers, students, personnel, and parents that are responsible for this fine school.

LET'S PUT EVERY OPTION ON THE TABLE FOR BORDER SAFETY

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a trip to Arizona's border, and I thank the men and women at Customs and Border Protection for allowing me an inside look into their operations.

One the most striking things I saw is the toll that violence has taken on our border communities, and tensions are high. As the cartels become desperate to keep smuggling routes open, our border agents and their vehicles are hit with rocks, shot at, and assaulted on a nightly basis.

I am convinced that our border personnel need more equipment and manpower to prevent the violence and keep Americans safe. There is no silver bullet for fixing our border. A solution will require a comprehensive approach to security. We must put every option on the table, including the use of the National Guard.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush left this country with a \$1.3 trillion debt when President Obama came into office a year ago, and the economy was in free fall.

One of the things that was done over the course of the last year was to provide this country and working Americans with tax cuts across the board, \$800 billion in tax cuts, greatest tax cut for working Americans at any time in our history.

Now, the Republicans are complaining about everything under the sun, but they're not complaining about those tax cuts because they know they're real, whether it's earned income tax credits, college tax credits, accelerated depreciation for small businesses, net operating loss carryforwards all across the board. To this point, in Colorado, the average Coloradan receives \$1,096 in tax cuts this year above what they got before. That's to get this country back on track, not leave it in a financial disaster, as President Bush did.

We are moving in a new direction, and tax cuts are some of the things we're using to get this country back on track.

DON'T RETREAT FROM THE SPACE RACE

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama will be speaking this week at the Kennedy Space Center. And while the President's budget cancels the Constellation program, it also jeopardizes NASA's Michoud facility, which is the premiere manufacturing facility with the unique capabilities and skilled workforce that can't just be rebuilt again once it's wound down.

The United States should not retreat from the space race. It not only threatens our national security, but it also makes us beholden to foreign countries. In fact, just last week a Japanese newspaper said, "Once the leader in space development, the United States' space exploration policies are now drifting aimlessly." And they later went on to note that the clear winner from this retreat will be Russia.

Now, we should not cede our space exploration superiority to countries like Russia or anybody else. It jeopardizes our national security. It's a bad policy. The President needs to reconsider.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to travel around my southern Minnesota district talking to local business owners on the best ways to grow and revitalize our economy. Businesses, working families, including the Mayo Clinic centered in my district, talked about the improvements to the health care system was a good first step in moving that. They also explained to me that the policies on tax relief that you heard here help.

Now be very clear about this. If you think it's a game of he said, he said and back and forth and the pundits on TV can tell one way to think, this is a