

we can come together to develop a serious budget plan.

But for now, let us debate the values underpinning this discussion—the fundamental choice between a vision that offers extreme ideology, out-of-touch with the everyday struggles and hopes of American families, versus one that offers a path to future competitiveness in the global economy, and a renewed opportunity to achieve the American Dream. I know which one I'll choose.

JESSICA JERKE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an unmatched honor for me to stand and pay tribute to the short, yet remarkable, life of Jessica Jerke of La Salle, Colorado. She was a young woman who accomplished more in her 21 years than most people can achieve in a lifetime. Jessica truly devoted herself to a life of selflessness and compassion to everyone she interacted with.

Ms. Jessica Jerke was born in Greeley, Colorado, and was an inspiration to her friends and family throughout her life. She was a member of the Greeley Children's Chorale, as well as a member of the Continental Singers. Jessica had even written and recorded some of her own music. Jessica graduated from University High School in 2008 where she was a member of the choir, the dance team, and the tennis team. She was also a devout Christian who possessed a deep faith, and had a strong relationship with God. Jessica was so committed to her faith that she went on two mission trips to Costa Rica and India to try to help those that were less fortunate than her.

Jessica attended Colorado Christian University where she studied music education, and in her 2nd semester of college she began to show symptoms of the unknown disease that she would fiercely battle for the next two years. Physicians from around the nation could not diagnose what was wrong with her. As her conditioned worsened, Jessica continued to flash her beautiful smile, never losing her winning attitude, and grew closer to her Lord. Jessica wanted no gifts as she celebrated her 21st birthday from a wheel chair, but asked that people make donations to the Christian mission in India instead. Jessica was a true embodiment of the Christian ideals that she held so closely.

Jessica Jerke demonstrated true grace in the face of misfortune, and our nation has lost a great citizen of the world. Mr. Speaker it has been a privilege to stand before you and pay tribute to the life of this extraordinary young lady.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chair, I would like to draw your attention to a letter from Secretary Sebelius on the impact of H. Con. Res. 34.

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Washington, DC, April 14, 2011.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WAXMAN: We received your letter today requesting our assessment of the impact of the enactment of House Concurrent Resolution 35 (H. Con. Res. 35) on Medicare, Medicaid, and the other affected health programs at the Department of Health and Human Services. We have not yet had an opportunity to fully evaluate the extensive impact that the language of the resolution would have, but offer a few initial observations.

As you know, the Affordable Care Act modifies and improves almost every Medicare payment system—including the inpatient hospital prospective payment system, the outpatient hospital prospective payment system, the physician fee schedule, Medicare Advantage plan payments, and prescription drug plan payments. If this resolution were enacted, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would not be able to use any funds to carry out these payment provisions based on any rate calculated on the basis of provisions of the Affordable Care Act—which is to say virtually all rates.

In a system in which millions of claims are paid each week, millions of claims would accumulate, which CMS and its contractors would be prohibited from paying. As a result, providers and suppliers of services to Medicare beneficiaries—many of which are small businesses—would experience significant disruption.

H. Con. Res. 35 would adversely affect health care in rural areas as well. As an example, as a means to encourage physicians to provide services in rural areas, the Affordable Care Act established a new 10 percent bonus payment for primary care services furnished by primary care practitioners and for major surgical procedures furnished by general surgeons in shortage areas. Without available funding, CMS would no longer be able to provide the bonus to primary care and general surgery physicians for eligible services.

The Affordable Care Act also gives CMS new tools to fight fraud and helps us move from a pay-and-chase system to a comprehensive prevention-focused strategy. By precluding the use of funds for such efforts, H. Con. Res. 35 would substantially impede CMS's proven and successful efforts to reduce fraud and waste in the health care system resulting in increased erroneous payments. H. Con. Res. 35 would effectively require CMS to cease enforcing new screening and enrollment standards, diminish CMS's ability to suspend payments when credible allegations of fraud are uncovered, and reduce resources that have been made available for investments in anti-fraud work.

The Affordable Care Act also includes numerous other policies to make health care more affordable, accessible, and accountable for seniors, individuals with disabilities, children, and all other Americans, as well as businesses large and small. Its improvements are already woven into the fabric of our health care system. A broad prohibition on the use of funds would halt, among other things, the operation of the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, the Pre-existing Con-

dition Insurance Plan, and the health insurance rate review, consumer assistance, and health insurance Exchange grant programs.

I hope this information is helpful. We would be pleased to answer any additional questions you may have. I have sent an identical letter to Ranking Member Levin.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JORGE ANTONIO SCATLIFFE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Army Staff Sergeant Jorge Antonio Scatliffe, who died in Mosul, Iraq, on April 3, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn. Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was the 7th soldier from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, to die in the Middle East since the outbreak of hostilities in the wake of the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe, 32, was assigned to E Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He grew up on the island of St. Croix and attended the Lew Muckle Elementary School, the Elena Christian Junior High School, St. Croix Central High School and was one of the first graduates of the St. Croix Educational Complex.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe joined the Army in April of 1998 as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintenance man. His first deployments to Iraq began in April 2003 and ended in 2004. He was redeployed in December 2005 and served until December 2006 and once again from June 2008 to May 2009. Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq, which he began in 2010 and ended tragically on April 3rd of this year, when he gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country, his precious life.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe received many awards and decorations which includes two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, four Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, an Iraqi Campaign Medal with campaign stars, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, Overseas Service Ribbons, an Army Service Ribbon, a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Mechanics, a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Wheel Vehicle Drivers and a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Tracked Vehicle Drivers.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was a man who deeply loved his family, especially his mother, Sarah, with whom he maintained a close relationship. He is also mourned by his brothers, Robert and Raymond, and a circle of family, friends and fellow soldiers who are broken hearted at the loss of an exceptional young man.

I extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends and fellow soldiers of Staff Sergeant Jorge Scatliffe on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the U.S. Congress and the entire nation. Your service and your sacrifice will not be forgotten.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chair, there is no doubt in the mind of anyone in this Chamber that America is the greatest country the world has ever known. America has the most innovative people and continues to be a lure to others seeking greater opportunities and a better and brighter life in the largest and most spectacular economy in the world.

I'm sure many of us know the story of something else that was considered to be the largest and most spectacular thing the world has ever seen. It was considered to be UNSINKABLE. While there has been a lot of talk about America's "Sputnik moment," I think we should be as focused on the possibility of facing America's TITANIC moment, today being the 99th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

It may be a coincidence that we are debating America's future on this anniversary. However, we must keep this disaster in mind as we debate America's fiscal future. Mr. Chair, because unsinkable ships do sink! If we do not pass Chairman RYAN's budget then America will continue down a path that will sink the most vibrant economy that has served as a beacon for people looking for a brighter future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
JAMES KEYGES ON HIS OFFER
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that James Keyges of Greenwich, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

James brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of 2015. He is the recipient of a Falcon Foundation Scholarship and recently graduated from the Northwestern Preparatory School in Santa Barbara, California. James is an active member of Ripley Church and spent many of the past years participating in the church's youth group. He subsequently was employed as a member of the church's staff where he was responsible for audio and technical support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating James Keyges on the ac-

ceptance of his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that James will excel during his career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

GAINES WYLIE SHULTS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaines Wylie Shults of Mosca, Colorado. Mr. Shults owned and operated a number of small businesses in Texas and Colorado and was one of the founding members of the National Rifle Association.

Mr. Shults was born and raised in Rising Star, Texas, before eventually deciding to join the Texas National Guard. He had a zest for flying and took every opportunity to do so during his service. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor he was transferred to the Navy as a flight instructor, where his efforts contributed to our country's victory in the Pacific Theater.

Mr. Shults' love of flying brought him to Colorado, where he eventually ran the Alamosa Airport. On his way he founded Silver State Aviation, a crop dusting and charter business. It was a natural outlet for his skills in aviation and knowledge of agriculture.

His career pursuits were not limited to aviation, however. Mr. Shults had a talent for ranching and operated Broken Heart Land and Cattle Company for several years. He loved the outdoors and spent as much free time as possible hunting, fishing and flying.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Gaines Shults today. He was a veteran, entrepreneur and leader. There is no doubt his legacy will continue to impact rural Colorado.

A TRIBUTE TO RAMON C.
CORTINES, SUPERINTENDENT OF
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon C. Cortines for his lengthy and distinguished career as an educator. Mr. Cortines will be retiring shortly as the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. His tenure as Superintendent of the LAUSD has capped off a 55-year career in education that has taken Mr. Cortines to schools all across the country and has demonstrated his passion for both education and public service. His dedication to our Nation's children is admirable, and I stand today to commend his service as a teacher, mentor, administrator and advocate.

The breadth of Mr. Cortines' experience in education is impressive. His work both in and out of the classroom has focused on improving education in this country. As an administrator and public servant at the State and Fed-

eral levels, Mr. Cortines used the perspective he gained in the classroom to address the educational challenges this country faces from a big-picture perspective.

While Mr. Cortines has worked for schools all across the country, he spent a considerable portion of his career in California. He started in 1956 as a teacher in Aptos, California and went on to hold numerous positions in schools and districts across the State. This service included time as superintendent in Pasadena, San Jose, San Francisco and finally Los Angeles.

Mr. Cortines has also lent his expertise to many taskforces and governmental agencies. He worked at both the State and Federal levels on education policy, as well as for many non-profit foundations dedicated to improving education. Mr. Cortines has also held numerous positions in academia at Universities across the country, sharing his expansive knowledge with the next generation of educators and policy makers.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring Ramon C. Cortines for his exceptional service to the community.

HONORING NANCY KURK, THE DE-
PARTMENT PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Kurk, who is the Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York. Department President Kurk is currently serving as the Department President for the 2010-2011 term. Nancy has selflessly served the American Legion Auxiliary and her community for over 30 years.

As Department President, one of her main initiatives is the "Hats Off to Homeless Veterans," which is expected to raise \$50,000. All the money raised during this endeavor will either be designated to a specific shelter by the donor or, if unspecified, will be donated to the Zion House, a shelter for homeless female veterans from all across New York.

Raising funds for homeless veterans is only the latest in a long line of accomplishments for Department President Kurk. For over 30 years she has demonstrated commendable service and dedication towards the American Legion Auxiliary and has devoted her time to numerous hours of volunteer service to helping our Veterans. In fact, during the current term, she has visited all 62 counties in the State of New York in support of American Legion Auxiliary activities.

Department President Kurk is a 34-year member of the Robson-Savage Unit No. 546 and also currently serves Yates County as Legislative and Past President's Parley Chairman. Among her many notable achievements, Department President Kurk has served twice as Field Day Chairman at the Canandaigua VAMC. Additionally, she has also serviced the American Legion Auxiliary Department as VAVS Deputy and Poppy Supervisor at the Canandaigua Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Nancy is also an Independent Living Skills Trainer with Sibley Nursing Personnel, Inc.,