

Come and help us, Lord our God. Those wounded returning from war are not afraid to submit themselves to physicians. In this humility, they live patience and offer You alone the glory. By their being faithful to the course outlined for them, they learn that it takes many small steps to make full recovery.

In the same light, O Lord, grant this Nation patience. Give this representative government wise discernment and courageous action to excise whatever poisons the whole system while preserving each healthy member.

As we pray today, we ask You, Divine Physician, to bless, sustain and reward the Navy medical team that cares for Members, staff and guests here on Capitol Hill. With them, may we give full measure as we serve in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan officially declared March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. He called upon our Nation to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to help persons with developmental disabilities lead productive and fulfilling lives. There are currently over 7 million Americans who experience developmental disabilities. Disabilities have no boundaries. They cut across the lines of racial, ethnic, educational, social and economic backgrounds and can occur in any family.

As an individual with significant hearing disability and a grandfather of a child with special needs, I am very familiar with the hardships of over-

coming the obstacles of disabilities. My grandson, Maxwell, has CHARGE syndrome and deals with intensive developmental and medical challenges every day of his life. He is a true inspiration to our family and our community.

During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, I encourage us all to learn more about the people in our community who have developmental disabilities and to recognize that all of us have talents and abilities that we can offer to make this a better Nation.

REPUBLICANS PUSH SPENDING CUTS THAT DESTROY JOBS

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

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the majority's spending plan that would cost jobs and threaten our economic recovery. Republicans have held the majority for 11 weeks now, and we have yet to see a jobs plan. Instead of focusing on jobs, which is the number one priority of Americans, the majority is pushing spending cuts that destroy thousands of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the majority is ignoring the warnings from economists that the sharp cuts they propose would guarantee major job losses in the public and private sectors. The Economic Policy Institute shows that the majority's plan would destroy more than 800,000 jobs. Mark Zandi, JOHN MCCAIN's former economic adviser, puts the job loss figure at 700,000. No matter who is right, the number is far too high.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't particularly like public employees, but we do need to ask just who are these public employees. Just one example is the staff at the tsunami warning center. Under the majority's plan, the National Weather Service, the agency that houses the tsunami center that issued alerts after Friday's earthquake—and there was significant damage in California after the tsunami—would be cut by \$126 million. These cuts would result in furloughs and office closures affecting the center's ability to issue future warnings.

The type of cuts proposed by the majority does not create jobs; it destroys them. I urge the majority to work with us on a responsible spending plan that drives economic growth and job creation.

GAS PRICES

(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, where do we get the gasoline to power our cars and jet fuel to power our airplanes? We all know that it comes from oil and that its price is dictated by supply and demand.

President Obama realizes this. In fact, his advisers have considered opening up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in order to stabilize supply. But if we are willing to open up this emergency supply, then why are we not taking advantage of the natural reserves that we have throughout our Nation?

Following BP's careless accident in the gulf, six deepwater drilling rigs left for foreign shores, some even moving to Egypt. Deepwater drilling will continue, but off foreign shores. America will continue to need oil, but it will increasingly come from foreign nations. Rather than reducing our dependence on foreign fossil fuels, the actions of this administration are increasing them.

With instability in the Middle East, our gas prices naturally rise. Let's open our natural reserves off our shores and throughout our country. Let's create energy jobs here and stabilize the price of gasoline in the United States.

COMMEMORATING ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the rich history of the Italian American community in the United States as we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph—La Festa Di San Giuseppe—on March 19. St. Joseph was credited with preventing a famine in Sicily in the Middle Ages, and the Feast of St. Joseph is celebrated widely among Italian Americans—including my family and many others across my home State of Rhode Island—and is an opportunity to recall the many contributions of Italian Americans to our country and to honor the patron saint of the family.

Here in the United States, we recognize the powerful impact of the Italian American experience, which began five centuries ago with the explorations of Vespucci and Verrazano. Italian Americans represent some of this country's, and indeed the world's, foremost innovators—in health and science, business and industry, politics and government, arts and culture.

In celebrating the many milestones of the Italian American heritage on this Feast of St. Joseph, we honor the lives, work, and rich history of Italian Americans throughout our Nation.

Buona Festa Di San Giuseppe, Happy St. Joseph's Day, to everyone.

HONORING WES LEONARD AND THE FENNVILLE BLACKHAWKS BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man named Wes Leonard in Michigan,

the Fennville Blackhawks, and the community that rallied around that family.

Wes was a star basketball player who, after winning a basketball game with the final shot of the game on March 3, collapsed and passed away a short while later. That was an undefeated season for the Blackhawks, and they went on 3 days later to start their first playoff game. They won four additional games.

At the visitation for Wes's family, I was struck by the rival teams that showed up in their letter jackets to come and honor and pay respects to Wes, his family, and the team that he led. This team played admirably throughout all of their final games. On Monday, this run came to an end. But a true mark of character, as I said to these young players, is how they respond to adversity. These young men truly are of character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we rise today and honor Wes, the team, and the fans that supported them and that they accept condolences on my behalf and the behalf of so many others who have asked, as I have been wearing this ribbon, to pass those condolences along to the community and to his family.

