

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

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. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Chair, the good people of Indiana want jobs. And you know what? We know how to create them. In Indiana, under Gov. Mitch Daniels, we've seen a government that spends less and taxes modestly. And we've seen that lead to job growth. That's why Indiana, during these tough economic times, is a national leader in private sector job growth. The Budget Committee crafted a budget for our Federal Government that, like Indiana, spends less and taxes less. The result is a plan that will help create 2.5 million jobs by the end of this decade. Recent economic history isn't good to the big spenders. It shows that borrowing and spending trillions of taxpayer dollars we don't have doesn't create jobs. And jobs won't be created if we go along with the President's plan, or the plan from the other side of the aisle, to increase taxes. It's no great secret that the job creators in this country aren't hiring because unchecked spending, of course, leads to fears. It leads to fears that we're going to have to raise taxes in the future. It leads to fears of future inflation. And it leads to fears that interest rates are going to go up. By calling for a measure of spending discipline, as we do, we replace fear with hope—hope that we can restore conditions where job creators can go out and put Americans back to work. That's what the people of southern Indiana want. Now, I mentioned Indiana a minute ago and the success we've had there in creating private sector jobs. We didn't do it all with respect to our policies on spending. Instead, we also looked at tax policy. We understood that it just didn't make sense to jack up taxes during a down economy. Instead, we kept them steady, and we made our tax code more efficient—just as some of our neighboring States were doing the opposite. As a result, many businesses chose to move back to Indiana, or to move to Indiana for the first time. We see the reverse trend nationally, unfortunately. Many businesses are leaving this great country, or are not getting off the ground because of our job-destroying tax code and our punitive corporate tax rates. Mr. Chair, we improve upon those previous policies, we learn from the errors of the past. I urge my colleagues to help us create those jobs by voting yes on this House Republican budget.

IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF
GREG BUNKER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Greg Bunker and his remarkable leadership as Executive Director of the Francis House, a Sacramento-based homeless services agency. Greg passed away in December, and his contributions to Sacramento are being recognized at this year's Feast for the Streets fundraiser. For 21 years, he was a tireless advocate for Sacramento's homeless population.

Greg was a remarkable leader who inspired an entire community with his unrelenting optimism. He cared deeply about his work and the people around him. He will be sorely missed.

Born in Ohio, Greg moved to California after serving in the Vietnam War. He intended to make a change in the world, and his unrelenting support for the needy allowed him to do so. He soon joined the Francis House and led it as it grew and prospered.

Through the years, the Francis House has offered a wide range of services and resources for Sacramento's homeless population, and, because of Greg, it has become well-known in the Sacramento area and beyond as a non-profit that passionately fights for the needs of the homeless.

Greg initiated a campaign for a safe place for the city's homeless, and he brought the issue of poverty to the forefront of the public's attention. For over two decades, he made sure that the thousands of people who needed help were not overlooked, and Sacramento is a better place because of him.

Around 30,000 people come to the Francis House each year for assistance, and Greg's daily vigor and hunger for change was a blessing for them. Whether it was through transportation vouchers, emergency housing, or simply emotional support, Greg was always there to help.

His sincere and long-term dedication to the homeless cause truly made a difference to many people. He never turned anyone away from the Francis House, and his kindness was a light for people who rarely encountered true compassion.

Sadly, Greg passed away much too early in December. The outpouring of support has been inspiring, as the tens of thousands of people that he helped through the Francis House, as well as the countless others who have been touched by Greg's selflessness, have shown their gratitude to his family.

In addition to Greg's achievements helping the homeless, he was a loving husband and father. I would like to recognize Greg's wife Stephanie and his two sons, Jesse and Simon, and express my sincere condolences for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I feel honored to join the many Sacramentans who are paying tribute to this incredible man. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering Greg Bunker, and to continue his work by being passionate about helping those less fortunate.

IN HONOR OF BRENT LARKIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Brent Larkin, a lifelong resident of Cleveland who is being recognized as Voices of Ohio's Children's 2011 Champion for Children.

