

I want to thank the West Mesa Mustangs for pushing themselves and for creating a bright future for themselves and for our community. Again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

HEALTHCARE AT THREE MONTHS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, you may remember that the American people were told that Congress had to pass the health care bill so they could find out what was in it.

After 3 months, the American people have found out what was in the new law, and they still don't like it. The latest Rasmussen poll from just this week shows that 55 percent oppose the law. And they have good reasons to be upset.

New HHS rules published just a few weeks ago will mean that many companies and individuals will be forced to change to plans that meet the government's new standards. So much for "if you like your plan you can keep it," as the President said.

For seniors, CBO reports that half of all Medicare Advantage plans will end in the coming years. Seniors who were receiving vision and dental coverage on these plans will now be forced to buy costly supplemental coverage. The more layers we peel away, the less there is to like about ObamaCare.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis, siding with special interests, i.e., the Wall Street investment banks. These economic and fiscal policies created the Bush recession, the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month and nearly doubling our national debt.

Democrats in Congress will continue to take America in a new direction, creating good American jobs, lowering taxes for the middle class and for small business, and building a strong new foundation for the economy and for Main Street instead of Wall Street.

□ 1140

CONGRATULATING NEW JOURNEYS TRANSITIONAL HOME

(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. I would like to recognize an outstanding south Florida organization, New Journeys Transitional Home. This home is committed

to decreasing the rate of homelessness among young women in south Florida. It provides an immediate, safe, affordable, and nurturing housing environment that promotes independence and self-sufficiency.

New Journeys Transitional Home serves those who have a desire to achieve educational and employment goals, as well as those with a motivation to progress through the program. This wonderful organization provides young women with workshops to help strengthen their educational and employment goals, their interviewing skills, and improve their self-esteem.

Due to its generosity and dedication, New Journeys Transitional Home has helped so many young women in my community in south Florida. I would like to commend all the individuals involved in the organization. Through their service and support, they help our community and they help so many young women in our Nation.

Thank you for your devotion; thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of south Floridians in need.

PASS THE HOME STAR ENERGY RETROFIT BILL

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, America needs jobs. The unemployment is too high, and there are concrete things that we can do to create jobs. One is to pass the Home Star Energy Retrofit bill into law. The Senate has to act. The House passed it on a bipartisan basis last year.

It's a partnership between homeowners, the private sector, and government. It will create 170,000 jobs where we need them the most: in manufacturing; in retail, by getting customers to the local hardware stores; and in construction, by putting out-of-work home builders to work retrofitting homes.

This is a triple play. It will allow us to save \$10 billion in energy bills, it will put 170,000 out of work folks to work, and it will help homeowners save on their energy bills.

MCDONALD V. CITY OF CHICAGO

(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. Madam Speaker, yesterday the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal appeals court ruling overturning a law prohibiting private citizens from possessing handguns in the City of Chicago. This is a momentous decision, and I commend the justices for protecting our right to gun ownership.

The Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to keep and bear arms. However, for too long this right has been denied to some Americans

simply because of where they reside. This 5-4 decision was the right one, though the close margin underscores the necessity to remain vigilant to future attempts to curtail our right to bear arms.

Residents across this country should be able to exercise their constitutional rights to protect themselves and their families. I am committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all law-abiding, freedom-loving Americans, and I invite my colleagues to join me.

PUT FORWARD CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, as we work to resolve our Nation's fiscal crisis, we must have bipartisan cooperation to best find ways to balance economic recovery and job creation with long-term deficit reduction. Americans clearly understand the danger of debt and the need for a serious long-term plan. What they don't understand is sound bites and political rhetoric.

And so to my Republican colleagues, as you come to the well today, put your ideas on the table. It doesn't help to demagogue this issue. The fact is, and it remains, President Obama inherited a \$11 trillion debt on day one, and we are trying to recover. The American people need your constructive ideas.

FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, for the first time since 1974, the House has failed to pass a budget resolution. Instead of making tough decisions, congressional Democrats have chosen to keep their heads in the sand. A problem won't go away just by ignoring it. It will require real leadership and a commitment to fiscal discipline to tackle the out-of-control spending and debt that threatens our economic prosperity. Failure to even propose a budget fundamentally means that congressional Democrats have no plan and are content to ignore our skyrocketing debt.

Madam Speaker, the American people know it's a failure of leadership to ignore the massive tax increases and the crushing burden of debt Washington is leaving our children and grandchildren.

HONORING RUBY BATT'S ARCHIE

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, southern Virginia lost a legend, a lion, and a beloved leader.

Ruby Batts Archie, at the age of 76, passed away. She had been an educator in our community for 37 years. She had been the mayor of Danville from 1998 to 2000, and served on the city council for 16 years. She was just a few days from finally retiring from the council to spend more time with her grandchildren.

She was a tireless educator; she was a fearless leader. She always put the interests of the people in her community ahead, being willing to work with people from all parties, my predecessor, Mr. Goode, myself, people in the city, people in the county. For her, this was a matter of faith; it was a matter of fairness. She will be deeply missed.

We pray for her, for her family, and for all of those who served with her. It was an honor to have a chance to work with her to make Danville and southern Virginia a better place. And we look forward to what Mayor Sherman Saunders has called her everlasting legacy.

CHRISTIANS ARRESTED FOR PASSING OUT BIBLES IN AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, four Christian missionaries were recently arrested for disorderly conduct. What was their behavior that got them arrested? These four Christians were peacefully handing out the Gospel of John outside an Arab cultural festival.

Now, the festival was not a private or even a Muslim event. It was an Arab festival, free and open to the public. A video shows the Christian group, that included a former Muslim, outside, about a block away from that event. They were standing quietly on the corner handing out Bibles, when they were arrested by no less than eight police officers.

Now, under sharia law it is forbidden to preach Christianity to a Muslim. But, Madam Speaker, these discriminatory arrests against Christians did not occur in a Muslim country; they occurred in Dearborn, Michigan.

The First Amendment of our Constitution safeguards freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression even for Christians. Maybe the police in Dearborn, Michigan, haven't read the Constitution. These arrests are shameful, whether the police in Dearborn, Michigan, like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

SUPPORT FOR WALL STREET REFORM

(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, I rise today in strong support of Wall Street reform. After months of diligent work, the House and Senate will finally vote this week to enact Wall Street reform.

This is a historic achievement. The bill is not perfect, but it's a major step forward. Wall Street's unchecked greed and recklessness nearly destroyed our economy. Wall Street reform will repair our financial system and prevent another collapse.

When the House last voted on this bill, Democrats voted "yes," while Republicans all voted "no." Democrats voted to protect Main Street consumers from deceptive mortgages and predatory credit cards. Republicans voted "no." Democrats voted to shine a bright light of transparency and accountability on the shady dealings of Wall Street, but Republicans voted "no." And Democrats voted to never again use taxpayer dollars to bail out reckless, too-big-to-fail financial firms like AIG. Republicans voted "no."

It's time to show where you stand: with Main Street or with Wall Street.

I urge my Republican colleagues to finally vote "yes." Support Main Street instead of Wall Street.

FOLLOW THE TEXT OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, this week the United States Supreme Court actually decided a constitutional question of extreme importance, and it had to deal with the right of individuals to keep and bear arms. The interesting thing was they reached this conclusion by looking at the text of the Constitution, the words of the Second Amendment. What a shame we didn't do that last week when we were dealing with the DISCLOSE Act, where we essentially eviscerated the First Amendment, the First Amendment protection for political speech.

Instead of saying that it exists for all and that we should protect it for all, we decided that some are more equal than others. We auctioned off parts of the First Amendment last week. Let us hope that the Senate will not repeat that mistake, and that we understand that perhaps the best way to understand what the Constitution means is to actually look at its words. Sometimes you can find the rights expressed there far more easily than looking at penumbras and those that emanate from penumbras. At times it makes sense for us to pay attention to what the Founding Fathers actually said.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, for too long New Mexicans have been put at financial risk by the irresponsible actions of Wall Street. Because of their risky gambles, our country lost 8 mil-

lion jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings and net worth. That's why I voted against the Wall Street bailout in 2009, and why Wall Street reform is needed.

We need to protect consumers and hold Wall Street accountable, and the current Wall Street reform package is an important step in that direction. It will rein in banks with their big bonuses, help put an end to bailouts, help put an end to too-big-to-fail, and introduce more transparency into the financial system.

We must keep working so that Wall Street is held accountable and is never again allowed to endanger the financial security of New Mexicans and people all across our great Nation.

□ 1150

WHERE IS THE BUDGET?

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, it's tough economic times, and almost every family, every business back in my district knows in tough times you've got to sit down and put pen to paper and figure out a budget so you know where you stand and where you're going. But right now, people find it unbelievable that they're sitting down and going through this tough process but we, in Congress, are not.

Until this year, we've never failed to pass a budget since the Budget Act was put into place in 1974. In fact, it is astonishingly insensitive of the Democratic leadership to not do a budget this Congress.

Earlier this year, President Obama himself said in January, "Like any cash-strapped family, we will work within a budget to invest in what we need and sacrifice what we don't."

So why not do a budget this year? I can't understand it. My folks back home can't either.

Last week, Brian Garlotte of Flower Mound, Texas, posted on my Facebook page, "Where is our budget, Congressman? This is unacceptable." I agree with Brian. It is unacceptable that this year, of all years, Congress will not work on a budget.

SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, at roundtables that I hold with small business owners in San Diego, there are some consistent themes. They all say that they need banks to lend and people to spend. A few also pointed out that when their businesses fail or fall behind on their taxes, the IRS is more than willing to work out a payment plan that they can afford but then slaps them with penalties that they can't afford.