

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional organization in Erie, Pennsylvania on their 35th anniversary of service to our community.

SafeNet is an agency of dedicated professionals and volunteers working to end domestic violence against women, men, children and the elderly by providing shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and education. SafeNet helps victims find support through a wide range of programs, working closely with hospitals, schools, law enforcement and the courts to increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence.

For 35 years, SafeNet has brought hope and help to so many people in my region. Through their public education campaign, Unmasking the Faces, SafeNet is showing us all that victims of domestic violence can overcome their experiences and become strong survivors and active members of our community.

On behalf of all the families in my region, I extend my thanks and congratulations to SafeNet on their 35th anniversary and offer my support in their mission to put an end to domestic violence.

CARTEL EXTORTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, violence continues to seep across the Mexican border. Narco-terrorists continue to take shots at our Border Patrol from across the Rio Grande River. Drugs and human trafficking continue as our outmanned, out-financed and outgunned law enforcement agents continue to struggle against this violence.

But how is this for a new wrinkle in the drug cartel threat? Law enforcement officials in Texas indicate that the drug cartels may have opened up a protection racket on the American side of the border. Reports show that Hispanics living on the American side are now paying protection money to the drug cartels. These Mexican cartels are threatening harm to their relatives on the Mexican side of the border. If they have relatives in Mexico, pay up or they will be hurt, or worse.

The narco-terrorist extortion racket is just another example of crime coming into America from across the border. People who say that organized crime threats crippling Mexico don't affect Americans are living in Neverland.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATIC PRO-GROWTH AGENDA

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, while Democrats work to help our country

return from the Republican recession, our top priority is to create jobs and restore responsible fiscal policies that support the middle class.

The key part of our pro-growth agenda is helping small businesses. Small businesses are indeed the economic engine, creating two-thirds of the new jobs over the past 15 years. The role of small businesses is especially important as we strive to create jobs and move this economy forward. With the right resources and the right opportunities, small businesses can respond quickly with opportunities that create jobs.

Democrats have already enacted eight tax cuts for small businesses, including tax credits, payroll tax holidays, incentives for capital investments, and other measures to help small business thrive. We passed these measures despite strong opposition from House Republicans and will continue our fight for small businesses despite their votes against the small business community.

SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I was reminded again last night why our effort to help small businesses makes sense. I was at the Alliance to Save Energy and I gave an award called the Andromeda Award to a company called O-Power. It is a small company that has developed a way to help Americans save energy, and they have been spectacularly successful. They found a way, if you share information about what your neighbors are doing, you can reduce your energy costs dramatically.

This company is growing rapidly and doing well, but these small companies need access to capital, and we are proposing plans to make sure that they can get access to capital in our efforts to increase small business lending. If we do that, these small businesses are going to thrive. We've got to get out of the gate to compete with China when it comes to clean energy and efficiency. If we pass these bills, we will. Let's keep going with small business lending.

□ 1010

SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the backbone of America's economy. More than half of American workers are employed by small businesses. In fact, 99.7 percent of businesses in the United States employ fewer than 500 people.

When I talk to small business owners in south Florida, I'm always inspired by their entrepreneurial spirit and

their tireless work ethic. It's for that reason, and it's no surprise, that 97 percent of American exports to other nations comes from products made by small businesses.

I've been a Member of Congress for exactly 5 months this morning, and the one fact in common for each of these 150 days has been that Republicans have inexplicably blocked tax cuts and better credit for America's small businesses. Every day that goes by without the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act is another day during which small business owners put off investing in new equipment, avoid hiring new workers, and see opportunities to expand pass them by.

It's time to pass this critical legislation so that small businesses can get back to doing what they do best—growing America's economy.

MAKING PRODUCTS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I have the high honor and responsibility of representing the Swanningson family from Kaukauna, Wisconsin. Here you see Tony and his wife, Sherry; his son, Corey; and daughter, Kayla.

Tony wrote me this note recently when his company, Appleton Coated Paper, was having problems selling paper because of illegal paper being dumped into our country by China.

"Congressman Kagen, I've been a paper maker for 18 years, and I am grateful for the opportunity to provide for my family that the industry has given me. In 2009 I lost my job, through no fault of my own and through no fault of my company, Appleton Coated. My job was stolen because somebody broke the law, and that's not right. The dumping of foreign paper into the United States from companies that are subsidized by their own governments creates a marketplace that seriously threatens my family and countless other families throughout the United States."

We're going to make it in America when we begin making things here in America as well. We need to balance our trade deals and push back against illegal paper being dumped into our domestic market by China.

DON'T CUT TAXES FOR MILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues are constantly reminding us that the administration last year said that unemployment would not get to 8 percent if we passed our Recovery Act. Well, that remains to be seen. But let's talk about a projection that they made some years ago that they don't want to talk about, and

that's that we were going to have endless surpluses. They used that prediction of endless surpluses to justify cutting taxes for the wealthiest people in the United States.