Mr. Larkin was born and raised in the greater Cleveland area. He graduated from Brush High School and went on to Ohio University, where he received a degree in journalism in 1969. Soon after graduating, he became a reporter for the Cleveland Press, thus beginning an illustrious career. In 1981, Larkin began working for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and in 1991, he was named head of the Plain Dealer's opinion page. As head of the opinion page, he wrote many thoughtful editorials addressing the concerns of children within the social welfare and juvenile justice system. He was inducted into the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame in 2002.

In addition to his newspaper career, Brent Larkin has long been an advocate for young people. He has worked to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood programs and services. He has also served as a volunteer with Invest in Children, Cuyahoga County's initiative to promote investment in and support of children through programs such as Home Visiting, Early Literacy, Healthy Start Outreach, Universal Pre-Kindergarten, and Special Needs Child Care. It is this dedication to the young people of his community that has prompted Voices for Ohio's Children to name him 2011 Champion for Children.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Brent Larkin, a distinguished journalist dedicated to improving the lives of children within his community.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Education Task Force, co-chaired by Mr. Oscar Wright and Mrs. Wanda Boyd, for its record of success in encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement by African American youth in California's Oakland Unified School District.

Today, the African American Education Task Force and the Oakland Unified School District will celebrate a successful decade of recognizing our local African American students' Honor Roll status. The African American Education Task Force Academic Achievement Celebration takes place at the ACTS Full Gospel Church, pastored by Bishop Bob Jackson in Oakland, California.

During this year's event, 1,150 African American students from the 8th through 12th grades will be honored for attaining grade point averages of 3.00 or above for the 2010–2011 school year. This outstanding group of young people has accomplished a great deal, and we are pleased to commend them for

their academic dedication and success. Especially in light of the great budgetary challenges faced by the State of California and the City of Oakland, these students have proven themselves to be bright, capable and resourceful.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every student for earning this distinction. Thank you for understanding and promoting the importance of staying in school. By continuing to be the best students possible and by making the most of your education, you will enjoy a full range of opportunities to achieve your personal goals, as well as give back to your communities.

Your accomplishments represent the strength of your initiative and a commitment to excellence. The skills and discipline you have developed will be of great use as you continue to follow your dreams toward success. I am so very proud of you for taking personal pride in your studies. Oakland's future leaders are certainly present at this celebration of academic achievement, and I welcome your many civic contributions in the years to come.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I again salute you for your exemplary academic performance. I am confident that you will continue this fine record of scholarship, service and success. Keep up the good work, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE EVERY CHILD
DESERVES A FAMILY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will give thousands of children in our foster care system a chance at having the one thing many of them say is all they have ever truly wanted—a family. There are approximately 500,000 children in our foster care system right now. Over 125,000 of those are waiting to be adopted, but there are just not enough qualified adoptive and foster parents. That leads to nearly 25,000 youth “aging out” of care each year with no permanent family. These young people are more likely than nearly any other group to become homeless or incarcerated, or to suffer with mental illness or substance abuse.

There is an acute shortage of adoptive and foster parents. Yet, despite this fact and the documented terrible consequences of long stays in the child welfare system, some states have enacted discriminatory bans prohibiting children from being placed with qualified parents due solely to the parent's marital status or sexual orientation. A number of additional states are actively considering similar discriminatory restrictions. Most recently, Arizona enacted a law to restrict the ability of unmarried and gay and lesbian individuals from adopting. Only six states affirmatively allow gay and lesbian couples to adopt jointly.

This is unfair to good people who want to open their homes to youth, unimaginable for kids who just want a family to love them, and unsafe for children for whom we in this body are responsible. If states will not do the right thing, the Federal government should.

