

Through his courageous actions on D-day as an Army Ranger, Bud earned a Distinguished Service Cross. Bud's brave service was crucial to the success of D-day and left an impressive imprint on our Nation's history that was documented in two best-selling books: Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" and Stephen E. Ambrose's "The Victors: Eisenhower and His Boys: The Men of World War II."

Sergeant Lomell passed away on March 1, 2011, at the age of 91, leaving his family and our country with a proud legacy of honor and service. I am proud and humbled to have been able to call this incredible American a constituent. I ask you today to please rise with me in honor of Sergeant Leonard "Bud" Lomell.

TERMINATING MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAMS

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

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, California was ground zero of the foreclosure crisis. At one point, 40 percent of all foreclosures nationwide were concentrated in the State of California. Today in California, nearly one in eight homes is in foreclosure. By far the majority of my constituents who walk through the door have received foreclosure notices or are on the brink of foreclosure. They have been shunned by the banks and have turned to my office and the Federal Government for help.

Mr. Speaker, the two programs on the Republican chopping block this week haven't even been fully implemented: the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and the FHA Refinance Program. The Emergency Relief Program provides no-interest loans to those who lost their jobs, which is the main reason homeowners fall behind in their mortgage payments.

Not only does this response from the majority ignore the basic economic principle that the housing sector is a key component to economic recovery; it also comes without any alternative to reduce foreclosures.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support struggling homeowners and vote against H.R. 830 and H.R. 836.

THE BORDER WAR CONTINUES ON THE SOUTHERN FRONT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was murdered in Arizona by bandits crossing into the United States. Border agents approached armed invaders carrying AK-47s. A shootout occurred where Terry was shot and killed. Now, there is evidence that Terry and possibly other agents fired first to defend themselves by firing bean bags at the outlaws before

using live ammo. Documents indicate that the agents were required to fire first with non-lethal bean bags before using live ammo. Allegations also show the AK-47 used by the bandits to kill Terry was a gun the ATF had allowed a smuggler to buy in an apparent sting operation and take to Mexico.

The idea that when armed bandits invade the United States our border agents must fire bean bags is nonsense and no way to protect them or the Nation. You don't take bean bags to a gunfight. And if the guns the bandits used came from our government in some type of undercover sting operation, that is sickening and reprehensible.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1210

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. That's the Dallas Morning News front page. And do you know what they're saying? Gas prices are going up for all drivers and it's time for the gallon of gas to come down or stop. You know, it has risen nearly a buck since last September. That's why I'm calling on the IRS to stand up for small business by increasing the gas mileage rate that they can deduct. The IRS increased the optional mileage rate during spiking gas prices in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina and in 2008. Gas prices are going upward, and there are no signs that the pain at the pump will subside anytime soon.

Taxpayers today, especially small businesses struggling to stay afloat, want, need, and deserve rates that reflect the current cost of travel. They need those deductions.

We need to drill for oil. Call the White House at 202-456-1414 and tell them about it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the gentleman from Texas that remarks in debate are properly addressed to the Chair.

H.R. 1 IS NOT THE ANSWER

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Ask Americans if we should reduce government spend-

ing and most say yes. I agree. But let's dig a little deeper. Let's make the kind of choices that families make.

H.R. 1 that the Republicans have offered in cuts will result in 218,000 fewer children getting the proven benefits of a preschool program called Head Start. H.R. 1, at the same time, does nothing to cut the \$4 billion that we are giving every year to the Big Oil companies. If we want to talk about oil prices, our taxpayers give \$4 billion to the wealthiest corporations in the history of the world.

We are cutting about \$5.7 billion from Pell Grants in H.R. 1. I voted "no." What are we doing about billionaires who are getting tax breaks to leave to their heirs? Eleven billion dollars a year for the wealthiest Americans and their heirs.

We have to make the kind of choices that help middle class Americans. We can tighten our belt, but we don't have to do it on the backs of the middle class.

TAKING A STAND FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. PENCE. With a \$14 trillion national debt, a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year alone, yesterday the United States Senate voted to reject the House effort to fund the government for the rest of the year. The Senate majority leader even took to the floor and called our \$61 billion in savings "mean spirited," "reckless," and "irresponsible." He even defended Federal funding for the Cowboy Poetry Festival, apparently in his own State.

You know, I learned a long time ago out here in Washington that sometimes things don't change in Washington, D.C., until they have to. I think we have to pick a fight. If House Republicans want to win this battle, we need to take a stand for the budget cuts and the policy changes enshrined in H.R. 1—that's \$61 billion in savings this year, defunding ObamaCare, and defunding Planned Parenthood of America.

It's time to take a stand for fiscal responsibility and reform. We have to say, This far and no farther. For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we need to make a stand for the American people. And make no mistake about it: If we make this fight, we can win this fight, because the American people are on our side.

