

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TAXING BANK BONUSES

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, I introduced H.R. 4414, a bill that imposes a 75 percent tax on the outside bonuses bankers are paying themselves from windfall profits earned from massive Federal Government support.

This bill is necessary because bankers are about to pay out some of the largest bonuses in history. All banking corporations, whether they received direct assistance or not, received substantial benefits from government bailouts. Bankers' failures to self-regulate, let us remember, were the direct result of the crisis we're in today. They need to be told that the money they're making is a public trust, not something they've earned for good behavior.

Bank profits are the result of a deliberate Federal Government policy to restore banking capital and ultimately investment in American prosperity. Banking bonuses have nothing to do with these objectives, and payouts to bankers are a form of appropriation of public wealth.

Banks could be using their profits to do many things to improve the prospects of economic recovery, including strengthening their capital base, recognizing and writing off their real estate losses, reducing fees charged to customers, especially for seniors and struggling consumers, and increasing lending to small and medium-sized companies.

Support H.R. 1414.

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(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. In South Carolina last week, I met with people making a difference promoting jobs by visiting the OneStop employment centers across the district. I visited the directors and staff, desk to desk, in Columbia, Lexington, Aiken, Barnwell, Orangeburg, Hampton, Ridgeland, and Beaufort. I want to thank the energetic, optimistic, and talented employees and commissioners of the Employment Security Commission for their dedication to helping put people back to work.

Another economic development is being announced for South Carolina today. The Estill Correctional Facility is adding 50 more jobs with a biomass contract with Ameresco. We welcome the recent economic commitments to our State from Four Star Industries,

Boeing, DHL, Scotsman Ice, Dixie Narco, Ameresco at SRS, and now Estill Correctional Facility. The combination of low taxes, worker training, right-to-work protections, and less regulatory redtape is a sound recipe to attract business. This commonsense approach should be applied at the national level.

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

HONORING BOBBY SALCEDO

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

Ms. CHU. I rise today to speak of a shocking murder and a tragic loss to my California district. On New Year's eve, Bobby Salcedo was in a restaurant with family and friends in Durango, Mexico when gunmen burst in, took six of the men away, and shot each one to death execution style. Bobby was only 33 years old.

With Bobby, they murdered an exemplary U.S. citizen. He was an elected member of the El Monte City School District Board. He returned to his alma mater, Mountain View High School, to become its assistant principal. He was studying for his doctorate in education at UCLA. He dedicated his life to helping youth and was a rising star in our community.

Bobby's death shows that the violence done by Mexican drug cartels is not in some faraway land; its tentacles affect us in the U.S. all too closely. For the sake of Bobby Salcedo, we must end the violence of the Mexican drug cartels. My heart goes out to the family.

THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, the New Orleans Saints are having a historic season. This success has benefited our city tremendously. And with their first playoff game kicking off this Saturday, I wanted to give constituents a chance to honor them. Today's statement is from Jewelyn Wellborn.

Jewelyn writes: "The reason we are proud of the Saints, the reason we rally behind them, has less to do with the scoreboard and more to do with the heart, soul, and fire of the city. Your average New Orleanian is characterized by different concepts that seem so opposite of one another. There are those who have always called New Orleans home and some who came for only a few years and fell in love.

"Watching the Saints helps us escape from rebuilding, yet reminds us of why we came home. The Saints are an exact reflection of us, our city, our home, and that's why the Saints are my home team."

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, the American people continue to struggle in this difficult economy. One of the counties in my North Carolina district is now suffering with the State's highest unemployment rate. Yes, people are hurting and need to be put back to work. The transformation of our Nation's health care system represents an enormous opportunity to create jobs and fuel economic growth.

Each year, our health care reform plan will create 250,000 to 400,000 jobs. These reforms will also allow small business to add an estimated 80,000 jobs. Without these reforms, the health care premiums paid by businesses in coming years will more than double. Money needlessly spent on health care premiums by small businesses is really needed to hire workers, increase salaries, and refuel the economy.

Madam Speaker, Americans cannot afford the status quo. Doing nothing is not an option. I urge my colleagues to join us in improving the health care delivery system.

AMERICAN CONSERVATION AND CLEAN ENERGY ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the U.S. is \$800 billion in debt to China, and yet Congress continues to spend, having to raise the debt limit time and time again.

We do not grow America's jobs by borrowing hundreds of billions from China, sending hundreds of billions of dollars to OPEC for oil, or taking hundreds of billions more from Americans in new taxes.

What we can do, however, is by using some of our oil off our coast, we can use it to create jobs, restore our environment, use conservation and new technologies to cut waste and improve energy efficiency, develop innovative, efficient, and clean energy generation in all sectors, and rebuild America's inefficient transportation and energy infrastructure.

By putting our resources to work, we put millions of Americans to work here at home, and all this can be done without raising taxes. I encourage my colleagues to join the effort by supporting and being cosponsors of H.R. 2227, the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act. It's about new jobs for a new, clean America.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. The House is back in session this week, and at the top of the agenda is health care. I am here to

make sure that the 217,000 uninsured in my district have affordable options to purchase health care coverage, as well as those across America.

