

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every time a child is born, the Good Lord is making a bet on the future of mankind. Olivia Carolyn Shoemaker arrived in Dallas, Texas, Monday night, December 6, at 7 pounds and 19.5 inches.

She was affectionately referred to as Baby Shoe until named by her parents, Anthony and Kellee, Kellee being our youngest of four children. Olivia, although petite, has the legs of a long distance runner, and like her mother, Kellee, she has her mom's happy spirit. Having the intellect of her father, Anthony, I am sure she will be quoting the Constitution soon.

Mr. Speaker, God sends little girls to the world to soften up the rough edges of dads and help remove the hard crusty bark off grandfathers like me. There is absolutely nothing like a little girl.

My hope for Olivia is that she appreciate liberty, love God, and know she was born for a special reason, to make a world of difference in a world that just needs more little girls.

And that's just the way it is.

PASS THE DREAM ACT

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. When I was a school teacher, I never knew how well my kids were doing until I gave them a test. That's when you find out what you've really learned. We need to have a test right here today in this Chamber. We need to test our tolerance, our fairness, and our sense of justice. We need to vote today on the DREAM Act.

Will we pass that test? Will we get an A or an F? Those who will grade this test are watching. A generation of young people are hoping. Their futures are riding on whether we pass this test. Their families and communities are watching to see how we do on the test. Our Nation wants to see if we are compassionate, if we have the courage to do what is right.

This is a pass or fail test. Our kids, our young people, they have all passed. They have worked hard. They planned for a better future, and they love this country. They love America. Today, I urge my colleagues not to fail these kids and to reward their love by the passage of the DREAM Act.

TAX CUTS RESOLUTION

(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, a tax cuts resolution has finally been made to protect all Americans from the largest tax increase in American history. I am happy the President recognizes tax increases kill jobs, as documented by the National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB. This resolution protects South Carolina from losing 9,000 jobs a year

and \$3,000 per family of disposable income, as highlighted by the Heritage Foundation.

I have two corrections. First, the death tax must be permanently repealed, as this double taxation destroys family-owned businesses. Secondly, I am concerned about extending unemployment benefits without paying for them. I understand that hardworking Americans find themselves needing assistance. A commonsense solution is to pay for an extension of unemployment benefits with unused stimulus funds.

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

Congratulations Lexington County Council for recruiting 1,200 new jobs with Amazon.com to the City of Cayce.

□ 1010

DREAM ACT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DREAM Act. Further, I rise in support of our Nation's children and young adults, children who, sadly, have borne the brunt of our immigration issues; children who have graduated from high school and want to continue on to college, but cannot receive any help; children who would sign up and fight and die for our country, but are seen as ghosts by their host country.

In August of 1864, President Lincoln wrote: "It is not merely for today but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children this great and free government which we have all enjoyed all our lives."

Nearly 150 years later, we are asked to stand up to the same task to perpetuate this great and free government for all our children. I ask my colleagues to support the children and support the DREAM Act.

CONSTITUTION HOUSE RULE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as founder and chairman of the Congressional Constitution Caucus, I rise this morning to urge support of my resolution to restore the pre-eminence of the Constitution in law-making.

My resolution requires that all House bills appropriately cite an enumerated power in the U.S. Constitution. If a bill did not sufficiently cite that justification, it would be subject to a point of order, and it could not be waived by the Rules Committee.

Some of my colleagues might claim that all legislation is constitutional as long as it provides the general welfare clause reference. But our Founding Father, James Madison, who was the Fa-

ther of the Constitution, said in *Federalist* No. 41: "For what purpose could the enumeration of particulars be inserted, if these and all others were meant to be included in the preceding general power?" In other words, Mr. Speaker, why does the Constitution list specific powers in article I if every conceivable law is basically fair game?

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense resolution.

ON RETIREMENT OF BROADCASTING LEGEND DON WEEKS

(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, I rise today to mark the retirement of a broadcasting legend in my district, Don Weeks of historic WGY radio in Albany and Schenectady.

Don's career in radio started in 1959 and grew to include work as a Top 40 DJ, a TV weatherman, and work in an advertising agency. It was during the last 30 years, however, as host of WGY's top-rated morning news program that Don cemented his legacy as one of the most congenial and recognizable personalities in the Capital Region.

He entertained listeners each morning with his laugh-out-loud sense of humor; his friendly, inquisitive interviews; and with his unrelenting communication to the community. For 30 years, Don was the voice and the face behind WGY's annual Christmas Wish fund drive, which raised millions for local charities.

Don was awarded the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Medium Market Personality of the Year and named Best Personality by the New York State Broadcasters Association.

To Don and his wife, Sue, I wish you a happy and healthy retirement. It certainly is well earned, my friends.

DREAM ACT

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for the American DREAM Act. This legislation provides conditional non-immigrant status to young individuals of college age who are eager to contribute to our Nation's workforce, economy, and Armed Forces.

I personally want to thank the Coalition for Educational Opportunity at the University of Texas-Pan American and the thousands of students, civil rights groups, and prominent education and business and religious leaders who have fought tirelessly to pass the DREAM Act. In my congressional district I want to recognize Alex Garrido and Dora Martinez, two courageous

UTPA college students, who fasted for 1 week to express their support for the DREAM Act.

