

I'm pleased that we are joined by our former colleague in the House, and now a Senator, Senator HARKIN, who was such a champion in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act; our former colleague, Tony Coelho, also a leader in that regard; our colleagues who have worked so hard on that subject, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KENNEDY; and the champion in our House on the Americans with Disabilities Act, STENY HOYER, our distinguished majority leader.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER has made this part of his legacy in the Congress. Not so fast with the legacy, I know. More to come. But we thank you for being the champion on civil rights that you are.

And I see now that we have been joined by our distinguished Republican leader of the House, Mr. BOEHNER.

This is bipartisan effort. It has been all along. It is a cause for celebration. It is a source of liberation. And it's important to note that there's a reason Mr. LANGEVIN is first. He is first because of his courage. He is first because of his inspiration, and he is first because when I became Speaker, he said to me, Now that you are presiding, I want to preside too.

So on that day, when we made history of having the first woman Speaker of the House, it became clear that we had to make history today in having JIM LANGEVIN preside on this historic occasion, which is a source of pride to all of us but also a source of challenge as to how we go forward addressing the new technologies so that we can continue to remove barriers to participation to all Americans. It's better for them and it's better for our country.

Now we can go forward clearly saying that we respect people for what they can do, not judge them or limit them for what they cannot, and that we can more fully honor the Pledge of Allegiance that Mr. KENNEDY led us in just earlier, one Nation under God, with liberty—and this is about liberation—with liberty and justice for all.

Congratulations, Mr. LANGEVIN.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Speaker and the majority leader in recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

First I want to applaud you, Mr. Speaker, for making history today as the first American with disabilities to preside over this distinguished body. It's truly an inspiring sight and a reminder that the disabled are, of course, among the most active and functional members of our society. And it's a testament to the historic measure that we're celebrating today.

I also want to congratulate my colleague, Mr. HOYER, the majority lead-

er, who I know played a key role in making this legislation a reality, along with other colleagues from the other body and retired, along with Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

But really I want to thank all of you for ensuring that we come together, across the aisle when necessary, to make certain that this act fulfills its original mission.

Before the Americans with Disabilities Act, nowhere in the world was there a comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

In the medical community, people with disabilities are called "handi-capable" because they strive and succeed in the face of great personal obstacles.

There was a time, however, when courage alone was not enough to get them into their hometown theaters to see a movie or into office buildings to apply for a job, much less to provide for their families. Those wrongs were corrected on July 26, 1990, when President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law on the South Lawn of the White House.

On that day President Bush noted that it was roughly a year after the Berlin Wall came down and said that this legislation "takes a sledge hammer to another wall, one which has for too many generations separated Americans with disabilities from the freedom they could glimpse, but not grasp."

For too long our Nation has kept Americans with disabilities dependent, when they all yearned for independence. And the Americans with Disabilities Act has given them the tools to do just that, to quench their thirst for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It has changed the lives of millions, and will do so for many, many generations to come.

□ 1410

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The rules require that the Chair remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

CONGRATULATING THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, one of the peculiarities of parliamentary procedure is that all discussion on the floor of the House is directed to the person who occupies the Speaker's podium. But it is on rare occasion when the significance of the individual presiding over House proceedings outweighs the proceedings themselves. This is such a time.

It is with great pride that I stand here on this historic occasion as my

close friend JIM LANGEVIN presides over the House from the Speaker's rostrum. JIM is an individual who embodies the best of the American people. He is the personification of the word "courage."

I have known JIM since our time together in the Rhode Island State Legislature, and I have been fortunate to witness his overcoming obstacle after obstacle throughout his life.

As a teenager, JIM made a commitment to a life of public service, seeking a career as a police officer. When a cruel twist of fate denied him the path that he envisioned, the easy road would have been to give up. But JIM would not be dissuaded. Instead, he drew on a spirit of perseverance that any lesser of us would have struggled to find.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. KENNEDY. May I ask unanimous consent to have the requisite 5 minutes that I was initially given?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may complete his thought.

Mr. KENNEDY. I don't know who is controlling the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair expects further debate during suspension of the rules. The gentleman may complete his thought on his 1-minute.

Mr. KENNEDY. How much time do I have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 15 seconds to complete his thought.

Mr. KENNEDY. Well, there he is. Who's in charge now? All right, JIMMY. Well, I'll get my chance later. And you better be ready, because there will be no holding back then. God bless you. I am so proud to be your colleague.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(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, it's particularly fitting that I would be with you today in that my late father-in-law, State Representative Julian Dusenbury, who was a hero of the Battle of Okinawa, was shot by a sniper, but he continued his service from a wheelchair in the Statehouse of South Carolina. So I have always appreciated your courage, and I want to join with Congressman KENNEDY to recognize your courage and your courage to serve. Thank you, and God bless you.