THE PARTY OF NO PLAN

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the Party of No has officially become the Party of No Plan. Every week under GOP control has been another week with no plan to create jobs. This is not a game.

In Florida, unemployment remains at 12 percent. People want to work. They want Washington to lead with a jobs plan. With construction and housing so integral to Florida's economy, stabilizing this sector is critical to our recovery.

Close to 1 million Florida families and seniors have lost their homes since 2009. Now, through no fault of their own, nearly half of all mortgages in Florida are underwater. But instead of creating jobs, Republicans want to kick middle class families while they're already down. Rather than improve mortgage modification programs by working with Democrats, my Republican friends want to shut them down altogether.

So to families and seniors across America who owe more to the banks than their homes are actually worth, what's the Republican plan? What's the response? Pay up, even if you have no job, no income, no health care. Under today's Republican bills, soon you and your family will have no home.

EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS KILLED

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this week, 13 Coptic Christians in Egypt were killed in clashes with Muslims. Recently, a church in the town of Sol was burned to the ground, leading many Christians to flee the village in fear of their lives. This comes only 2 months after 24 Christians were killed in a church bombing.

For thousands of years, Coptic Christians have lived and worshiped in Egypt, but some extremists want to use the chaos in the country today to drive them out of their homes and places of worship.

Egypt is in the process of developing a democratic government, one in which all the Egyptian people will have a say. These attacks undermine freedom and democracy. Democracy without protection of minority rights is mob rule and not true freedom.

I invite all my colleagues to join me on a letter to the commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces calling on him to protect the Egyptian citizens during this critical period in his nation. We are glad to see the Egyptian people building a better government, and we must remind them that fundamental respect for human rights must be protected.

WISCONSIN SHENANIGANS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, middle class Americans around the country are very concerned about what's going on in Wisconsin for two reasons. The first reason is that they fundamentally

understand that while we all have to tighten our belts—and they've seen workers do that in Wisconsin, to give up various rights under bargaining agreements—they understand fundamentally that we can't solve this problem by attacking the middle class. And second, they understand that the shenanigans that went on last night in Wisconsin are an assault on some democratic principles that we have long enjoyed.

We have long enjoyed the right to petition our government for redress of grievances. It's right there in the grand old document that we took an oath to. And fundamentally, this is a reduction in the ability of Americans to work together, to speak with one voice to and with their government.

This will not abide. We've got to respect the middle class. We've got to respect democracy and move forward together as a country.

WE MUST REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, some new statistics have just come out on government wages and salaries in this country. Government payouts, including Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment insurance, make up more than one-third of total wages and salaries of the United States population, a record figure that will only increase if action isn't taken before the majority of baby boomers enter retirement.

Social welfare benefits make up 35 percent of wages and salaries this year. In the year 2000, that percent was 21 percent. In the year 1960, it was 10 percent. And these are statistics that came from the Bureau of Economic Analysis data.

Recently, it was quoted that the U.S. economy has become alarmingly dependent on government stimulus itself. So, in this country, we have a stark choice: We have to reduce government spending. Otherwise, not only will we go bankrupt, but there will become a tipping point, a tipping point where the government payout for wages and salaries will become 50 percent of all U.S. wages. All of us should know what that means.

□ 1220

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues for one reason—to talk about jobs again.

My constituents still need help. They want to work, but I don't hear any solutions. I've been here for over 2 months, and I'm still waiting to hear a

Republican plan for jobs. I came to Washington to focus on jobs. When are we going to talk about jobs?

I asked this same question 2 weeks ago. If I have to get up here every 2 weeks for the rest of my term and ask the same question, I will.

When I go home this weekend, I will be asked, "What are they doing in Washington to help me find work or provide jobs for others who want to work? I want to work to support my family. I want to start a business. I've lost my home, lost my job. And the Congress promised to help the economy so that I could find a job."

My constituents will ask me, "Why did they cut job training? Why are they cutting educational opportunities for young people?"

People are hurting and people are suffering. Listen to the people.

Let's stop the partisan bickering and help the people find work. If not now, when? If not us, who? If not here, where? The people want to work.

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE ASSAULT ON THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT ON 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Health Care Act to voice my disappointment with my Republican colleagues' continued assault on the historic law that has already begun to provide aid and relief for countless Americans.

One year ago, my colleagues and I came together to enact a law because of the call to action from our constituents. We heard from seniors who could not afford their prescriptions and were in the Medicaid doughnut hole, parents whose children were being denied coverage due to preexisting conditions, individuals who were being denied treatment due to lifetime limits, and taxpayers who are bearing the costs of uncompensated health care.

We answered the clarion call from our constituents who asked us to protect them. Yet the Republican colleagues continue to assault the law. Siding the special interests, particularly the health care insurance companies that stand to lose from health care reform, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to assault our program.

With that, I say let's keep the law in force and let's move forward with progress.

JOBS AND 99'ERS

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know where are the