

REFLECTING ON THE 111TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this 111th Congress and to say how proud I am to have been a part of it. Some may look at the recent election and say we were off track. But while those showing up to vote may have changed from 2008 to 2010, I and so many of my colleagues stayed true to the people who elected us to change the direction of this country, and we did just that.

From health care to financial reform, the Fair Pay Act to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, I do not apologize for our accomplishments. I embrace them.

On a personal note, I have worked on Capitol Hill nearly 12 years, starting as a junior staffer for a Senator and eventually becoming an elected Member of this House. Despite the cynicism about Congress, I have been privileged to work alongside staff and Members dedicated to the public good and furthering this great Republic, often at great personal expense. I thank them, and I will forever be grateful that a shy public school student of modest means from Syracuse, New York, could come here as a Member of this great Congress in this great country.

CONGRATULATING PEPPER PENNINGTON

(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, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to a dedicated staffer in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Pepper Pennington will be leaving the office to become chief of staff for Congressman-elect Daniel Webster of Florida's Eighth Congressional District.

Pepper has done a wonderful job serving the people of South Carolina's Second District since November 2009. As communications director, she has been the main contact between the office and members of the media. Pepper has been dedicated, hardworking, and is a valuable asset to the people of South Carolina. Pepper began her career on Capitol Hill in the Office of Congressman Tom Feeney of Florida and served as communications director for Congressman PAUL Broun of Georgia.

Pepper is the daughter of Cass and Cindy Pennington. She is a graduate of the University of Florida, and she is a diehard Gator fan. Pepper is engaged to marry Dave Natonski. She is a credit to the people of South Carolina and Florida. I wish her Godspeed. While I am sad to see her leave, I am even more proud to see her achieve such suc-

cess. She will be truly missed in the office, and I wish her all the success in her new position.

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

CONGRATULATING THE UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, on April 6, 2008, something happened that has not happened since—the UConn women's basketball team lost a game. That was almost 1,000 days ago; and since that day, the UConn Women Huskies have been on a streak that may not end for a long time.

UConn's victory this past Sunday was their 88th consecutive win, tying the Division I record set by the UCLA men's team in 1974. Since the streak began, UConn has racked up two national titles for a total of seven. Since the streak began, UConn Coach Geno Auriemma was chosen to lead the 2012 Olympic team. Since the streak began, UConn has had five first team all-Americans and back-to-back Player of the Year winners, Maya Moore and Tina Charles. Maya carries now a 4.0 average and is also the Big East Scholar Athlete of the Year. Since the streak began, UConn has maintained its 100 percent graduation rate for players, demonstrating that athletic achievement and academic excellence are not mutually exclusive.

Tonight the Huskies will play Florida State for a chance to surpass UCLA's record. Good luck to them and congratulations for their amazing success and sterling example for student athletes, both men and women.

THE PARTY'S OVER

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, on November 2, the American people spoke loudly and clearly: stop the spending. Instead of graciously bowing to the public will, the left has embarked upon a frantic lame duck spending spree with a majority that has already been turned out of office by the voters.

First, they exacted another \$136 billion in spending as the price to prevent a devastating tax increase on New Year's Day. They tried—unsuccessfully—to cram through a \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill packed with more than 6,000 earmarks. They are now pressing to continue spending at a rate that exceeds even that of 2010.

Now you could say they're partying like irresponsible teenagers; but even irresponsible teenagers have enough sense to stop trashing the house after the parents have phoned to say they're on their way home. Madam Speaker, the parents are going to be here in 15

days, and I have news for you: The party's over. Go home.

POST-9/11 GI BILL BENEFITS FOR NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate National Guardsmen all across America on the passage of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act, which the President will sign into law later this week. Legislation that I introduced in the House last year to allow National Guardsmen to use their title 32 service—which includes homeland security troop support and disaster relief—to qualify for post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is included in the bill we sent to the President last week. Under this bill, 130,000 National Guardsmen who have helped to protect our citizens here at home will now be able to qualify for the GI Bill's many education benefits.

The heroes in America's National Guard, including the 20,000 soldiers and airmen in the Pennsylvania National Guard, provide invaluable service to our country during times of crisis; and thanks to this bill, they too will benefit from the landmark legislation signed into law in 2008.

I stand today to thank America's National Guard for their service and let them know our work is not done in honoring their commitment to our safety and security.

□ 1010

IT'S TIME TO CUT FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the American people sent a crystal clear message to Washington in November that they are tired of this town's job-killing spending spree. But it appears that our colleagues in the current majority didn't get the message.

As a result, the government funding bill we're going to debate this week continues the record-setting rate of spending passed by the Democrat majority last year. This includes the higher spending for programs that have been bolstered by unnecessary and ineffective stimulus dollars.

Republicans have pledged real spending cuts to get our Nation back to a responsible budget and help create jobs. In fact, we've proposed to cut spending to pre-bailout and pre-stimulus 2008 levels, which would save taxpayers \$100 billion a year.

Madam Speaker, let's listen to the American people and get Federal spending under control.

HONORING JAMES DAVIS FOR HIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in gratitude of the lifetime of generous contributions to Arkansas and its citizens by Jim Davis.

Service was an integral part of Jim's life, serving in the U.S. Army in the Western Pacific and Korea. He continued his passion for his community throughout his life as a gracious contributor who served on several boards and commissions and actively volunteered and devoted his time to create a better life for all in Arkansas.

Jim served as the chairman of the Leadership Council and the Arkansas Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business. Former Governor Mike Huckabee appointed him to the Arkansas State Health Board, the Beverage Control Board, and the Arkansas State Police Commission. He was currently serving as a member of the Arkansas Commission for Veterans Affairs, and he was a proud Shriner and Mason.

After a long, fulfilling life, Jim passed away on December 18, and he will certainly be missed. However, his legacy will live for generations to come because of his generosity.

I ask my colleagues to keep Jim's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

THE VOTERS ALWAYS HAVE THE FINAL SAY

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

Mr. DJOU. Madam Speaker, I rise to address this House for what will likely be my last formal address from this floor.

While my term has been short, it has been an honor and privilege representing the people of Hawaii. It is testimony to the greatness of our Nation that a child of immigrants from China and Thailand can call himself a maker of laws in the United States.

I want to first thank the voters of Hawaii for giving me this opportunity to serve them, but I also want to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to get me here. But most of all, I want to thank my family for giving me everything that I have.

I believe that a limited government is better at establishing prosperity than an expansive government. I believe that a vibrant two-party democracy is better at preserving liberty than one-party monolithic rule. And I believe that open and responsive public officials are better at ensuring an accountable government than an old boy network.

But I also believe one of the beauties of our Nation is that the voters always

have the final say. And while I may be disappointed in my results, I recognize that my views are in the minority in my congressional district. Yielding to the final word of the voters is something that I always will respect.

May God bless this House and may God bless the United States of America.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6412. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to require the Attorney General to share criminal records with State sentencing commissions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 81. An act to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

H.R. 1746. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

H.R. 4748. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to require a northern border counternarcotics strategy, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN) 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 17, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, 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 17, 2010 at 8:40 p.m.:

That the Senate passed H.J. Res. 105.

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 18, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, 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 18, 2010 at 3:54 p.m.:

That the Senate concur in House amendment to Senate amendment H.R. 2965.

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 20, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, 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 20, 2010 at 9:49 a.m.:

That the Senate S. 118.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 4915.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6510.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6473.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6533.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 335.

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 20, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, 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 20, 2010 at 3 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 2751.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following joint resolution was signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 17, 2010:

H.J. Res. 105, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair