

MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE TO MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent MacDill Air Force Base back home in Tampa, Florida, where the mission partners include the 6th Air Mobility Wing, Special Operations Command, and Central Command. Now, the Democrats will bring the defense bill to the floor of the House this week to provide them with the tools they need to be successful in their missions.

The defense bill will follow a strong commitment by this Congress under Democratic leadership to our military families and our military personnel:

One, robust pay raises for our military over the past 3 years.

Two, the new GI Bill, where Democrats restored the promise to these brave men and women who have served this country in Iraq and Afghanistan for a full 4-year scholarship.

Jobs for veterans. The Recovery Act provided tax incentives to businesses who are sending soldiers off to war.

And a historic veterans budget that the American Legion hailed as a "cause for celebration" because Democrats led a bipartisan effort to adopt the largest funding increase in veterans health care and other services in the history of the VA.

"BUDGET WOES? JUST DON'T PASS ONE"

(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, the headline in the Los Angeles Times read, "Budget Woes? Just don't pass one." Now that's a novel idea.

There must be all kinds of problems that Congress can ignore. I think that we can apply it to a number of things that are happening right now: Oil spill woes? Think about it tomorrow. Fannie and Freddie problems? Maybe a solution next year. Entitlement spending out of control? Just don't think about it. It's too bad our constituents don't have the same luxury of ignoring their budgets.

The national debt currently is \$12.36 trillion. The President's budget calls for \$3.8 trillion in Federal spending, which will put the deficit at \$1.6 trillion. These are numbers the majority wants to keep quiet. In my mind, it would behoove the majority to take a look at the spending and take an honest look at how to get it under control. Instead, the President has asked for the power of the line-item veto. It would seem to me that we could do a good job with a red pencil if the majority would allow it. But that would be real work right now, and apparently we don't do that.

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING LOOPHOLE ACT

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

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, in central Ohio the economy is growing stronger, but we must continue to create an environment that encourages prosperity. The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act will do just that; it will close loopholes that give outsourcing a benefit and will provide jobs and tax relief for businesses and working families.

For too long unscrupulous corporations have outsourced American jobs, sending them overseas, sticking American taxpayers with the bill. It's time to close that tax loophole that encourages that behavior and demand accountability.

This bill also will close another tax loophole and make Wall Street fund managers pay a fair tax rate on their income, just like my central Ohio constituents do. It will make the oil companies pay for the gulf oil cleanup, not American taxpayers. And it will rebuild our crumbling infrastructure with Build America bonds. Also giving our students summer jobs, promoting research and development with a research and development tax credit.

H.R. 4223, the American Jobs and Closing Loophole Act, is deserving of our support. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

WE NEED A CONGRESS AMERICANS CAN COUNT ON

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, we were told that Don't Ask, Don't Tell was something we would take up once we had a study done because that's the only thing that would be fair to our men and women in the service. Now we're told the study will be finished at the end of the year; we're going to take up the bill now.

We were told by the Supreme Court it was okay to have a cross in the Mojave Desert, but thieves went out there, took it out after they lost, and now the Park Service is working with the thieves, perhaps unwittingly, to keep it from happening.

The Auto Task Force met behind closed doors, turned bankruptcy law upside down, made secured creditors unsecured, owned the place, took property without due process, turned the Constitution upside down. The Congress and the courts did nothing. No wonder employment is going down and unemployment is going up; businesses can't trust this government. It is time to get back to a body that deals honestly, with integrity and with a consistency the country and businesses and jobs can count on.

JOBS ARE PRIORITY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of continued support for jobs for Americans.

When America faced massive unemployment in the 1930s, our government stepped up with the WPA and the CCC. It's time to continue that drive, as the Democratic Congress has been doing without much help from our Republican colleagues.

The fact is that local governments have been hardest hit in the area of job cuts. Local governments have lost over 140,000 jobs in 2008 and 2009, and the number keeps growing. Another 53,000 jobs will be lost by July 1 if we don't act. Another 128,000 will be lost by fiscal year 2011 if we don't act.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking our colleagues to step forward for people who need to do work. This summer we are looking at young people not having enough jobs, and we need this Congress to act. We've seen job creation, we've seen job growth, we've seen 290,000 jobs created last month; but this drive needs to stay alive. The Democratic Caucus is committed to it. We hope our Republican colleagues join us, but jobs must continue to be the first order of business.

DEMOCRAT BUDGET FAILURE

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, the stock market, this very minute, is dropping like a rock over the financial collapse of Greece and the pending failure of other Euro nations. They are bankrupt from unsustainable government spending under the same programs the Democrats in this body are now forcing on America.

With an overwhelming majority in the House and Senate and a Democrat in the White House, they can't even pass a budget. Heck, they're not even proposing one. Mr. Speaker, the House majority has proven it can't govern; and if we don't make a change, America will join Greece in national bankruptcy.

RESTORING FINANCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk in Congress about restoring financial security for the American people. This week everyone in this body has a chance to turn their words into action. This week, we will have the opportunity to vote to preserve access to doctors for millions of Americans enrolled in Medicare.

No senior in Florida's 19th District or anywhere in America should see the

door to their doctor's office slammed shut as a result of ill-advised cuts in Medicare reimbursements. Likewise, no veteran should have to worry that their TRICARE benefits no longer enable them to see a physician that they trust.

