

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI, for being so generous with this hour. To our chairman, IKE SKELTON, thank you. Thank you very much.

What I have learned, sitting for 14 years, my full time here in the Congress on this committee, has been invaluable. And you were actually the first to ask me to go on a congressional delegation, the first to take me before some of the world leaders, the first to tell me about what it was to be in the military. And all the information you gave me, "Learn the ranks, LORETTA. Learn what a star means. Learn what two stars mean." Just all the very beginning information 14 years ago when I got to the committee, I cannot say enough, IKE. I really can't.

Aside from being somebody who has loved the troops, and you have, and I have seen that just as my colleague, Mrs. DAVIS, and I sitting on the Personnel Subcommittee have seen that from you, aside from really being the champion for the troops, and that's how I will always remember you, you are really a Congressperson's Congressperson. You are somebody that we model ourselves after.

And, IKE, from the bottom of my heart, we will miss you. Thank you. Thank you for all the memories, for all the learning, and in particular for taking some of the women on the committee under your arm and showing us what it is to serve proudly on the House Armed Services Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Number one, I want to thank Mr. AKIN for allowing us to go into your time a little bit. As a fellow Missourian, it's obviously time well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I have a Vietnamese American friend who has a limited use of the English language. He is also very devout. I once saw him at his boatyard hit his thumb with a 5-pound maul. And having a limited use of the English language and also being very devout, he did not use the kinds of words I would use in that situation. He just shouted over and over as he was shaking his thumb, "No joy." This is a "no joy" moment.

For those of us who have had the privilege of working with IKE, we want to say thank you. If you are the mother or father of a troop, a marine, a coastie, a sailor, you should know about IKE SKELTON. You should know his name. In our line of work, if you do something stupid, you are a headline. If you do the right thing, people don't know your name.

But if your child has been saved because of a mine-resistant vehicle, you

should know IKE SKELTON's name. If you are a military retiree who is enjoying the benefits of TRICARE for life, you should know IKE SKELTON's name. If you are a guardsman or Reservist who is now eligible for TRICARE, you should know IKE SKELTON's name.

What he won't ever tell you, out of concern for his kids, and I won't tell you the branch, but he has two sons who are officers in the United States military. But what every mom and dad should know is that there was one more parent out there looking out for their kids, and that was IKE SKELTON.

So, IKE, for all of those things and for your great humility, I got to tell the story. IKE visited a Coast Guard buoy tender on the Missouri River. And given his nature, obviously he paid his respects to the captain, engineering officer. But then he sought out the lowest-ranked person on that boat, a seaman apprentice. Went back to him and said, Hi, how are you doing? I am IKE SKELTON. I am a Congressman from Missouri. How do you like the Coast Guard? I do. He said, Have you ever had a Congressman on your buoy tender before? And the kid said, No, and I hope to hell we never do again. They have been working my butt off for the past 2 weeks scraping and painting, getting this boat ready for you, sir.

Now, only IKE SKELTON would tell that story about himself. So now the rest of America knows. And I hope that seaman apprentice is listening tonight, and I hope he made chief one day.

But, IKE, you have been an incredible role model. Someone who put together a \$600 billion bill that involved the lives of airmen, marines, sailors, and to some extent coasties, certainly the troops in the field, and it passed out of your committee unanimously. That is an incredible feat. And all of us are grateful for your service. God bless you.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It was 13 months ago that I was given the great privilege of becoming a Member of the Congress. And it was 7 months ago that I was given another privilege of becoming a member of the Armed Services Committee. For the last hour and 10 minutes, we have heard from Chairman SKELTON and from his colleagues that have expressed their appreciation based upon their knowledge and their experiences of working with an extraordinary man.

I feel cheated that I don't have all of those years that my other colleagues have had to learn and to share time with Chairman SKELTON. My 7 months have been just too short; but in those 7 months, I have found the opportunity for friendship, brotherhood, and the op-

portunity to work and to be mentored by an incredible individual.

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What you have seen here tonight is the outpouring of emotion and respect for a gentleman that has served this Nation and the armed services for 34 years in the capacity of a Member of Congress. That's an incredible record. Seven months of that I have had a personal experience of, and I value those moments intensely.

I have had my hours on the floor talking about policy. I have not had such an important hour as this hour listening to the Members of this Congress speak of one of their colleagues. It has been a very good hour.

Chairman SKELTON, you are loved, beloved, for a very good reason. You are a unique individual.

HONORING IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to add my note to the already numerous congratulations and praises for Chairman SKELTON. I have served my 10 years in Congress on the Armed Services Committee. I told him the night before last at a reception that I thought that IKE was like my big brother down here.

You know, sometimes as we go on CODELS in the field, and we can talk to different level officers, sometimes it's a sergeant, sometimes it's a general, sometimes it's in between, how we get different answers, and sometimes a well-placed question to the right person is very helpful. I am a Republican, and sometimes a well-placed question to a Democrat is a very smart thing to do.

I will ask IKE, I say, I think I have got a bright idea, IKE, but what do you think of it? And he will tell me sometimes, TODD, that's the dumbest thing I ever heard. And sometimes he says that would be a good thing if you can get that done. Because IKE is like a big brother. He is a big brother to everybody down here.

IKE runs a committee the way I understand it used to be done, where the objective is to deal with the security of our country, and that is the business of the committee.

So I thank you very much for your great work down here. We are going to miss you a lot, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Marine, and my big brother.

