

seniors get the care they need in the right setting.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER RULING

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, last week U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb ruled that the National Day of Prayer violates the first amendment to the Constitution despite decades of statute and tradition. This is another disappointing example of activist judges making decisions that fly in the face of the Constitution, violating congressional intent, and the values of our Founders. John Adams declared, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Every year on the first Thursday of May we gather as a people to pray and acknowledge our Nation's need and place before eternity. George Washington said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."

This ruling is not what our Founders intended and does a disservice to our history as a religious Nation. I call on Attorney General Eric Holder to appeal this ruling.

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. We need financial regulatory reform. In 2008, our country witnessed the failure of some of the biggest and most interconnected companies in our economy. Years of greed and irresponsible behavior allowed financial institutions to make casino bets with the money of hardworking American families.

Last year the Financial Services Committee and this Chamber passed a comprehensive set of reforms that will prevent these abuses from happening again. This reform finally put the American consumer over the bottom lines of banks. They will allow shareholders to have a say on the excessive bonuses that many executives receive regardless of performance, and they will end the problems of too big to fail.

The time has come for Members of both Chambers to stop making false accusations in return for political gains. Let's work together and pass financial regulatory reform. It's time for change.

THE CASE OF JAMIE LEIGH JONES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Jamie Leigh Jones was a 20-year-old and went to Iraq as a civilian contractor. Here is her story: after being in Iraq just a few days, she said she was drugged and gang raped by fellow employees. She was held hostage in a cargo container for 24 hours without food or water. She was assaulted so badly that later she had to have reconstructive surgery.

She convinced one of the people guarding her to let her borrow a cell phone. She called her dad. Her dad called my office in Texas. With the help of the State Department, we helped immediately to rescue her, and she was quickly brought back to America.

But no one has been held accountable for these crimes. The rape kit and the forensic evidence apparently were compromised by somebody in Iraq. During this Victims' Rights Week, we need to realize that when citizens go to a war zone and serve their country and a crime is committed against them, they should have justice.

People like Jamie Leigh Jones deserve the protection of our law. The long arm of the law should reach in lands far away to hold perpetrators accountable for assaulting fellow Americans in time of war because justice is what we do in this country.

And that's just the way it is.

WHOSE SIDE ARE WE ON?

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, all across northeast Wisconsin, everywhere I go people are asking me whose side am I on? Whose side are we on?

Isn't it time we finally began to work together to solve these complex problems, to help rebuild our country, to rebuild our jobs, bring these jobs back home where they belong instead of sending them overseas? Whose side are we really on?

Isn't it time we pursued each and every one of the crooks on Wall Street who took our money? People in Wisconsin want their money back. They want their jobs back. And they are going to be asking the question whose side are we on? Well, let's work together, rebuild our families, our communities, and make certain that any bank, any bank or any investment firm that is too big to fail ceases to exist. Let's break up the big banks on Wall Street.

IRAN'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Department of Defense released the Military Power Report on Iran. The report is designed to provide Congress and the White

House with an assessment of Iran's current military capabilities and the regime's future military strategy.

The report served as a stark reminder of the military and nuclear realities in the region. Sadly, it is incomplete because it lacked information about funding provided by Iran's military branches and also information about military doctrine. The information that the report does include confirms Iran's efforts to hide its nuclear infrastructure, their support of nuclear terrorist surrogates, and the terrifying investment in a missile that could hit America in less than 5 years.

Now is the time for the administration and Congress to put forward an effective strategy to deal with Iran. It is imperative that both parties work vigilantly with our allies around the world to ensure Iran does not continue down this dangerous road.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

Congratulations Columbia Mayor-Elect Steve Benjamin and Councilwoman Leona Plaugh, joining Tameika Isaac Devine and Sam Davis.

CONGRATULATING VILLA MARIA ACADEMY ON THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BASKETBALL

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the women of Villa Maria Academy from Erie, Pennsylvania, my hometown, for their extraordinary basketball team on their second straight PIAA Class AA State Basketball Championship.

On March 26, Villa Maria sealed their state championship after defeating York Catholic High School 52-44 at Penn State University. More than 2,000 people filled the stands as the Villa Maria Victors lived up to their name. The team was led by seniors Kayla McBride, Ashley Prischak, Kaylyn Maruca, Cara Wyant, Kelly Ek, and Erica Webber, who all helped secure Villa's back-to-back State championships. Coach Scott Dibble steered this great team to victory and finished the season with a 28-2 record.

As a Villa Maria alum and former basketball player, I am so proud to offer well-deserved congratulations to the Villa Victors on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives. I can't wait to see next year's three-peat.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENERAL MIKOLAJCIK

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend, General Thomas Mikolajcik, known to many of his

friends as General Mik, for his lasting commitment to our Nation's military and veterans.

