

color shows States that have more than 1,000 of their residents enrolled in health programs. For those Americans, the 9/11 attacks are not history but are an ongoing nightmare that is slowly robbing them of their health, their strength, their livelihood, and, in some cases, their lives.

Thousands lost their lives 9 years ago, but since then, thousands and thousands more have lost their health. This is not an entitlement program. This is a responsibility to take care of those who took care of us when our Nation was attacked, and this bill sends a message to future generations that we take care of our veterans from the war against terror.

In today's debate, I hope that all Members will put politics aside and, in a bipartisan way, honor and respect the sacrifices of the 9/11 victims.

A PLEDGE TO AMERICA WITH TAX CUTS

(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, after months of disastrous job losses and free-for-all spending sprees, it is quite obvious that a new way forward is very much needed. Through town hall meetings, district tours, and interactive forums, House Republicans heard the pleas from hardworking Americans wanting to correct Washington's misplaced priorities.

Last week, we answered their call and provided concrete solutions for immediate action to create jobs, stop frivolous spending, enhance national security, improve health care, and reform a broken Washington.

Not only will we extend tax cuts for all Americans, we will, additionally, allow small business owners to take a tax deduction equal to 20 percent. This is crucial that we move quickly on this NFIB goal, as it will allow entrepreneurs to keep their own earnings for investments for new jobs.

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

Congratulations to Joy and Julian Wilson on the birth Friday, September 24, 2010, of Julian Dusenbury Wilson, Jr., at Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, South Carolina.

PROGRESS FOR AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. BACA. Last week, this Chamber passed another measure to move America's small business forward, the backbone of this country. The Small Business Jobs Act provides \$12 billion in tax cuts for America's small businesses and creates a \$30 billion lending fund to increase available capital and spur small business lending right here in America and not overseas.

This bill was one of many that congressional Democrats worked on to provide relief for hardworking Americans. That is why we passed the Recovery Act, which boosted SBA funding to authorize loans. That is why President Obama has already signed into law eight separate small business tax cuts.

Republicans don't seem to get it. Instead of working for the people, they would rather work to obstruct and continue to be the Party of No.

On the other hand, congressional Democrats and the President have constantly supported the American economic backbone. We didn't create this economic mess, but I am confident that we will be the ones to lead us out of it.

BORDER FENCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in spite of objections to the contrary, a fence is still being built along the southern border. Illegals objected to this but the President is resilient. He is standing firm on his commitment to build the fence to keep illegals out.

You see, over 500,000 illegals cross the border every year into Mexico, and the fence is being built at the southern end of Mexico to keep people like Guatemalans out. It's the Mexican southern border that they're protecting.

You know, Calderon demands that the United States not build a fence. He arrogantly demands the Arizona law not be enforced, but when Mexico has problems with illegals coming to "take jobs that Mexicans won't do," Calderon says he's building a fence on his southern border, whether illegals like it or not.

Every country has the right to defend its border. We should stop listening to anything President Calderon says and do what's right for our country. Secure our borders by sending immediately the National Guard to our southern border.

And that's just the way it is.

PASS THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, middle class families are the backbone of our economy, and that is why we should not wait any longer to vote on extending tax cuts for these middle class families. There is near universal agreement to extend these cuts. There is also agreement that we should extend the investment portion of the current Tax Code. So we need a universal agreement to extend the cuts. We can and must take this action now. There is uncertainty within American families and there is uncertainty in businesses.

Extension of these taxes have been held hostage by the discussion of

whether to extend the rates for the wealthiest Americans. We can't afford \$700 billion over 10 years just for the highest income earners with 79 percent of that \$700 billion, get this, going to less than one-fifth of 1 percent of all American taxpayers. That's preposterous.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center has said the extension of middle class tax cuts would affect less than 2 percent of all small business. My colleagues—CAPUANO, HIGGINS, and OWENS—have put forth our own proposal: a 5-year extension of the current middle class tax cuts, a 5-year extension of the current rates on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends, and a 1-year extension of the highest tax rates of those making up to \$500,000.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 847, JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2378, CURRENCY REFORM FOR FAIR TRADE ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2701, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-648) on the resolution (H. Res. 1674) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 847) to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve protections and services to individuals directly impacted by the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2378) to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify that fundamental exchange-rate misalignment by any foreign nation is actionable under United States countervailing and antidumping duty laws, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2701) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TAX AND SPEND DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in Congress won't tell the American people how much they're going to raise their taxes. They're going to wait till after the election when we come back into session.

And Democrats in Congress won't tell the American people how they're

going to spend their money. For the first time in 35 years, no budget was offered.

Meanwhile, the Democrats are spending almost \$2 for every \$1 the Federal Government collects. That puts a drag on the economy and kills jobs.

The American people have had enough. It's time to end the one-party monopoly in Washington.

