

year to support them in prison. Twenty thousand bucks for 1 year to get these kids straight and have them become productive members of our society zeroed out by Republicans.

Now, it is a lot of money. That's almost 1 hour of spending for the Pentagon across the river, almost 1 hour. And there's no waste at the Pentagon, though. We are not allowed to look at the Pentagon for waste. It's almost 2 days—that's a lot—of agriculture subsidies, paying people not to grow things.

So 2 days of paying people not to grow things or a year's funding for a program that takes kids who have been in trouble but want to do better, want to learn some skills, want to be productive members of society and helps them get a leg up. But, no, in the Republican world, that's wasteful spending. They have zeroed out this program.

I met with eight of these kids last week. I meet with them every year when they come back—I urge my Republican colleagues, for once. I asked if they had seen their Republican member of my delegation. They said no. They met with a staff person, maybe an intern. Republicans can't seem to be bothered.

But they should listen to these kids, there's a lot of wisdom there and, I think, future leaders there. They have gotten their lives straight and they have gone through some hard times, and we gave them a little help, yes, 1 year. They get \$500 a month while they are in the program, while they are building houses for low-income people, learning skills. And as taxpayers in the future, they will pay that back pretty darn quickly.

Now I wonder why they eliminated this program. First of all, I am sure they don't know what it is. They have never met with the kids, they don't care. These aren't people who go to the country club after all. But, secondly, probably because it's housed in the Department of Labor, and we hate anything on the Republican side of the aisle that has the word "labor" in it.

God forbid that America should do things for working people in this country or working people should be allowed the right to organize and have a better life. Well, this is a program that should be continued. It should, in fact, be enhanced. They had 19,000 kids who couldn't get in the program last year, on the waiting list, 19,000.

We should double the size of this program, maybe triple it. That would be a huge amount of money. That would be 3 hours of spending at the Pentagon, or almost a week of subsidies, paying corporations not to grow things on surplus lands.

Boy, I guess we can't afford that, can we? But we can't cut the subsidies, and we can't look for waste at the Pentagon, but we can stick it to these kids.

Good work, Republicans.

HONORING GERALDINE FERRARO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great American and one of the great political trailblazers in American history, Geraldine Ferraro. Many of us speaking today, myself included, would likely not have achieved our successes without her paving the way ahead of us.

Of course, her contributions did not benefit just those of us in the political sphere. Her life was an important symbol to girls and women who aspire to succeed in any field, particularly those who have struggled to break into professions traditionally dominated by men.

The 1984 Presidential campaign is remembered by many as a landslide for President Ronald Reagan. He was, in fact, a very popular President. But many of us who aspired to enter politics were electrified to see the first female on a Presidential ticket.

Of course, Gerry was more than just the first woman on a Presidential ticket. Those of us from the New York delegation remember her service to Queens and, really, to all five boroughs. Before coming to the House, her life had already been dedicated to the service of others in the district attorney's office and as an educator for our city's youth.

Perhaps most of all, she will be fondly remembered for her wit, kindness, and grace. Yet, despite her gentleness, she was not one to shirk from speaking her mind.

Mr. Speaker, women everywhere have lost an inspiration. New York has lost a public servant, and all of us have lost a great American.

Her legacy will be remembered, and I am proud to be on the House floor remembering her many contributions.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Boca Raton Synagogue, Boca Raton, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, guard the Members of our esteemed House of Representatives. Instill within them the

wisdom, the courage and determination to provide for the physical, as well as the spiritual, well-being of the citizens of this great country.

May this body which hosts rigorous and robust debate continue to embrace diversity without resulting in divisiveness. May it seek and celebrate unity without imposing uniformity. May this House of Representatives, together with Houses of Worship across the land, promote justice, moral clarity, ethical living, righteousness, and acts of kindness.

As a grandchild of immigrants who fled the Nazis and came to this country 72 years ago this month to find refuge, freedom, and opportunity, I join this House in a prayer of profound gratitude and deep appreciation for the blessings we, the people of the United States of America, are privileged to enjoy.

Master of the Universe, protect our courageous Armed Forces, watch over our elected leaders, grant peace and prosperity to these United States and the entire world, and let us respond, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DEUTCH 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.

