

## SHOWING COMPASSION

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

Mr. TONKO. I rise today to share a passage from Proverbs 31:8-9: "If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."

Madam Speaker, let us heed that cry. I encourage my colleagues to open our ears today during this holiday season and hear the compassionate cry of the working poor and middle income families back home. In my congressional district alone, some 6,400 people who lost their jobs through no fault of their own will be without their earned unemployment lifeline by the end of this month, unless we act. At the same time, my colleagues in this Chamber are worried about people that own estates or make millions and billions of dollars each and every year.

Let us show compassion for our neighbors and family members by standing up for the working poor and our middle income families. We should continue to provide tax cuts for the middle class community and extend unemployment insurance.

## IN RECOGNITION OF LOVELL JAMES WRIGHT

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

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Wright for his 10 years of public service in my district staff. Throughout his career in our office, James has consistently demonstrated a genuine willingness to help others and improve our community. He has undertaken a number of projects in my district, such as a program to teach financial literacy to young adults, a "5 percent home ownership" initiative under the section 8 housing program, and an "entrepreneurship" program to create a critical mass in a struggling urban setting. He has also taken on a leadership role in an Omaha small business initiative in North Omaha.

All of these actions were directed at providing quality assistance to the people of Omaha. His positive attitude, dedication, and optimistic outlook are commendable attributes, and we're certainly appreciative of his outlook.

James is an outstanding member of the Omaha community. He loves our great city. He contributes to local and national charities and organizations as well as participates in the Omaha Community Playhouse. He's a dynamic individual with a wealth of knowledge. We thank him for his public service.

## PRESERVING FOREIGN CRIMINAL ASSETS FOR FORFEITURE ACT OF 2010

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

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, last year, Bobby Salcedo, a beloved elected official in my district, was brutally murdered by the Mexican drug cartels while visiting family in Durango, Mexico. While I am saddened by Bobby's loss, his death has led me to fight the dangerous drug cartels that thrive along our border. That is why I introduced the Preserving Foreign Criminal Assets Forfeiture Act, a bill that will make it easier for Federal police to seize the illicit assets of international criminal organizations.

Foreign criminals are able to protect hundreds of millions of dollars in dirty money by moving their proceeds abroad before U.S. police can seize them, enabling them to continue their illegal activities. With this bill, we will have another tool to fight the drug cartels by cutting off their lifeblood and allowing Federal law enforcement officials to seize these illicit assets.

## OPPOSITION TO TAX DEAL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the tax deal negotiated between congressional leadership and the White House. Although we have yet to see the language of the bill, it is clear that it will represent a level of spending that should be unacceptable to those who are serious about our ballooning deficit.

What is striking about this legislation is the failure for either party to make tough choices. Where are the cuts? Take, for example, the 2 percent payroll tax deduction. If it is a good idea to reduce the payroll tax, it is imperative that we couple it with a reduction in benefits on the other side; but we make no such choices here. Again, we eat a sumptuous meal and pass the bill on to our kids and our grandkids because we lack the decency to pay for it ourselves.

If we can't make difficult choices now, Madam Speaker, when will we? Are we waiting for our New Year's resolutions to kick in? We're just a few years away from the fate of Greece and Ireland, and is this the best we can do? We can and should do better.

□ 1010

## THE VIRGINIA DECISION

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, Virginia Judge Henry Hudson's decision 2 days ago striking down one section of the Health Care Reform Act was about a lot less than all the noise in the last 24 hours. Despite the Virginia Attorney General's request, Judge Hudson did not strike down the whole law, and despite Virginia's request, he refused to delay its implementation.

That is good news for millions of young Americans now covered under

their parents' health plans due to the health care law's age 26 dependent coverage, good news for millions of seniors in the Medicare doughnut hole who will get a 50 percent discount on life-saving medication, and good news for seniors for whom Medicare will finally cover checkups, cancer screenings and flu vaccinations.

Unfortunately, Hudson did rule against the law's system of shared responsibility for all Americans to have coverage, which would stabilize a health insurance market that has been collapsing for the last 10 years and would provide access to Americans with preexisting conditions. Fortunately, two other judges have ruled the other way, upholding the Nation's need for a stable insurance market in interstate commerce.

One thing Hudson did get right in his decision was his conclusion where he said, "The final word will reside with a higher court."

Thank goodness.

## NO DEAL TO THIS TAX DEAL

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, since last summer, I have urged this Congress to take action to prevent a tax increase that would affect every American in January of next year. So I rise with a heavy heart this morning to simply announce to my colleagues that I believe the short-term tax deal negotiated by the White House and congressional leaders is a bad deal for taxpayers, will do little to create jobs, and I cannot support it.

Despite the fact that last November the American people did not vote for more deficits, more stimulus or more uncertainty in the Tax Code, that is just what this lame duck Congress is about to give them.

You know, Madam Speaker, there is a reason why article I, section 7 of the Constitution says that all bills for raising revenue are to originate here in the House of Representatives. It is because our Founders believed that, when it comes to the people's taxes, the people's House should always lead. If the process is wrong, then the policy is wrong. We perpetuate the uncertainty. It is built into our Tax Code. Uncertainty is the enemy of our prosperity, and frankly, we can provide assistance to families struggling in this economy by making the hard choices to pay for it without adding to the national debt.

The American people have spoken. Let's say no deal to this tax deal, and get a better deal out of this Congress 3 weeks from today.

## YES, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, today, the Senate with one vote will

increase this fiscal year's deficit by \$430 billion under the pretense that it will get our economy back on track and create millions of jobs—and yes, there is a Santa Claus. Thank you very much.

Over 2 years, \$858 billion in total has been financed with money borrowed, in good part, from China to pay for an extension of the stimulus tax cuts with a new twist—the money will be stolen from the Social Security Trust Fund and a large dose of Bush era trickle-down tax cuts, with new breaks for States over \$10 million.

Last week, the Democratic Caucus spoke almost unanimously against this—and this week, under pressure from the White House and the Republican leader of the Senate, it appears our leadership is attempting to avoid our wishes and bring this bill forward without major changes. It will be a disaster for the American people. It is a bad deal for taxpayers, people who are unemployed and our kids and grandkids.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN RESTORATION

(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, last week, my home State of South Carolina, along with Washington State and the National Association of Utility Regulators, headed by Commissioner David Wright, scored a victory in the battle for the Yucca Mountain project. A Federal court ruled in favor of a plan to continue the nuclear repository.

The President's decision to abandon this project was editorially condemned as “breathhtakingly irresponsible” as billions of dollars have already been spent to fund it. Utility customers of South Carolina have invested over \$1.2 billion. The action also poses a security risk at dozens of nuclear waste disposal sites across the country. It means that vast amounts of nuclear waste will sit idle at the Savannah River site. This is unacceptable.

Nuclear energy is clean energy. It has provided my home State over 50 percent of our electrical power for over 30 years, and it is an important part of our Nation's energy resources.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th. My sympathies to the family of George Campsen of the Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

#### CORPORATE AMERICA AND FOREIGN ENTITIES INFLUENCING ELECTIONS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, nearly 1 year ago, the Supreme Court issued a ruling which drastically changed the electoral sys-

tem in America for the worse. The court's decision to confer the rights of individuals on corporations has altered the political landscape in a way that allows unprecedented, unlimited and undisclosed corporate spending that cannot be matched by private citizens.

The 2010 election cycle was the most expensive in our Nation's history, costing hundreds of millions of dollars and misinforming millions of Americans along the way. Allowing corporate America, as well as foreign companies, to spend unlimited amounts of money in U.S. elections is in direct contradiction to the health of our democracy and to the principles our country was founded on. There is already too much money in politics, and this decision only makes things worse.

This year, my friends on the other side of the aisle watched as Democrats took the brunt of this undisclosed corporate spending. But I promise you, in the future, you, too, will feel its lash. This is not good for our democracy, and I urge a legislative solution.

#### BANDITS, KINDERGARTEN AND BORDER PATROL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I bring you news from the third front—the war zone that is our southern border with Mexico.

Violent behavior is reaching new lows in the Mexican border town of Juarez. Armed attackers busted into a kindergarten school and set it on fire.

Why?

Well, the criminal drug cartels found out the teachers in Juarez got a Christmas bonus, so they set up a new extortion racket. These outlaw bandits demanded a protection fee from the teachers to keep their students safe. When the teachers didn't pay up, armed attackers broke into the school and set it on fire.

Juarez is the most violent city in all of Mexico, and the violent cartels are bringing the war to the United States. Just last night, Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was murdered by bandits in the border town of Rio Rico, Arizona. Our wide open borders are facilitating violence on both sides of the border war zone. Meanwhile, the administration just whistles past the graveyard.

And that's just the way it is.

#### CANDY FOR THE WEALTHIEST AMERICANS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, this week, the Senate and the House will be asked to vote on a package of tax extenders and other provisions that will provide great benefits for many hardworking American families and for low-income people. Unfortunately, this

comes at a very high price to the American people and to the national debt.

We are being asked by Republican leaders in the Senate to give benefits to the very wealthiest Americans, including an estate tax provision that will benefit only 6,600 families—the wealthiest families in America.

This is like going to the hospital with a serious illness and having the doctor say to you, I'm going to give you \$250,000 worth of care that's really going to help you; but in order to get it, you're going to have to eat \$100,000 worth of candy that's going to do nothing for you but add a lot of weight down the road—to our national debt and to our children and grandchildren.

This is a bad deal for the American people, and I hope my colleagues will reject it.

#### HONORING SILVER STAR RECIPIENT CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TWO MARK ROLAND

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the Army's third highest award for combat valor is the Silver Star. Today, it is my honor to praise a Silver Star recipient from my district in State College, Pennsylvania, Chief Warrant Officer Two Mark Roland.

In August at Fort Bragg, he received the award for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States from Lieutenant General John F. Mulholland, commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Bragg. The award comes from the President of the United States.

While serving as the Intelligence Sergeant for a Special Forces Operational Detachment at Firebase Ripley in Afghanistan, Roland cleared and destroyed enemy fighters at close range, rescuing eight Afghan soldiers and leading the actions of the detachment's split team to a battlefield victory.

The citation reads that Roland distinguished himself by inspiring those around him to extraordinary collective valor. His personal courage and commitment to mission accomplishment in a combat zone, under extreme circumstances, greatly contributed to mission success.

Roland and all of the other servicemembers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve our praise and our gratitude for daily risking their lives for freedom. A Silver Star is our Nation's token of our greater thanks.

#### VOTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S TAX PROPOSAL

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, we will probably be voting on the President's