

memorial service for those Members who have died in this last year in talking about Jay Rhodes and how much she respected him and how she hopes he will continue in service of this organization and in service of our country. Those were the remarks of Speaker PELOSI this morning.

I want to thank Lorraine Miller, the Clerk of the House, for being with us again and for hosting us and for spending all this time with us. We are honored to have you here. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk. I want to thank all of the guests of our whip and Budget chairman, Bill Gray, who received our Distinguished Service Award. We are very honored that you all took the time to come. You are just as proud of him as we are. You know how much time it took from his community but especially his family.

I want to recognize his wife, Andrea; their three sons, Bill, Justin and Andrew, up in the gallery; their daughter-in-law, Jennifer; and two grandchildren, Sabrina and Aidan, here today. Thank you very much for coming. We are so proud of him and for all the time he gave on behalf of us taken from you.

Finally, I want to thank Richard Balfe from the European Union Association of Former Members; Steven Gilchrist who is leading a delegation of the Ontario legislature; and lastly Leo Duguay, my counterpart and the president of the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, and Don Boudria and Francis LeBlanc for taking the time to join with us. All of the public service that all of you are accomplishing for us on the international level, we very much appreciate; and I want to thank all of our Members here for all their service.

We are adjourned.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1130

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

JOBS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of putting Americans back to work. You know, we cannot overturn and change 8 years of Republican rule with simply a snap of a finger. However, the Democratic Caucus is on its way to restoring this country's economic well-being.

The House passed the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act. The legislation will create 160,000 jobs and extends successful Build America Bonds for schools, roads and bridges. We also passed the Summer Jobs Act which creates 300,000 summer job opportunities for our youth. We have seen an increase in GDP, and we've seen an increase in manufacturing, and we've seen a significant increase in economic indicators. As President Obama said, this is the Nation where anyone with a good idea and the will to work hard can succeed. Dallas, my hometown, is no stranger to good ideas, hard work, or small businesses.

I commend Dallas' small businesses which have created hundreds of jobs, provide valuable goods and services, and help drive our local economy.

I encourage my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to work together to enact policies that creates and saves jobs.

House Democrats are committed to create good American jobs, build a strong foundation for the economy, and work to turn around our Nation's economy.

RECOGNIZING COLLIERVILLE AND HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOLS FROM SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise two outstanding high schools in Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District. Collierville High and Houston High Schools, both in Shelby County, Tennessee, have been named by Newsweek magazine among America's top high schools. Only 6 percent of America's high schools make this list. This is an important accomplishment that comes because of hard and diligent work not just from students but faculty, staff, principals, from parents and from lots of participation from the community.

I congratulate Principals Leisa Justus of Houston and Tim Setterlund of Collierville, along with the faculty and most importantly the students of both schools for all the hard work that has led them to this important achievement.

FLAG BURNING

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, yesterday folks across Amer-

ica gathered together to celebrate our national flag. For 233 years now, the Stars and Stripes have been a unique symbol of freedom and democracy across the globe, the representation of all we are and all that we stand for. Millions of young men and women fought and died for their country under that flag, and every day our service-members risk their lives in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world to protect the ideals it represents.

To burn or desecrate it is an insult to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe and to those who helped build our great Nation. It should be illegal, and this Congress should make it illegal by finally passing a constitutional amendment to ban the burning of a U.S. flag. Every day this House begins its work by pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. We need to live up to that pledge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S. ARMY

(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 United States Army celebrated its 235th birthday. Since the Continental Congress first created the Continental Army to protect and secure our new Nation, men and women have continued to make the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and independence. For three centuries, from the Revolutionary War to D-day and the current global war on terrorism and every day in between, America's soldiers have performed bravely. The American military has achieved the largest number of countries living today in freedom and democracy in the history of the world.

I appreciate firsthand the Army as a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserve and Army Guard myself. Also, my father served in the Army Air Corps as a Flying Tiger in China and India. But more meaningful to me is that I have three sons today serving in the Army National Guard, with my oldest son an Iraq veteran of the field artillery. On this 235th birthday, I extend my appreciation to those who have served or are currently serving and especially to those family and friends of soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of liberty.

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

INTRODUCING THE TEEN PARENTS GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ACT

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

Ms. CHU. The author Robin Cook wrote that "education is more than a luxury. It is a responsibility that society owes to itself." Our country far too

often neglects this duty. Every year, nearly 750,000 American teens become pregnant. Every year, 70 percent of these new teen mothers drop out of school. Every year, the lack of services to keep low-income parents in school focuses this problem on our Nation's most underprivileged communities.

That's why I have introduced the Teen Parents Graduation and College Act. This bill would fund grants to help teen parents finish high school and college. It would provide tutoring and child care and counseling to help them succeed. It would let teen parents and their children lead better, fuller lives. This basic support is the least we owe our young people. Together we will ensure that the beginning of a new life doesn't mark the end of an education.

ALIX KLEIN'S BAT MITZVAH

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to wish a happy bat mitzvah to a wonderful young lady in my congressional district, Alix Klein. She recently celebrated her bat mitzvah surrounded by family and friends and chose to mark the occasion with more than just a party, but with a concert to benefit those less privileged than she is. Alix's kindness and generosity has made a difference in the lives of the young patients of Alyn Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Israel. These patients have physical disabilities.

Alix has demonstrated a maturity beyond her years, and she serves as a role model for her fellow teenagers. Alix's selfless contributions will provide much-needed support for these patients and their families in Israel.

MEDICARE PART D DOUGHNUT HOLE IS BEGINNING TO CLOSE

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to deliver some good news to Medicare participants around the country. This week, seniors who fall into the Medicare part D doughnut hole will begin receiving \$250 checks in their mailboxes to help them cover their prescription drug costs. This is one of many benefits for Medicare participants included in the health care reform law that Democrats passed earlier this year.

Across the country, nearly 4 million seniors will be helped by these checks. In my district alone in Ohio, over 9,000 people will receive this benefit. While the doughnut hole will soon be closed completely, seniors will continue to see lower prescription drug costs. Next year, those experiencing a coverage gap will receive a 50 percent discount on their brand-name drugs. I am proud to work hard to improve Medicare for all seniors.

NO NEW ENERGY TAX

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to echo the concerns that I have heard from thousands of my constituents. They tell me that Washington has failed to focus on economic recovery; and you know what, they are right. Last year, the House passed a massive national energy tax known as cap-and-trade, and it's similar to legislation passed in Europe in the 1990s. It cost Europe hundreds of thousands of jobs and made virtually no change or effect whatsoever on their environment. Estimates are that if Washington forces this bill on the American public, it will kill more than 2.5 million more American jobs.

Fortunately, the national energy tax is now stalled in the Senate, and I sure hope it stays there. With unemployment near 10 percent, the last thing America needs is more job-killing legislation and more taxes. America does need to know that Congress is listening to them.

PAY THE DOCTORS FOR TREATING PATIENTS ON MEDICARE

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

Ms. BERKLEY. The Republicans in the Senate are once again doing everything they can to destroy Medicare for millions of seniors by blocking legislation that will stop the 21 percent cut in payments to doctors who care for our elderly citizens. They say they are worried about the deficit, and paying the docs will add to the deficit. Excuse me, we're fighting two wars not paid for. We have homeland security needs not paid for. Medicare part D, not paid for.

Not a word from the Senate Republicans. But they are drawing a line on paying the doctors who treat Medicare patients. This is going to add to the deficit. Let's stop playing politics with Medicare, pay the doctors, and provide health care for millions and millions of our senior citizens.

THE U.S. NEEDS A BUDGET

(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, at its most fundamental level, the duty of Congress is to steward the tax revenue. Lately, all Congress has been doing is spending it. Through the first 8 months of the current fiscal year, the Federal Government amassed \$941 billion in deficit spending. Every penny of debt accumulated must be paid for by our children and grandchildren. Without a budget, the only spending rule is, there are no rules.

The deadline for the House of Representatives to pass an actual budget has come and passed, and we still have nothing to show the American people. The budget process can be frustrating, but that's what we're here to do, to make the tough decisions. Families, small businesses, cities and States have to put together a budget. Congress must do the same for our country. We need a practical, workable Federal budget which restrains spending and puts us on a path to solvency, economic growth and prosperity.

PAYMENTS TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

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

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Today we're seeing the implementation of one of the things in the health care reform bill: payments of \$250 to help our seniors with the doughnut hole coverage. One of the things that's also going on that most Americans don't know about is fundamental reforms with respect to waste and fraud in the Medicare system. Our efforts on that front have been dramatically improved by things that were in the health care bill that was passed earlier this year, giving Medicare the power to do commonsense things that any small business in America would do, do a better job of checking new providers as they come into Medicare, do a better job of putting people on probation and checking up on them in that first year to make sure they are not abusing our system.

There is a rampant problem with waste, fraud and abuse in our Medicare system. The health care bill we passed earlier this year is making steps to bring that into check. Today we had a hearing here in Congress about other things that we can do. And I testified about my legislation to put more tools in the hands of our law enforcement professionals and CMS to cut down on the waste and fraud in Medicare. I look forward to continuing to work on this and making sure that we use the dollars in Medicare to provide health benefits to our seniors, not allow criminals to run rampant.

GEERT WILDERS—CHAMPION OF THE PUBLIC LIBERTY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, free speech is under assault from Islamic terrorists worldwide. They use threats and political correctness to silence anybody who speaks out about their violent beliefs. Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders made a movie about these Islamic clerics who incite violence in the name of religion. But the Dutch Government is putting Wilders on trial for incitement to hatred. The oppressive Dutch Government says it's irrelevant that the speech in the movie may be true.