

striking the extent to which Republicans are siding with the Central Bank of China and the Chinese Government in objecting to American Federal Reserve actions taken in our self-defense. There are some debatable aspects of this. I think what the Fed is doing is very wise. But what the gentleman just said we have seen from elsewhere. "This could lead to trade disputes with other nations because of its effect on our currency."

Yes, the major other nation making that argument is China, which deliberately undervalues its currency, and is objecting because a potential side effect of what the Fed is doing to stimulate employment could be to reduce our currency vis-a-vis theirs. This notion that taking the side of these other countries in trade disputes, given the extent to which many of them have unfairly abused trade rules, seems to me quite shocking. And I am continually surprised that my Republican colleagues side with China, with Germany, and with other foreign central banks in their criticism of the Fed because of the effect it could have on our currency.

But I wanted to talk about the censure of our colleague, Mr. RANGEL of New York, because I voted for a resolution amendment that would have had him be reprimanded, and then voted against censure. And I think my constituents are entitled to know why.

Mr. RANGEL did things he should not have done. And he should have been reprimanded. I do not believe, however, that they rose to the very severe level of censure. In my mind, a reprimand is the House telling a Member that he or she has done things that were wrong. But when you get to censure, and if you look at the historical precedents here, you are going beyond simple bad acts. You are talking about, at least in one instance, a serious character defect. You are talking about someone who was a bad person.

The Ethics Committee itself said that the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) was not trying to enrich himself. He was careless, he was sloppy, he was too zealous in trying to get money at a public university for a center in his name, but it would not have been redounded to him personally financially. So I do agree he should have been reprimanded. But I do not think, given the acknowledgment that he was not trying to personally enrich himself, that he should have been censured.

I was also struck that the Republican cochair of the Ethics Committee—and I honor the members of the Ethics Committee. They do a very difficult job. They were very fair about the procedures, and I honor them for that, the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from Alabama. But he said that if Mr. RANGEL had comported himself differently—go back and look at this—if Mr. RANGEL had comported himself differently during these discussions, he might have been reprimanded instead of censured. That's inappro-

priate. The punishment voted by this House for behavior should not be affected by what goes before.

But there is another element of what goes before in the process, and there is another element of this that I need to address. I think I am the only Member still serving in the House who was in fact reprimanded. And I want to deal with those who consider reprimand a slap on the wrist, saying, well, a reprimand was no big deal.

Mr. Speaker, it is a big deal. I am very proud of my service in this House. I am about to start my 31st year of service. And I am very proud of many of the things I have done. But reports of my service will include the fact that I was reprimanded 20 years ago for things that were done 24, 25 years ago. And that is not something that anyone ought to consider simply a slap on the wrist. I bear the stigma of having been reprimanded. I am enormously proud of serving in this wonderful body that embodies democracy. It is an enormous source of pride to me that hundreds of thousands of my constituents choose to have me serve here on their behalf. And to have marred that record, of which I am generally proud, with a reprimand means a great deal to me.

So I would just say in summary that given what Mr. RANGEL did, given that he did things that he should not have done, but not for the purpose of enriching himself, they were careless, they were occasionally overreaches, but not, again, for his personal enhancement financially, given what we have traditionally reprimanded people for and what we have censured people for, reprimand was the appropriate response. And I would have voted for a reprimand, and I voted for an amendment that would have made it reprimand.

But I did not think that you should trivialize censure by censuring someone for the kind of behavior Mr. RANGEL engaged in. And I would remind people again, from my own personal experience—and by the way, while he is not here, I assume that former Speaker Gingrich, who was also reprimanded by this House, would share my view—that having been reprimanded is not some slap on the wrist. I do not understand, Mr. Speaker, how anyone who shares the pride that I feel in serving in this body, and having been selected by American citizens to make the laws of this country, could trivialize something like a reprimand.

DEATH TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 2 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week the Democrats brought back the death tax.

This calendar year, there has been no estate tax, and I guess in some ways it was the year to die. But on January 1, because of the actions of the House Democrats, the death tax roars back at

a rate of 55 percent after the first \$1 million. Now that means that your heirs pay nothing on the first million dollars that you leave them, but they pay 55 percent tax on every dollar beyond that.

I talked to a constituent recently who says just during his lifetime, he and his family had bought the family business back from the government three times, every time a generation passed away. In other words, the heirs have had to essentially buy back that family business over and over again.

Now, a million dollars sounds like a lot of money to most of us, but when you are talking about acreage or buildings, equipment, homes, inventory, even livestock if you are talking about a family farm, it isn't hard to exceed the first exemption. Small businesses can easily be punished by this tax.