God bless you and Godspeed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4853, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. POLIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 111-671) on the resolution (H. Res. 1745) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING IKE SKELTON

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my departing colleague, Representative IKE SKELTON. I did not get to work closely with Representative SKELTON, but I want to say it's the small things that make a difference. There was one day my sister, who had been working for the Pentagon at the time, was part of the Quadrennial Defense Review team, the QDR team. When they had that hearing, the chairman invited me right up to the podium with the committee members to be there during that presentation, and that was a great honor.

I would like to say that despite his political views in other areas, I never sensed that he treated me any differently because of my sexual orientation, and I think he fully respected me as a Member of this body.

It was really those small things and the courtesies that he showed me that made him stand out in my mind as an inspirational leader of this body who will be sorely missed. It will only be a short period of time, no doubt, until his name appears on a battleship or aircraft carrier, and I look forward to visiting that one day.

CONDITION OF OUR ECONOMY AND WORLD ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join you and my colleagues tonight in a discussion that has been very much in the attention of people now for a number of years and something that because it is so important it has maintained the attention politically for many, many months, and that is the condition of our economy, indeed, the condition of the world economy as well.

This might seem like kind of an esoteric topic, but it affects Americans all across this great land, and the main effect is that people don't have jobs. When you don't have jobs, things don't go so well.

The American Nation was founded by many, many courageous people over a

period of hundreds of years, and they came to this land with dreams in their hearts, an idea to try something out, idea to test their abilities, to make something that had not been made before, do something that had not been done before.

And so they came. Initially I talked a couple of weeks ago about that brave band of mothers and fathers and kids that we call the Pilgrims. They came to this land with a dream of starting a new Nation.

In the first few months half of them almost died, just slightly under half. And yet when the Mayflower left Plymouth Harbor, those people that had that dream in their heart stayed because they believed that this could be a special and a unique Nation. And they saw themselves, as Governor Bradford wrote, as stepping stones to others who were coming to found a new nation.

Starting with that little group and with others even before them at Jamestown, you have people like Thomas Edison. He had the idea that he would make a light bulb. So he made a 100 different lightbulbs, all of them failures, and his attitude was, well now I know 100 ways not to make a light bulb.

So it was that America, with all of these courageous people that had that perseverance and that grit, one person at a time started building this Nation, one dream at a time. It became such a common thing, we gave it a name: We called it the American dream. The dream was to be able to come here with barely the shirt on your back and end up in much better condition than when you started. And so the condition we find ourselves in with unemployment high, and the economic conditions difficult, is something that we should view is not very consistent with our past or what we expect from this country or the standards that we would hold up.

The condition of the economy is one of those things that if you look at it from a mathematical point of view, there are basic principles in economics that govern how things work. If you violate those principles, there are bad results. But if you keep to the principles, you do pretty well.

Unfortunately, over the last number of years, and with both Republican and Democrat sometimes at the helm, we have violated some basic principles, and now we are starting to see the fruit of that in a high level of unemployment.

Now, I have here a little cartoon. This is the President, and he is wanting to know, how come you are not hiring people? You have coming into the china shop, triple bulls here, the health care reform and the cap-and-trade or cap-and-tax bill, and the war tax. And this poor guy that has got the china shop is looking a little bit worried. This is a nice cartoon.

But the point of the matter is that there are things that we can do which are going to make it very hard to create jobs. Now if you were to try to cat-

egorize those things, and I have had a chance to go to my district in the St. Louis and St. Charles area in Missouri and talk to many small businessmen, medium-size businessmen, but people from across the Nation too up here in Washington D.C., and if you ask them this question, people who are in the business world, what are the ways that you can make sure you are going to kill jobs?

Maybe this is a reverse way of looking at it. I apologize for that, but there is a reason for why I am approaching it this way.

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One of the things to do if you want to make sure that there's not going to be jobs for people, well, I think about the first thing usually, and I don't know that these are necessarily exactly in the right order, but certainly this first one is the one that comes to the mind of most people if you ask them, "What are you going to do if you want to kill jobs?" and the first thing they think of is excessive taxation.

Now, that might seem kind of theoretical, but it really shouldn't be any surprise to us. If you picture yourself with a lemonade stand or making some other kind of product and you figure out how much it costs you to buy your raw materials—you have, maybe it's a lemonade machine, so you have to put the lemons in it. You have sugar that you have to buy. You have to have some good water. You have to have an ice maker. So you put that all together and figure out what it's going to cost you to make some lemonade, and you look at the cost of the ingredients. People come and buy. It's a hot day, and so they are buying the lemonade you're making. There's a difference between what it costs you and what you can sell it for, and you make a profit. And that is basically the lemonade stand idea. It's not complicated.

But if the government comes along and taxes every glass of lemonade that goes out, it makes it a little harder to try and make a living. What happens if the government raises the tax too much on your lemonade? Well, nobody will buy it, and now you're out of business.

So this isn't a very complicated idea, that if you do too much taxation on a business, either the business sort of hibernates and tries to weather the storm, or they actually just plain go out of business and you kill the potential for creating any new jobs as well as getting rid of old ones. So excessive taxation is usually at the top of a lot of businesspeople's things if you want to kill jobs.

Another one, and this sounds like a big thing, insufficient liquidity. What that is saying is that businessmen need to borrow money at various times, and they have to get the loans from banks. And if the bank policy is such that the businessman has trouble getting a loan, then it makes it harder for him or her to expand the business.