Families across America will benefit greatly from the bill's extensive improvement to our health care system. We will finally end discrimination by insurance companies based on pre-existing conditions. We will bring peace of mind to every parent out there who constantly worries about paying for high medical bills.

America is the land of freedom and opportunity. America must have the freedom and opportunity to purchase their own health insurance that is affordable for everyone. Doing nothing is unacceptable. We need to drive down the health costs and demand greater accountability for health insurance companies.

I urge my colleagues to support the health care reform and put the interest of our families first.

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, recently, two teams in my district won football State championships. In Class 2A, the Evangel Eagles, led by Coach John Bachman, Sr., defeated John Curtis High School.

David Dee Duron completed an 8-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to Trey Taylor to give Evangel the lead. The Eagles won the game by a final score of 18-13. David Dee Duron finished the game completing 25 of 39 passes for 273 yards and two touchdowns, setting 2A title game records for most completions, attempts and yardage.

In Class 1A, the Haynesville Golden Tornados, coached by David Franklin, beat South Plaquemines to win the title. Late in the third quarter, B'Air McGee had a 21-yard touchdown to give Haynesville the lead, and then the Golden Tornado defense intercepted a pass with only 23 seconds left in the game to preserve the 19-12 win.

Congratulations to the coaches and players of both Evangel and Haynesville on this tremendous accomplishment.

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PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an ongoing crime against humanity in East Africa and particularly in Tanzania: the butchering of people with albinism in order to sell their body parts for profit.

According to rumors spread by witch doctors, the body parts of people with

albinism can bring good luck. A single limb of a person with albinism can sell somewhere from \$500 to \$2,000, a king's ransom in much of the countryside of Tanzania. I recently met with a survivor of this horrific crime who told me her dramatic story in her own words—Mariamu Stanford, a 28-year-old woman with albinism, from rural Tanzania.

One night in October of 2008, Mariamu was attacked in her sleep by a group of machete-wielding men who cut off both of her arms. In the end, she also lost her unborn child. Despite all this, she is a survivor who is relaying her story in the hopes that these brutal crimes against people with albinism will end.

To this extent, Madam Speaker, I will be introducing a House resolution recognizing the plight of people in East Africa with albinism, condemning their murder and mutilation, and calling for swift action by our country and that of Tanzania.

HONORING BARBARA STOFLET

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Stoflet, a teacher at Gatewood Elementary School in Minnetonka.

At a recent White House ceremony, Barbara was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Nation's highest honor for teaching in those fields. Barbara is one of only two Minnesota educators to receive such an honor.

She used her cutting-edge teaching methods and passion in the classroom to develop each student's potential for more than 20 years, even earning a Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award along the way.

Barbara's participation in the improvement of educational programs in the school as well as in the entire district ranges from instrumental classroom development to writing mathematical standards for Minnesota. For her development of innovative teaching strategies, her work to promote the key areas of math and science, and for her selfless commitment to an important profession, I am honored to recognize Barbara Stoflet before this body.

HEALTH CARE AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, the two most pressing issues that our constituents want us to tackle are health care and the economy.

Last week, I convened a number of roundtables in my district with a variety of business leaders in order to discuss the economy and jobs. Health care costs were, as I expected, a top concern

for all of them, and that's why I was proud to report that our health reform legislation will benefit them.

Our health reform bill will allow small business to add an estimated 80,000 new jobs because we are going to be lowering the cost of health insurance premiums. It is pretty simple: less money spent on health insurance premiums means the ability to hire new workers and to have salary increases for existing employees. Contrast that with the other side, which is to preserve the status quo: letting insurance premiums continue to rise and to cause further job loss.

We must enact meaningful health reform now in order to reduce health insurance costs, to protect jobs, and to enable small business growth.

CREATE JOBS AND MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

(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. Madam Speaker, as we begin the second session of the 111th Congress, more than 15 million Americans are looking for work. Our Nation's unemployment rate is 10 percent—actually, 12 percent in the 11th District of Georgia, which is the highest level of unemployment since June of 1983.

Last year, Democrats promised that borrowing almost \$1 trillion on the backs of our children and grandchildren would create jobs immediately and that unemployment would not rise above 8 percent. Clearly, that is not the case.

So as we start this session, I urge Democratic leaders to finally take some commonsense steps to create jobs and to make health care more affordable. That means putting an end to spending money that we don't have. It means not continuing to pass legislation that imposes job-killing taxes on our small businesses, and it means passing health care legislation that actually reduces health care costs for all Americans without cutting their benefits.

Madam Speaker, the American people cannot afford any more of the Democrats' agenda for killing jobs and for growing the Federal Government.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I would like to tell you about two of my constituents in Louisville who came up over the break and who told me why they were against health care reform.

The first one was a mother. She said she thought our health care reform bill was going to hurt too many people. When I asked her why or who, she said, Well, like my son. He had a kidney transplant, and I'm afraid he won't get