So many doctors in south Florida do everything they can to serve Medicare beneficiaries and America's veterans. This legislation will stop a 21 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement rates so that the doctors in our community can continue to do their important work.

Our seniors deserve access to more than simply Medicare; they deserve access to doctors. Let's show our doctors and the seniors and the veterans who rely upon them the respect that they rightly deserve, and let's continue to help restore financial security to the American people.

TRILLION DOLLAR WEEK IN D.C.

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I saw a headline yesterday that said it's going to be another trillion dollar week in Washington, DC. We are going to spend nearly \$1 trillion this week in Washington, and you know what? We don't even have a budget. There's another problem: we don't have \$1 trillion either.

So now what are we going to do? Well, we're going to go out and borrow some more money from the Chinese and other people. Remember the old days when you used to go to your parents and ask them if they could get a loan? Now we go to our children and ask them if they will pay back our loans.

We hear a lot of talk in this town about cutting expenses, cutting the budget. Well, it would be nice to cut a budget if we had one, but we don't. And how does the majority think that they can run this country or lead this Nation when they don't even have a budget? We don't even know what the deficit is going to be, but we hear it's going to be \$1.8 trillion. And by the way, a trillion, that's 12 zeros, in case anyone wants to know. In fact, Mr. SPRATT said, who is the chairman of the Budget Committee who is supposed to bring us a budget, If you can't bring a budget, you can't govern. So we ask the question now, can this Democratic majority govern?

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I represent the 10th Mountain Division, which is located at Fort Drum in my district, and I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who are serving both home and a broad

to prevent future terrorist attacks against our homeland.

After 8 years of failing to identify a clear plan in Afghanistan and provide the resources necessary for our troops to succeed, we are now taking the fight against the terrorists to their own turf, and we have them on the run. Democrats have worked with this President to successfully kill and capture hundreds of al Qaeda and Taliban leaders in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Last week, a suicide bombing attack on a convoy in Kabul reminded us of the brave sacrifice the men and women on the front lines of this fight are making. Two officers from the 10th Mountain Division, both lieutenant colonels, were among those killed. Lieutenant Colonel Paul R. Bartz and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas P. Belkofer were part of a team that was conducting training and setting conditions for the 10th Mountain Division deployments to Afghanistan later this year. This is a heartbreaking loss for the Fort Drum community, and our hearts go out to their families.

AVOIDING CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the failure of this House to pass a budget at a time of unprecedented deficit spending speaks volumes of the House majority. In order to resolve a crisis, you must first be willing to face it; and if you can't face the problem, you can't deal with it. That is what the budget process is, the painful but necessary assessment of our financial affairs. Without it, there can't even be a theoretical solution.

I've seen this before in California. As left-wing majorities took control of our financial affairs and boosted spending at a reckless pace, we watched the orderly budget process disintegrate into a mere sham. Unable and unwilling to face up to the consequences of their out-of-control spending, they simply abandoned the budget process. Ultimately, they brought the most prosperous State in our Nation to the brink of bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, California is an example to be avoided, not imitated.

DEMOCRATS ARE COMMITTED TO GET THIS COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, it always amuses me to listen to my Republican colleagues talk about the economy. They talk about smaller government, they talk about lower taxes, they talk about cutting spending. I call this "bumper strip economics." And we've seen what bumper strip economics means. It was called the Bush administration, and that led us to the

worst recession that we faced in this country since the 1930s.

In Kentucky, we've seen what bumper strips actually mean. When Senate candidate Rand Paul says, Smaller government means not just don't hold oil companies accountable, let's not hold mining companies accountable for 29 deaths, let's not even let the government enforce basic civil rights, no, the country needs more than bumper strip economics and slogan politics. We need policies that are actually going to get this country moving again, and that's what Democrats in Congress are committed to providing.

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NEW DRILLING MORATORIUM

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to adopt an ironclad moratorium on all new drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recent reports are saying 17 new permits have been granted since the explosion in the gulf. It is also shocking to find out 19 environmental waivers have been issued since then. Over 6 million gallons have now poured into the gulf, and every day, it continues—250,000 gallons-plus a day.

The Washington Post reported today that the Minerals Management Service officials get paid a cash bonus when they close these deals with the big oil companies. They're not working for the American people. They've got a pay plan. They're working for the oil companies.

We need to halt all permits for oil, new and otherwise, until we cap this well.

FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, as financial reform takes shape, we must ask: Do Wall Street banks serve America or themselves? In these last years, we've seen the answer, and it is no surprise. Wall Street serves Wall Street. It could care less about the lives they ruin while seeking profits and bonuses.

The Bush administration allowed Wall Street banks to chase profit by building their growth on a weak foundation of risky debt. Their scheme collapsed. They held America's savings hostage. Congress could not afford to let them fail, so they couldn't lose. Of course, they didn't. America lost.

The International Monetary Fund estimates these gambles have destroyed nearly \$3 trillion of economic value. Recently, economists have estimated the entire cost of World War II to be, roughly, the same. In other words, Wall Street banks devised a way to make billions in profits and bonuses while wiping out the savings of millions of Americans.