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TAX CUT EXTENSIONS

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this Democrat will tell you what we intend to do. We have heard a lot of conflicting opinions during the past week about whether to extend the tax cuts for those at the top of the ladder. It is difficult to break through the clutter. But what is clear in this basic argument is it's about fairness and the type of tax system that we want to create.

A recent analysis shows at various income levels both the cumulative benefit of tax cuts and the 2011 benefit, if we extend the tax cuts to everyone. Since 2004, those earning \$10,000 have received \$335 in total tax benefits. And next year they can look forward to an additional \$5 if we extend the Bush tax cuts. Now, for someone earning more than \$7 million, we will note that they have enjoyed more than \$2 million in tax benefits since 2004. And next year they can look forward to \$339,000 in tax cuts if we extend the tax cut system that President Bush offered as-is.

Five dollars versus \$339,000? It's a basic question of fairness. The tax code should treat working families better.

HONORING HINSDALE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MARK JOHNSON

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with heavy heart to mourn the loss, in my hometown, of the Hinsdale Fire Department's Deputy Chief Mark Johnson. Mark's family, his fellow firefighters, and the community of Hinsdale are grieving his unexpected loss, but we are also celebrating his life as a dedicated public servant.

In 1986 Mark joined the Hinsdale Fire Department and has since served as a firefighter, lieutenant, captain, and finally deputy chief. He was driven, committed to the job, and a mentor for many young firefighters. His colleagues remember him as someone you could always count on and a selfless, positive person to be around.

A seasoned veteran with the fire department, Mark dedicated his career to saving lives and rescuing people from harm's way. He will be truly remembered as a hero. In addition to his work, he was loved and respected by all

who knew him. The community of Hinsdale has really lost one of our own. I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife, Cheryl, and his son, Matt.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INDEMNIFICATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in working with 26 Oregon National Guard members who have filed a lawsuit against defense contractor KBR, I discovered these Oregon veterans have a compelling case that, while serving in Iraq, KBR's negligence resulted in their poisoning by hexavalent chromium, a very potent carcinogen. In the legal proceedings, KBR recently revealed the existence of a still-classified contract clause that could shift the cost of all the damages and court fees onto the Department of Defense and, of course by extension, the U.S. taxpayers.

I vowed to fight to end a contracting flaw that can shield contractors from their own reckless behavior and removes incentives for them to operate responsibly. Today I will introduce legislation that will set important long overdue limits to indemnification agreements and to correct this problem with congressional oversight of the defense contracting process. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this legislation before the end of the session.

EXTENDING THE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about this tax debate, it needs to be less about politics and more about doing what's right for the American people. On January 1, everybody's taxes are going to go up \$3.9 trillion overall. The lowest tax bracket goes from 15 percent to 25 percent. A family of four, \$1,540.

Most importantly, everybody is talking about jobs and the economy. It's the number one issue in our area. We have 13 percent unemployment. They are looking at raising taxes on small business. They create 70 percent of the jobs. I know personally that it will have a huge impact, as someone who was an employer for 30 years and created thousands of jobs.

We are in the worst recession since the Depression. We don't need a tax increase today. We need to take the politics out of this and do everything that we can in the best interests of the American people. We need to extend all the tax cuts.

AWARDING THE PURPLE HEART

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, a recent investigation has found that the Department of Defense has been denying Purple Heart medals for soldiers and marines who were injured by IEDs in Iraq. Some of these awards were denied because the injured troops received only "minimal medical attention."

Mr. Speaker, if you are serving our country and you are injured by the enemy, you are entitled to a Purple Heart, period. It is not something subject to interpretation by a Pentagon bureaucrat. It is not something that can or should be denied based on small print or technicalities. It is utterly outrageous that veterans who continue to pay for this sacrifice with lasting effects of brain trauma are being denied this recognition because they don't have the "right" kind of injury. These men and women are defending our country, and when they suffer an injury at the hands of the enemy, we owe them. We owe them appropriate recognition in the form of a Purple Heart.

STOP JOB-KILLING TAX INCREASES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we must stop these job-killing tax increases. House Republicans have been listening to the American people. Unemployment near 10 percent is one of their chief concerns. So why are Democrats allowing both Chambers to adjourn without stopping this massive \$3.9 trillion tax increase that will hurt small businesses and kill more jobs? Our friends across the aisle can adjourn the House this week and walk away from their responsibility to govern, or Speaker PELOSI could allow a full and open debate on tax increases before this House is adjourned. We want an up-or-down vote now. We can't allow the American people and small businesses to continue to face this uncertainty.

We were elected to serve the people in our districts, not to put our personal political gain ahead of our constituents' welfare. Let's vote before we adjourn to extend tax cuts for all Americans. No family and no job-creating small business owner should face a tax increase on January 1.

REMEMBERING THE AID WORKERS LOST IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of 10 brave women and men who were killed in a tragic attack in northern Afghanistan in August, and to express my support for the resolution by the gentleman from Pennsylvania which we will consider here today.