I am extremely grateful to Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, former Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, and many chancellors and many university presidents who are underscoring the urgency of passing the DREAM Act.

Our Armed Forces need courageous servicemen and -women to encourage our Nation's military readiness.

I ask everyone to vote in favor of the DREAM Act.

DREAM ACT

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

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, this coming spring, tens of thousands of young people will graduate from high school, many of them at the very top of their class, only to discover that they have no hope of pursuing their goals because they were brought here illegally.

The DREAM Act will allow these young people the opportunity to pursue a pathway to citizenship while contributing to our country through higher education or military service, young people like Marissa, an honors student from my district.

Marissa was brought here as a young child from Uruguay and grew up considering herself as American as her classmates. Her English is as good as yours and mine. She excelled in school. Her dream was going to college and becoming a physician, but that dream was crushed when her parents sat her down and told her that her family is in the United States illegally.

America deserves to have the best and brightest young people like Marissa studying in our universities and defending our Nation. And these students deserve the chance to earn citizenship in the country that is the only homeland they know. It is the moral thing to do, and it's the fair thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to support the DREAM Act.

DREAM ACT

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

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker—and of course I hope that we do have a vote on the DREAM Act—but this is really a plea to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to prove a former official and spokesman for the Bush administration wrong.

Michael Gerson wrote yesterday in The Washington Post: "Whatever its legislative fate, the DREAM Act is effective at stripping away pretense. Opponents of this law don't want earned citizenship for any illegal immigrant—even those personally guilty of no

crime, even those who demonstrate their skills and character. The DREAM Act would be a potent incentive for assimilation. But for some, assimilation clearly is not the goal. They have no intention of sharing the honor of citizenship with anyone called illegal—even those who came as children, have grown up as neighbors and would be willing to give their lives in the Nation's cause."

I implore and I request fair consideration and that we prove Michael Gerson wrong. My fear is that he may be very, very accurate in what this vote represents.

SENIORS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to be voting on H.R. 5987, the Seniors Protection Act.

For the second year in a row, our seniors have not received a cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients. The Consumer Price Index that is used to calculate the cost-of-living increase does not take into account what our seniors face on a daily basis. We do need to change how the cost-of-living adjustment is calculated and ensure accurately that the rising costs that seniors face are addressed. I hope that we have an opportunity to address that in the next Congress.

Today, however, we do have a vote coming up for that, and I hope everybody will support it. H.R. 5987 will provide a one-time \$250 payment to seniors in place of the annual cost-of-living adjustment. This will help our seniors offset the rising costs that they face.

Many of us, myself included, introduced legislation in 2009; and today I am happy that we have come to a conclusion that we need to do this today.

I know that the President had said that Congress should pass this. I am pleased that we are finally taking up this bill today, and I ask all of my colleagues for their support.

DREAM ACT

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, imagine you wake up one morning to discover that the U.S. Government will be sending you under duress to Guatemala or Mexico or the Ukraine. You don't speak the language; you have never visited. These places are as foreign as foreign can be, but you are being deported because of the crime of a parent.

That's inhumane. It's also dumb economics. The CBO tells us that the DREAM Act, if we pass it, will cut the deficit by \$1.4 billion.

It's dumb for our security. Secretary of Defense Gates says that passing the DREAM Act would be to the advantage of military readiness and recruiting.

We can do these things. We can fix these things. We can create a more humane, secure, and economically prosperous Nation by passing the DREAM Act today.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM D. MCLAURIN

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a truly extraordinary young man from my district. Army Staff Sergeant William McLaurin, known as Staff Sergeant Mac to those who serve with him, is a field artilleryman serving in southern Iraq. His unit is assigned to help protect the civilian State Department provincial reconstruction mission that is helping to rebuild Iraq.

Our former colleague, Mike Flanagan, is serving with the State Department in Iraq and informed me of Staff Sergeant Mac's heroism and sacrifice. Staff Sergeant Mac was wounded twice by a sniper. In the first attack, he was hit in the backside but did not flinch from completing his mission. He returned to duty only 3 weeks later without even so much as a limp.

Several weeks later, while patrolling and escorting Mike on an important mission, he was hit again by the same sniper in the chest and shoulder. While his wounds this time are much more serious, I am happy to report that Staff Sergeant Mac is expected to make a full recovery and is already trying to make it back to his unit in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Mac is a truly extraordinary young man and one we can all be proud of.

□ 1020

THE DREAM ACT

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the more than 800,000 young people looking to make better lives for themselves. I stand with these children and the DREAM Act because it's smart for the future of our country. But it's the right thing to do for these young people.

The DREAM Act does not reward illegality. It provides the opportunity to achieve the American dream for a select group of students who deserve to realize this dream. Shall we further punish these 800,000 young people through deportation or by keeping them in legal limbo, or should we allow these highly motivated youth to attend colleges and become productive members of our society? The answer really should be quite obvious.

I support the DREAM Act because it is in, of course, our national interest, but it reflects the best of our American values and it is long overdue. I urge a "yes" vote.