

operational risk and the potential for grounding of the entire fleet if a glitch is found. The F-136 prevents this troubling scenario.

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

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT

(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 the House will consider the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. This legislation is another step in our efforts to create jobs and keep our economic recovery on track. The bill will help communities build schools, roads, and other important infrastructure projects putting people to work now.

In my district, we will see benefits in places like Los Osos and El Rio, which have long been in need of sewer systems. The Build America Bonds program extended in the bill will help advance clean energy efforts like geothermal power projects that will provide electricity for Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is still in very rough shape, a result of the reckless actions on Wall Street and little to no oversight by the previous administration. But we are making progress.

Last month, the economy created nearly 300,000 new jobs, a stark turnaround from the 700,000 jobs being lost at the end of the Bush administration. This change comes in large part because of the tough, smart choices we have made to cut taxes and invest in our people. The legislation coming up this week is another of these efforts to keep us on the road to full recovery.

I hope all my colleagues will help support this bill and help build a stronger America.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST GRANT WICHMANN, U.S. ARMY

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroes from Colorado who have fought and continue to fight in the global war on terror. Today, I rise to pay tribute to one hero in particular: United States Army Specialist Grant Wichmann of Golden, Colorado.

Specialist Grant Wichmann graduated from Golden High School, where he was an athlete, avid soccer player, and a snowboarder. Although one of his friends had been killed serving in Iraq, at the age of 24 he enlisted in the United States Army. When his father tried to talk him out of enlisting, Specialist Grant Wichmann said he could not sit by while others die protecting him. This is a true indication of the

kind of courage Grant Wichmann possessed.

On March 12, 2010, while assigned to combat outpost Bari Alai, Afghanistan, Specialist Grant Wichmann's unit was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. During the engagement, Specialist Grant Wichmann was gravely wounded and ultimately succumbed to his injuries while at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Specialist Grant Wichmann is a shining example of the United States Army service and sacrifice. As a former member of the United States Army and as a retired Marine Corps Reserve officer, my deepest sympathies go out to his family and all who knew him.

DEFENSE REAUTHORIZATION BILL

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

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen, we will soon bring to the floor a defense authorization bill that invests in our most important security needs: disrupting terrorists networks, countering nuclear proliferation, strengthening international cooperation to defeat the Taliban, preparing the Iraqi Government to stand on its own, and investing in the needs of our troops and their families.

This bill builds on Democrats' strong defense record. Under President Obama, we have killed or captured some of the highest ranking leaders in al Qaeda—many more than we did under the last administration—and the Taliban; laid out a clear way forward in Afghanistan; disrupted terrorism with the full resources of our intelligence community and justice system; and increased funding for human intelligence collection, cybersecurity, and security for our skies, our ports, and our borders.

This bill offers us a chance to improve on the flawed record of the Bush administration, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CONGRESS' FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, across the country, countless families and small business owners are making the tough decisions needed to weather this difficult economy. Many may have hoped to put off for another day the choices they were forced to make, but the American people realize the path to renewing our economic prosperity comes through courage and sacrifice. They also realize the difficult work must start today.

It is a dereliction of public duty for this Congress to deliberately fail to pass a budget. More than a year ago, the American people ignited a national

debate about the future they see for the country. They have demanded that Washington get spending under control and spend taxpayer money wisely. It is shameful that here in the people's House, the Democrat majority's avoiding that same debate. We are failing our children by failing to produce a budget. It is time to get our priorities straight and our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, let's join this debate taking place around the country and begin to make the tough choices the American people expect from their leaders.

“YOU CUT” OR “CUT YOU”?

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if you tuned in to last week's episode of YouCut, then you may recall that Republicans resorted to a legislative trick in an attempt to cut much needed funding from the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program. This cut would have been another break for the rich at the expense of the poor instead of providing financial support, job training, and child care subsidies to lower-income families with children. Fortunately, this measure was defeated.

This week, Republicans seek to stall the important business of the House yet again with a new list of proposed cuts.

While the YouCut program has been touted by Republicans as a partnership with the American people, a more fitting name for the program would be “CutYou,” because it can hurt everyday Americans while doing little to cut the Federal deficit.

What Republicans fail to mention is that the YouCut program is inherently selective and, therefore, biased. Neither online nor cell phone voters are able to vote to save a program rather than cut it. Further, the YouCut program conveniently targets only those who have Internet access and cell phones, which disproportionately leaves out both the poor and the elderly.

I will talk a little bit more about “CutYou” later on this evening.

COMMENTS ABOUT SPENDING

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, folks in America's First District have a lot to say about spending, the debt, and the deficit, and I'd like to share their comments.

Chris from Warrenton says, Please cut Federal spending. This issue can't be put off any longer. It's not time for us to be able to afford these fancy Federal programs, and we have to get on the track of reducing spending now.

The American people get it. Dealing with the debt and deficit should be a top priority. Cut spending. No one has ever spent their way out of debt.