Congress invests over \$7 billion in the child welfare system each year. We should not ac-

cept policies that use Federal funds to enact discriminatory barriers to adoption and close the door to thousands of potential homes. Studies suggest that upwards of 2 million gay and lesbian individuals are interested in adopting or fostering a child. There are already approximately 1 million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) parents raising about 2 million children in the U.S. Leading child welfare, public health, medical and legal organizations agree that opening up the homes of all qualified prospective parents can help support the unique needs of foster youth. Groups including the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Psychological Association, and the American Bar Association, all support the ability of qualified unmarried and LGBT couples to foster and adopt. More than 30 years of research indicates optimal development for children is based on the stable attachments to committed and nurturing parents, not on the marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity of the parents. This research consistently demonstrates that children raised by same-sex parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social and sexual development outcomes as children raised by straight parents.

When considering a potential placement for a child, the only criteria should be what is in the child's best interest and whether the prospective parent can provide a safe and nurturing home. Bigotry should play no part in this decision. That is why I am introducing the “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.” This legislation would simply prohibit any entity that receives Federal child welfare funds from denying or delaying adoption or foster care placements based solely on the prospective parent's marital status or sexual orientation. States and child welfare agencies that fail to end discriminatory practices would face financial penalties. This is the same approach that has put an end to race discrimination in adoption and foster care placements.

Children in our foster care system are some of our most precious—and vulnerable—youth. They depend on us to do all we can to find them supportive and loving families, and it is our obligation to act in their best interests when doing so. To fail in our task of opening every possible door to stable, permanent and loving homes is a grave disservice to these children and to our country. We cannot allow divisive politics and the culture war to further harm these children by shrinking the number of prospective adoptive and foster parents. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in saying yes to children and no to bigotry by co-sponsoring the “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.”

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID
BRODER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the life of David Broder, who was a great servant and patriot to this country.

Mr. Broder was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois in 1929. He received his bachelor's de-

gree in liberal arts and soon began writing for two prominent newspapers, The Chicago Maroon and the Hyde Park Herald. By 1960, he was writing for the New York Times covering the presidential race between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. He soon took a job writing for the Washington Post, where he remained for more than 40 years.

Throughout his career, Mr. Broder achieved many milestones and was recognized for his superb skills in the art of journalism. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his political commentary and was the recipient of the 4th Estate Award from the National Press Club in 1988. He was honored by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the best 50 journalists in both 2005 and 2009. Mr. Broder boasted the most appearances for a journalist on Meet the Press with over 400 since 1963.

Though David, unfortunately, left us one month ago, he will always remain in our memories because of his work and service covering the issues that matter most to this country.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of David Broder and his devotion to uncovering the truth. David was truly a remarkable individual and a phenomenal asset to all of us here in Washington and around the world.

HONORING SGT. JOHN STONE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, we go to baseball games to relax, root for our heroes on the field, and enjoy the company of other fans. But on April 14, 2010, for John Stone it was a day to be a hero in the stands at Yankee Stadium when he saw a woman choking on a piece of food.

Mr. Stone, a staff sergeant and medic in the Connecticut National Guard who served in Iraq, was enjoying the game in his Don Mattingly jersey when he saw a crowd of people around a woman 15 rows away who was choking. It was Toby Weiss who came to root for the Yankees but was now choking on a piece of food.

Seeing the crowd, Sgt. Stone assumed all was well, but then he realized no one was able to help the terrified woman who was already turning blue. He ran to her and performed the Heimlich maneuver and jarred loose the food.

Mrs. Weiss, the wife of Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, was checked out at the aid station at the stadium and was well enough to return to the game and to thank Sgt. Stone.

Rabbi Weiss said other people rushed to help his wife but they weren't able to help. “Suddenly,” he said, “this kind of Elijah figure appeared from nowhere. He knew exactly what to do.” Mrs. Weiss also insisted Sgt. Stone was heaven-sent. “God sent me an angel,” she said, noting that her unassuming hero blushed over the praise.

Following the scare, fans applauded, hugged and high-fived Sgt. Stone on his way back up to his seat. Stone, who lives in Montville, Connecticut, was at the Stadium with his brother Jamie, an Army infantry soldier on leave from duty in Afghanistan.