Well, those people had a great decade. On average, \$100,000 savings on taxes during that time. Did they create more jobs because they cut their taxes? No. In fact, we had actually the most stagnant period of private sector job growth in modern history.

So now, when we don't have an endless surplus, in fact, a very large deficit, and we need job creation, they say, Oh, let's cut their taxes again. It wasn't good enough that the average millionaire had his or her net worth increased by 16 percent in 2009 while every other American stagnated. No. They want to make it a little bit better for the wealthiest people in America.

We want to cut taxes for middle class America and not millionaires.

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE FIGHT FOR MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS AND DEFICIT REDUCTION; REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO HOLD MIDDLE CLASS HOSTAGE TO TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, in this time of debate around taxes and taxation, it's hard to figure out what's really true. Republicans say this; Democrats say that. Let me tell you what's actually the fact.

The fact is that the Republicans want to give the top 2 percent of the wealthiest Americans tax breaks that would add \$700 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years. They're saying they're going to stop tax cuts for middle class people unless the top 2 percent get their tax cut that would add \$700 billion to the deficit. Now, that's not fair given that middle class people have faced foreclosure, have faced a drop in home value, have faced unemployment, have faced so many difficult economic hurdles.

Why do they insist on giving the top 2 percent a huge tax break that they don't need, only giving the top 2 percent that tax break? Middle class people need relief. Middle class people need it now.

SUBMINIMUM WAGE FOR DISABLED

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

Mr. CLEAVER. There are a number of issues that fail to make it to the floor, but there's one issue that I absolutely feel strongly about and believe that the people of this Congress and the people of the Nation need to know, and that is the subminimum wage for people with disabilities.

Inclusion is a birthright. This is a civil right. And there is a rule in the

Department of Labor called 14(c). It's a certificate from the United States Department of Labor which says that people with disabilities can get paid less than subminimum wage. But it is not subminimum wage for all of them—it is hardly a wage at all. Some of these people who are on disability are making 45 cents an hour or less in sheltered workshops.

So I am suggesting that this issue is so important that it needs to be brought to the floor of the United States Congress. This is a civil right, and we need to make it something that is a priority of this Congress as soon as possible.

AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, Chapter 78, of Merrillville, Indiana, for being named Chapter of the Year during the association's national convention that was held in July of this year.

AHEPA Chapter 78 is to be commended for its outstanding service. AHEPA Chapter 78 was established on July 25, 1925. It currently consists of 130 members, with 13 being life members of over 50 years. In accordance with the AHEPA mission of community service, the members of Chapter 78 represent the best in all of us through their selfless giving, kindness, and generosity.

Most recently, the chapter has distinguished itself by donating significant funds to organizations throughout northwest Indiana, including Christian Haven House and Saints Monica and Luke Soup Kitchen.

For nearly two decades, the chapter has also worked tirelessly to provide safe, exceptionally well-maintained, and affordable housing for senior citizens who otherwise might today find themselves in very abject circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the other distinguished colleagues join me in again congratulating the AHEPA Chapter 78 of Merrillville, Indiana.

JEFFERSON THOMAS OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, sophomores in high school are not often called on to lead a nation. Under the leadership of nine black students in Little Rock in 1957, including high school sophomore Jefferson Thomas, the Federal Government enforced the rights of all students to have equality of education.

Losing one of the Little Rock Nine is an event no one looked forward to. Losing one of the Little Rock Nine, sadly, is what happened on September 5, 2010, when Jefferson Allison Thomas passed away in Columbus, Ohio.

Yesterday's heroes, with death, become legends and such is the case with Jefferson Thomas. Perhaps no group of young people is as well known as Jefferson Thomas and the others we know as the Little Rock Nine. Every American, for all time, must honor and remember the heroism of these youngsters in 1957, as we have done in 1999 with the Congressional Gold Medal and also with a commemorative coin and a postage stamp.

None of us can imagine the daily torment and fear these students faced. No young person today can imagine what segregation meant for teens like Jefferson Thomas in 1957. But Jefferson Thomas knew; Jefferson Thomas acted. And Jefferson Thomas is an American hero who will be missed and honored.

□ 1020

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. We are currently in the midst of the Jewish High Holidays, a holy time when we reflect on the past year and welcome a new one. To everyone who celebrated Rosh Hashanah last week, I wish you and your family a healthy and happy 5771.

During the Rosh Hashanah service at my synagogue, I was honored to offer the Jewish prayer for the United States. This prayer hopes for the day when "Peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst." And I can think of no more laudable and important goal than to work towards that day with all of our heart and energy.

As we pray for and work towards peace and security for the United States, we also extend those prayers to the State of Israel. The threats against the Jewish homeland are real, and we cannot allow them to go unchecked. The American people stand with our brothers and sisters in Israel, and the alliance and friendship between our two Nations remains unbreakable.

I hope that all who celebrate these meaningful High Holidays have the opportunity to do so amongst loved ones. Reflection with our friends and family is the hallmark of this time of year. From my family to yours, warmest wishes during this special season.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, if we don't act soon, middle class income families across the country will see