The Friday front page headlines of The Island Packet of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, highlight the legitimate concerns of the American people. "Are we in for a tax hike?" and is the U.S. facing a threat of a flat economy? Since the stimulus bill became law, 2.4 million Americans have lost their jobs. The promise of unemployment not to exceed 8 percent was broken, as unemployment soared to 8 percent.

The failed borrow, spend, and tax policies of this administration cry out

for “Where are the jobs?” We need both parties to work together to promote small business job creation.

President Kennedy cut taxes and jobs grew. President Reagan cut taxes and more jobs were created. Republicans have offered positive alternatives using the proven policies from both parties which actually promote jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA

(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, the Honorable Mr. LANGEVIN, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and offer my strong support for H. Res. 1504.

Twenty years ago, the ADA declared that the millions of Americans living with disabilities had a right to reasonable accommodations in the workplace and access to public buildings. In doing so, it acknowledged for the first time the civil rights of these Americans who live independently to fully participate in all aspects of our society, our schools, our businesses, our communities.

Today we extend that participation to the Speaker's chair, and I want to acknowledge our colleague, Congressman LANGEVIN. His place today managing debate over the people's House is long overdue.

When President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA in 1990, the late Senator Ted Kennedy said, “Equal justice under the law is not a privilege but a fundamental birthright in America.” I couldn't agree more. We must protect the rights of men and women regardless of ability, mental capacity, or physicality. By removing barriers for people with disabilities, we allow America to be a society where equal justice prevails.

I urge support for H. Res. 1504.

TAX INCREASES DON'T CREATE JOBS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you also today on this historic day, and also all those who have made this day possible by making the House much more accessible to everyone who serves in the House.

But, Mr. Speaker, I must change the subject and say that in 5 months, the hardworking taxpayers of America will get hit with the largest tax increase in American history if this Congress doesn't act to forestall it.

That's right. Unless Congress acts, taxpayers will see tax rates go up across the board. This is completely unacceptable. During this period of

economic difficulty and high unemployment, these tax hikes will fall especially hard on the small businesses that have already borne the brunt of this bad economy. These are the same job-creating small businesses that represent our best hope for emerging with strength from this recession. Increasing their taxes now would be an economic poison pill that would kill economic growth and job creation. After all, Mr. Speaker, what tax increase ever created a job?

□ 1420

REPORT ON H.R. 5850, DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2011

Mr. OLVER, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-564) on the bill (H.R. 5850) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1504) recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1504

Whereas July 26, 2010, marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act has been one of the most significant and effective civil rights laws passed by Congress;

Whereas, prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities faced significantly lower employment rates, lower graduation rates, and higher rates of poverty than people without

disabilities, and were too often denied the opportunity to fully participate in society due to intolerance and unfair stereotypes;

Whereas the dedicated efforts of disability rights advocates, including Justin Dart, Jr., and many others, served to awaken Congress and the American people to the discrimination and prejudice faced by individuals with disabilities;

Whereas Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to craft legislation making such discrimination illegal;

Whereas Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act and President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Act into law on July 26, 1990;

Whereas the purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act is to fulfill the Nation's goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for Americans with disabilities;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits employers from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities, requires that State and local governmental entities accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities, requires places of public accommodation to take reasonable steps to make their goods and services accessible to individuals with disabilities, and requires that new trains and buses be accessible to individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act has played an historic role in allowing over 50,000,000 Americans with disabilities to participate more fully in national life by removing barriers to employment, transportation, public services, telecommunications, and public accommodations;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act has served as a model for disability rights in other countries;

Whereas all Americans, not just those with disabilities, benefit from the accommodations that have become commonplace since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including curb cuts at street intersections, ramps for access to buildings, and other accommodations that provide access to public transportation, stadiums, telecommunications, voting machines, and websites;

Whereas Congress acted with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2008 to restore protections for people with disabilities by passing the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, which overturned judicial decisions that had inappropriately narrowed the scope of the protected class under the Americans with Disabilities Act;

Whereas, 20 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, children and adults with disabilities continue to experience barriers that interfere with their full participation in mainstream American life;

Whereas, 20 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty as their fellow citizens and continue to experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment;

Whereas, 20 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the largest income support and health care programs continue to operate in a manner that expects people with significant disabilities to be outside the economic mainstream and have limited income and assets;

Whereas, 20 years after the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act and 11 years after the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, many people with disabilities still live in segregated institutional settings because of a lack of support services that would allow them to live in the community;