After 27 years of active duty in the Air Force, General Mik returned to Charleston, where he served as chairman of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee. In 2005, he was diagnosed with ALS. At that time, the disease was not recognized as a service-connected disorder by the VA. Because of the high incidence rate among veterans, General Mik worked tirelessly with me, the entire VA Committee, and General Peake to change VA regulations to make ALS a presumptive disease. He also played an instrumental role in the establishment of the National ALS Registry.

Because of his valiant efforts, no veteran will ever have to fight for disability after they have been diagnosed with ALS. General Mik always put service to our country and his fellow countrymen first, and he will be greatly missed.

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, when I recently visited a restaurant in my rural district, a gentleman approached me to say that he was a Republican and had never voted for a Democrat, but he voted for President Obama. He stated his appreciation that the President was standing up to greed, that he was standing up to Wall Street and corporate America. He felt that corporate greed is among the greatest challenges facing our Nation, and he is absolutely correct.

The first day President Obama took office, the country was at the brink of economic ruin triggered by financial deregulation and banks that pursued reckless investments to produce quick profits. Wall Street was acting more like casinos than banks, taking big gambles, and when they lost, forcing the taxpayers to pay. They got rich, everyone else got squeezed.

Democrats have a solution. Wall Street doesn't like it, but we have a solution. We want transparency, we want accountability, and we will not stop until that happens.

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WE CAN DO BETTER

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning with a simple message: we can do better. Just look around.

What has been accomplished under the Democratic leadership? A takeover of our health care system, otherwise known as ObamaCare, which spends money we don't have, without lowering

the cost of health care. A cap-and-tax energy bill which would cost the average American family an additional \$3,000 annually for the energy. And, of course, the failed stimulus legislation costing \$861 billion that has yet to create a single non-government job, leaving our unemployment rate at an abysmal 9.7 percent.

Now the Senate is considering a permanent bailout for Wall Street, and the President's top economic adviser is pushing for a European-style value added tax on top of our current tax system.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better than they're currently getting, and House Republicans have a commonsense solution that will create jobs, lower the tax burden for American families, and stop spending money that we don't have.

HONORING EARTH DAY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate Earth Day. Since its inception following the tragic oil spill off Santa Barbara, Earth Day has become a call to action on behalf of the environment.

As one who represents this coastline, one of the most beautiful and sensitive areas in America, I know that every day is Earth Day. But the important thing about this year's celebration is that it marks a turning point for our Nation. Under Democratic leadership our country is finally poised to begin addressing our longstanding energy issues.

Through the Recovery Act, for example, we've launched a clean energy economy that's creating millions of jobs, reducing our dependence on dirty energy sources, and, through efficiencies, lowering energy costs for American families and businesses.

Now is the time to seize the unprecedented opportunity before us. The clean energy legislation we've passed in this Chamber will be the legacy we leave for our children and our grandchildren. To protect them and all who come after us, we must continue making these smart investments and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

STOP THE ENDLESS BAILOUTS

(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, beginning in the fall of 2008, Congress approved, and the Bush and Obama administrations began to hand out taxpayer money freely to banks and, eventually, auto companies, with little transparency and, in some cases, little hope that the money would be repaid.

Now, the Senate is set to consider legislation that will create a perma-

nent culture of bailouts on Wall Street. The legislation moves us away from sending failed companies into bankruptcy and toward government-managed bailouts. There would be a different set of rules for the largest firms, rules that create a perverse incentive for these companies to take risks, rules that encourage lower rates for the largest firms because of the implicit government guarantee. Ultimately, we would be creating a dozen new Fannies and Freddie's, not reforming a broken system of government oversight.

I think the American people have had enough of bailouts. The Dodd bill creates an endless cycle of failure where Wall Street bankers are the only ones who come out ahead. It should be stopped.

AN INJUSTICE TO AMERICAN WORKERS AND TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to speak against a significant injustice to both American workers and the American taxpayer, and that is the decision by the Air Force to extend the deadline for offering bids for the Air Force's new imperative tanker, which has allowed an illegally subsidized competitor, the EADS Company, which has now taken advantage of that, to the disadvantage of American workers and the disadvantage of American taxpayers. It is inconceivable to me that we have extended this deadline to allow a competitor to offer a bid that will be illegally subsidized by European governments.

If this travesty is allowed to happen, we could lose thousands of jobs. The taxpayers would have been suffering seeing these illegal subsidies, and a great injustice will have been perpetrated.

This cannot stand. We should continue to fight this grave injustice.

RESTORING U.S. COMPETITIVENESS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, our country is on an unsustainable path with trillion-dollar deficits annually, continued massive government spending, and an atmosphere of uncertainty as President Obama and congressional Democrats have enacted \$760 million in gross new tax increases since 2009, with more tax increases planned. It's no wonder that unemployment remains stubbornly high and economic growth is sluggish. These policies are a threat to U.S. competitiveness.

We need a commonsense policy to promote growth. We need to cut government spending and adhere to a balanced budget. We need to increase U.S.