

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.

□ 1020

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.

This team of dedicated humanitarian aid workers was led by my constituent, Dr. Thomas Little. Tom and his wife, Libby, lived and worked in Afghanistan for more than 30 years. They raised three daughters there, Katie, Molly, and Nellika, and ran an organization that has long provided the majority of eye care services in Afghanistan. Though I am proud to call them constituents, Afghanistan has been their home.

Like so many parts of America, New York's 21st Congressional District has witnessed far too many deaths overseas this year, a fact no less true across the districts of Afghanistan where Tom Little worked with sight and lived with vision. Tom and his team were heroes, and I am honored to recognize their service and sacrifice to America, Afghanistan, and the ideals that unite us all.

HONORING AMIR ABO-SHAEER

(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, I rise with great pride this morning to congratulate Amir Abo-Shaeer from Goleta, California. Mr. Abo-Shaeer was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship Grant for his tremendous work at Dos Pueblos High School as an engineering and physics teacher. He also established and leads the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy, which competes annually in the Robotics World Championship, entitled FIRST.

For the last 2 years, the Dos Pueblos High School team, half of which are young women, has been awarded the Motorola Award for the best designed robot at the competition. Mr. Abo-Shaeer is the first public school teacher to win this prestigious award and a powerful testament to the importance of science and math education in our schools. His innovative, challenging, and outside-the-box teaching style is exactly what we need to create and inspire the next generation of American engineers, scientists, and innovators.

On behalf of the entire Santa Barbara community, I want to send the heartiest congratulations to this dedicated public servant.

□ 1030

AMERICA IS NOT FOR SALE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have a plan for America; not their so-called pledge, just a garbled rehash of the failed policies of the Bush era that put us in this mess.

The real plan, step one, try to block every Democratic initiative, even those that could aid our economic recovery, put people back to work. They would harm people for their own polit-

ical ends. And if something passes, lie about it. Remember death panels?

Now, step two, aided and abetted by a right-wing activist Supreme Court overturning 100 years of precedent. New independent groups, independent groups every day, one a day, are filing with the Federal Elections Commission. They can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money anonymously, no disclosure necessary to try to buy the election for their Republican lap dog buddies.

Well, I have got news for you over on that side of the aisle: America is not for sale.

EXTENDING TAX CUTS

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are committed to extending tax cuts for the middle class working families. Unfortunately, our friends on the other side of the aisle have been unwilling to compromise so far on tax cuts for the wealthy, which would add \$700 billion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

I was proud to join several of my colleagues, led by Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. CAPUANO, in sending a letter to Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER advocating for a compromise on this issue. Our idea involves a 1-year extension of the higher tax rates for individuals and joint filers making under \$500,000 annually, a 5-year extension of the middle class tax cuts for individuals making less than \$200,000 and joint filers making less than \$250,000 annually, and a 5-year extension of the current tax rates on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends.

I hope we come together to address this issue quickly when Congress returns. And I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to focus on working out a compromise.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP KENNETH H. MOALES

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, a week ago the City of Bridgeport lost a friend, spiritual leader and powerful force for good in the community.

Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, whose humble origins in Father Panik Village public housing foreshadowed little of his lifelong leadership, dedicated his life to shepherding the souls and improving the worldly conditions of some of the least fortunate people in Fairfield County.

I worshipped in his church just 3 weeks ago, and the ministries of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and his presence among his flock reminded me of the saying of St. Francis of Assisi when he said, "Always preach the gospel. Sometimes use words."

The bishop was an accomplished musician, and his choirs enriched those who heard them and those who sang in them.

At one time or another, the bishop was contributing to just about every civic institution in Bridgeport, from the police to the YMCA.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Bishop Moales, but we celebrate a life well lived. And we take confidence in the fact that, as of last week, the music in heaven got a whole lot better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL PHILIP CHARTE

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

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the very sad duty of reporting the tragic loss of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Philip Charte. He had just turned 22 years old. Charte was killed in action in Afghanistan on Monday, September 6, 2010.

Corporal Charte, a rifleman, joined the Marines in June 2007, the same day he graduated high school. Last year he served in Iraq; and after being promoted to Corporal little more than a few months ago, he was deployed once again, this time to Afghanistan.

Corporal Charte was willing to give his life in service to all of us and to the country he loved. Our gratitude cannot simply be expressed nor our sorrow properly conveyed.

Charte will be remembered as many things: a prankster, a dedicated athlete, a competitor and a teammate. But above all else, he was a soldier, serving his country and community with honor.

While Philip lived in New Hampshire, he grew up and his family still lives in Washington County in New York. My heart goes out to Philip's father, also named Philip, and his sister, Alicia.

His father perhaps said it best: "Philip served his country with courage, honor and distinction. He was a great son, brother, nephew, uncle and friend. He will be missed sorely."

On behalf of a grateful Nation, our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Charte family during this incredibly difficult time.

NASA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much for the opportunity to address this House on an important issue that will be confronting this Congress today, and that is the recommitment of the American people to a dream and a challenge of John F. Kennedy. Today we will reauthorize the NASA reauthorization bill, if you will, or the authorization bill, to be able to commit America's future to science and technology.

Although I would have advocated stronger for the work of the House and