Why is it fair to essentially ask people to buy back a large portion of their family farms or businesses on which they already pay taxes? Ask the Democrats.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

On another sunny December 7 in the year 1941, the Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii changed the map of history and would be described as "a date which will live in infamy."

Lord, how baffling is human memory with what is remembered and what is forgotten. Mindful of the contradictory consequences of war, we pray for peace in our own day.

Still mourning the many lives lost, those injured, and those missing, that event gave rise to America's "Greatest Generation," as well as racism and internment camps of 120,000 Japanese Americans for nearly 3 years, Asian economic power, as well as nuclear energy.

Lord, help us to find new ways instead of war or violence to develop human development and negotiate ordinary differences of opinion. Guide people around the world in any effort to balance support of military forces fighting for peace with the scales of justice.

Lord, make Your people one in creative work, in hope for peace, and in effective compassion so we bring You glory and honor now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

F-35S IN BEAUFORT

(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. Madam Speaker, Beaufort, South Carolina, is home to the Marine Corps Air Station, professionally commanded by Colonel John Snider. The Marine Corps Air Station plays a critical role in our national security operations and is home to six Marine squadrons and one Navy squadron, with an economic impact of \$615 million annually. I hope the future is about to grow even brighter for Beaufort this week as we are optimistic that the final environmental impact study promotes F-35B squadrons in this great and historic community.

It has been a pleasure to work with Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM to highlight Beaufort's pro-military community, mild climate, and existing facilities which provides for year-round training to military leaders including Marine Corps Commandant James Conway.

If Alternative I is chosen to support the F-35s, Beaufort can expect to see over 1,500 new jobs and hundreds of private sector high-tech jobs, as promoted by the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce led by President Carlotta Ungaro and the Military Enhancement Committee chaired by General Garry Parks. I look forward to expanding the Sound of Freedom in the Lowcountry.

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

LIU XIAOBO

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, this week, the Nobel Committee will award its annual Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese human rights advocate Liu Xiaobo, but at the ceremony the chair reserved for Liu will be empty as he is serving 11 years in prison for peacefully petitioning his government for basic human rights.

Earlier this year, I was proud to join my colleagues on the Human Rights Commission in nominating Liu for the Nobel Peace Prize. Even now, the Chinese Government is censoring the news of this award and is calling for a boycott of the award ceremony. Sadly, some nations have bowed to the wishes of the Communist government. I am particularly grieved to hear that Kazakhstan, Morocco, and Iraq will not send representatives to the ceremony. These nations should know exactly what it is like to have basic human rights denied by an autocratic government.

It is not too late to defy the bullying and intimidation from those who have imprisoned a peaceful man. I call on all nations to recognize the peaceful struggle of Liu Xiaobo, a man who has no hatred even for those who have denied him and his people basic freedoms, of this distinguished honor.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT KEVIN MATTHEW PAPE

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, over 2 weeks ago, Staff Sergeant Kevin Matthew Pape, age 30, was killed by enemy forces during a heavy fire fight while conducting combat operations in the Konar province of Afghanistan.

Born February 5, 1980, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Sergeant Pape enlisted in the United States Army in September of 2005 from his home town of Fort Wayne. As a squad leader assigned to 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sergeant Pape was on a remarkable sixth deployment, with three previous deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

Sergeant Pape's awards and decorations for his service are too numerous to list here. However, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Meritorious Service medals.

Sergeant Pape is survived by his wife, Amelia Rose Pape; his daughter, Anneka Sue; his father, Marc Dennis Pape; and his sister, Kristen Michele Pape, both of Fort Wayne. Sergeant Pape selflessly lived his life for others, distinguishing himself as an Army Ranger while continuously deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and fighting valiantly as he served our great Nation and following the Ranger creed.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today, 25,000 girls—some as young as 10 years old—will be robbed of their future when they are forced to marry much older men. This isn't marriage when a 10-year-old girl is given to a 40-year-old man; it's sexual abuse.

The practice of child marriage is wrong, and it must end. The United States must take a strong stand against child marriage.

Democrats and Republicans must come together and pass the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act as soon as possible. Every Senator agreed to this bill when it passed last week. It passed unanimously.

There is a lot of talk in Congress about the need to protect children from abuse. It's time for action. It's time for a vote.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 3, 2010 at 4:15 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3237.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 5281.

That the Senate passed S. 1774.

That the Senate passed S. 124.

Appointment:

United States Commission on Civil Rights.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 6, 2010 at 1:24 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6399.