Elizabeth from Williamsburg says, Fix the budget. Stop spending what we don't have.

Scott from Yorktown says, The U.S. taxpayers are on the hook for billions. Anyone with sense knows that a debt crisis cannot be solved with more debt.

John from Quantico says, Please cut Federal spending. Congress is spending and borrowing too much. This must end. You must balance your books, and you must do so by cutting spending, not increasing taxes.

Frank from Stafford simply says, Stop the spending.

Diane from Williamsburg says, The national budget is way out of control. Citizens everywhere are so concerned about this that something has to be done right away.

Raymond from Warrenton says, I am deeply concerned that our Nation is falling hopelessly into debt. I urge you to promote reduction in spending. Keep taxes low to motivate business and people to spend, not the government.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge us to adopt a budget.

□ 1230

IN RECOGNITION OF MAGGIE FAZENBAKER AND HER COMMITMENT TO OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary individual who has been a relentless supporter of our troops. For over 5 years, Maggie Fazenbaker of Alamogordo, New Mexico, has been stuffing care packages to be sent to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Now the simple act of stuffing care packages for servicemembers is honorable enough, but there are a couple of extra twists when we look at Maggie's story. You see, Maggie is only 17 years-old. Also, on May 14, Maggie and her corps of loyal volunteers stuffed hundreds more packages, bringing the total number of care packages that Maggie has sent to 10,000.

The care packages Maggie sends to our troops give them a small amount of comfort as they pursue their dangerous and important missions. We owe our troops great effort for even small comforts. Thank you, Maggie.

God bless.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, one of the most difficult challenges facing our Nation's future is providing

clean, affordable, and reliable energy. Rural America has tremendous wind potential. Unfortunately, these wind energy sources lack infrastructure, including the expansion of transmission systems to deliver wind power from its sources to centers of population.

We need to have the ability to create energy in one part of the country and use it in another without significant loss in either efficiency or usability. My friends, we need to continue to explore any and all viable forms of research and development in renewable energy.

On Thursday, Members of Congress will have the chance to see what the future may hold for our Nation's energy resources at the 13th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. There are still hurdles to overcome, and now is the time to begin working for a strong and diverse renewable energy portfolio.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn into office in January of last year, our economy was on the verge of collapse. Thanks to decisive action in Congress, our economy is turning around. We have created half a million jobs so far in 2010. Our country is on track to create more jobs this year than we created in the entire eight years of the Bush administration.

In western Pennsylvania, our strong work ethic is driving our recovery. Companies like Talisman Energy and Kold-Draft Industries are creating new jobs in my district because western Pennsylvania is a good place to do business. Things are improving, but we still have a long way to go. We must continue to invest in American businesses and the American people.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together so we can help create jobs, support our businesses, and further our recovery.

LET'S GET TO WORK AND PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, the American people vividly remember the contortions this Chamber went through to find the votes needed to pass cap-and-tax. We remember the arm twisting and backroom deals that secured the votes for the government takeover of health care. When it comes to the policies the American people oppose, this House has always found the votes.

Yet, apparently, when it comes to passing a budget, something every family and small business must do, the majority just can't find enough votes to get it done.

With almost \$13 trillion in debt, and record deficits adding more every minute, is this majority so desperate to avoid facing the tough decisions that they are going to scrap the budget all together? Talk about burying your head in the sand.

We are here to do a job, and passing a budget is a big part of that job. Let's get to work.

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, you know, the Army Corps of Engineers had a saying during World War II: "The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little longer."

In 1993, President Clinton tried to do the impossible by lifting the decades-long ban on gay and lesbian soldiers serving openly in the military. Unfortunately, Congress opposed him, and the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell law was passed.

Since then, over 13,500 servicemembers have been fired and countless other courageous and qualified Americans have been prevented from serving. Well, it's been 17 long and painful years since we tried to do the impossible.

Congress now has the chance to end this injustice. The President agrees, the military agrees, the American people agree. Let's honor our Nation's over 1 million gay veterans this Memorial Day. This week, let's lift the ban on gays serving openly once and for all.

LEGAL RELIEF FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear that Petty Officer Second Class Matthew McCabe was acquitted of all charges against him in relation to the capture and detention of Ahmed Hashim Abed, a conspirator in the 2004 murder of four U.S. contractors in Fallujah.

Mr. McCabe can now rejoin his shipmates, Petty Officer Julio Huertas and Petty Officer Jonathan Keefe, who were both acquitted of all charges as well, with the juries reaching the same verdicts.

While these have been acquitted, what is left behind is significant legal debt. All three men sought civilian counsel. Based on the results of these trials, I can understand their decision. Up against the United States Government in court, the soldiers faced prosecution with unlimited resources.

Today I am introducing the Service Member Legal Relief Act, which reimburses soldiers who seek the best defense available and are subsequently acquitted, or the charges dropped, in cases relating to the handling of terrorists. Our warfighters face great personal risk every day on the front lines