We thank Wes for his leadership and all that he has done for his community.

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DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN NORTHERN JAPAN

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Fukushima, Japan, where earthquake preparedness is part of life, but nothing could have prepared any nation for the natural disasters that occurred on Friday.

While my mother has successfully contacted our relatives in Japan, many families haven't been able to find or contact their loved ones. Thousands of victims are in shelters. Many are still missing. The death toll continues to rise.

"Tsunami" is a Japanese word that the world understands. We have seen the 30-foot walls of water sweeping across farmlands, wiping out everything in its path.

"Gaman" is a Japanese word that describes strength and endurance. Gaman will help the Japanese people through this tragedy, but they do not stand alone. People from all over the world have sent messages of support, and donations continue. In the midst of tragedy, common humanity transcends geopolitical boundaries.

Hawaii's ties to Japan are deep. Hawaii's banks are donation dropoff points. The Hawaii blood bank is coordinating a national drive. Fukushima and Miyagi Kenjin Kai and the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce are among many helping.

Minasan, doomo arigatou gozaimasu—everyone, thank you very much.

OBAMA'S IRRESPONSIBLE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, we in Louisiana had to suffer through the BP spill, which is bad enough, but look what the President has done to us since. First, he placed a moratorium on offshore drilling, killing thousands of Louisiana jobs. Then the President was held in contempt of court for not issuing permits, and now we have two token permits created when gas prices are headed to \$4 a gallon. On top of that we have a tax on coal, domestic oil, and hydrofracking, which is necessary for natural gas production. Finally, Secretary Chu told us higher prices may be a good thing.

Perhaps we're discovering President Obama's real agenda, and that is deliberately constraining fossil fuel production to make prices go higher so alternative energy sources, which aren't really cutting it in the marketplace, will appear more competitive.

NO JOBS PLAN AND ASSAULT ON MIDDLE CLASS HOMEOWNERS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have had control of this Chamber for 11 weeks now, and yet there's still no plan to create jobs or spur our economic recovery. Instead of tackling unemployment, my Republican colleagues are again targeting vital programs designed to keep families in their homes.

The Republicans are proposing to terminate the Home Affordable Modification Program, which provides critical mortgage modifications to deserving homeowners who are facing devastating foreclosures. To date, more than 600,000 homeowners have received a permanent mortgage modification, and tens of thousands of Americans are joining their ranks each month.

The Republicans also want to eliminate the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which works to stabilize areas hard-hit by the housing crisis by helping States and cities purchase foreclosed homes and protect the value of our communities. My home State of New Jersey is slated to receive \$11.5 million through this program.

Mr. Speaker, this is funding that my constituents need to help redevelop our communities, create jobs, and grow our local economies. I urge my colleagues to stop blindly cutting programs and focus on legislation to create jobs and bring the economy around.

NO MORE SHORT-TERM CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, no more short-term continuing resolutions. All respected economists and the deficit commission have told us we should not make cuts in this fiscal year.

Is no one listening? These short and the longer CRs will make our recession worse and destroy jobs. At a time when the recovery is beginning to make small steps forward, these cuts will destroy the progress we have made.

Yesterday, the Republican majority cut wildfire suppression by \$200 million. Oklahoma, are you hearing this? Flood prevention, again. Are you hearing that, New Jersey? Funding for police. Don't Americans deserve safe neighborhoods? Programs that protect our food supply. Good for salmonella and E. coli but not for the American people.

It isn't enough for Republicans to deny the science on greenhouse gases; H.R. 44 and 48 cut funding from EPA programs that keep our air clean and our water safe. Are we creating jobs? No. Are we making a dent in the deficit? No. But are we hurting families? Yes.

Don't stop the recovery our people need. Listen to the experts. Extend the CR at 2010 levels. No more cuts this year.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans' budget would endanger American lives while it destroys American jobs. It will increase every American's likelihood of getting sick from unsafe meat and poultry, contaminated drinking water, and foreign food additives. Fewer police will make our streets less safe. The chances of curing cancer, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease are all seriously diminished. Most of the cuts target poor people, but the hundreds of program cuts will also endanger all of our lives.

We've thrown hundreds of programs into a dump truck Republicans call H.R. 1 bound for the trash compactor. Let's reach in, though, and look at just one of those: meat inspection. The law requires a Federal inspector to be present at all 6,000 slaughterhouses and packing plants across the country, but this Republican budget's 19 percent cut will require 8,600 such inspectors to be furloughed for 22 days, which means that packing plants like Hormel's may have to lay off thousands of people for that period of time.

Why do this when Federal inspectors stopped 9.5 million pounds of poisoned meat just last year alone in 71 recalls. Let's derail this dump truck called H.R. 1.

GET AMERICA WORKING AGAIN

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1