WELCOMING RABBI EFREM GOLDBERG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida

(Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to welcome Rabbi Efrem Goldberg to our Nation's Capitol and thank him for delivering such an insightful opening invocation.

Rabbi Goldberg's presence here today is especially significant to me, for I regularly study under his guidance. Since entering public life, I have become all the more grateful to have him as a spiritual mentor. His insights help me serve my constituents and work to better our world in a way that honors our Jewish tradition.

As Senior Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue, Rabbi Goldberg leads a wonderful congregation of over 700 families and 1,200 children. This February, after an extraordinary first 5 years as Senior Rabbi, it was announced that he will continue to lead the congregation for the next decade.

His energy, vision, and wisdom touch everyone he meets, just as it did for us here this morning when he provided us with his compelling and thoughtful invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING SHERIFF'S OFFICER DANIEL CHARLES MURPHY

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

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sheriff's Officer Daniel Charles Murphy, a fine public servant, who passed away on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

A lifelong resident of Toms River, New Jersey, Charles graduated from Toms River East High School in 2002, and went on to attend Montclair State University. After graduating in 2006, Charles began his career in public service at the Juvenile Justice Commission for the State of New Jersey. He was then named a dedicated Sheriff's officer for the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and held this position for 3 years.

Charles' commitment to justice was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9503 on Sunday, March 20, 2011, where he was named the Sheriff's Officer of the Year at the VFW Citizenship Awards Ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sheriff's Officer Daniel Charles Murphy, who dedicated his life to protecting the residents of Ocean County, New Jersey.

DEMOCRATS' ATTEMPT TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again condemn my Democratic colleagues' attempts to shut down the Federal Government. Even with total control of spending, Democrats failed to pass a budget last year. In the meantime, we have been operating on short-term spending bills only so that they can use their ace in the hole now, the government shut-down card. This has been their game plan all along, to attempt to divide the Republican Party, back us into a corner, and to shut down the government for their own political purposes.

Mr. Speaker, our Democratic counterparts are gambling with the future of this Nation, and it's a bet I'm not willing to take. I implore my colleagues to pass a long-term bill that protects seniors, protects veterans, and funds our troops so we can move on to next year's budget and work to get it right this time.

DEFENDING OUR SENIORS

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, the majority's proposed budget for fiscal year 2012 undermines our Nation's values and priorities, attacking our middle class and in particular our Nation's seniors. Today's seniors have a median income of only \$19,000 a year. Both the Medicare and Medicaid program enables seniors to have health care coverage they would not otherwise be able to afford. The proposed budget will end the Medicare program as we know it under the disguise of reform, threatening to turn it into a voucher program that will shift more and more costs to seniors and their families.

The majority's budget also attacks seniors from another angle, by proposing deep cuts in Medicaid, which serves as our Nation's primary payer for long-term care services. Medicaid will be starved by shifting the costs of the programs from the Federal Government to the States, which in turn could force seniors out of their own homes and communities into nursing homes.

Before Medicaid and Medicare, nearly one-half of America's seniors were uninsured. Mr. Speaker, we cannot go back to the days of the past. We must be committed to strengthening Medicare and Medicaid for the well-being of our seniors and future generations.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(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. Mr. Speaker, it's been 45 days since the House passed our bill to keep the government open and cut spending for the rest of this fiscal year. Forty-five days, and Senate Democrats still have not passed a bill or come up with a plan to reduce spending.

The American people have a right to know how we got here. For the first time since 1974, last year when the Democrats ran the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Democrat majorities failed to do their jobs, failed to pass a budget, failed to pass important spending bills.

To create a better and stronger America, we need to cut spending, balance the budget, pay down the debt, and slash the deficit. The American people want, need, and deserve better than trying to run a government deep into debt. A sign in my office sums it up well. It says, "It's the spending, stupid."

□ 1210

ON THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation faces serious economic challenges that require solutions that will create jobs and strengthen our economy. At a time when our top priorities should be creating jobs for the American people, our Republican colleagues have lost focus on working families.

The House budget that Republicans introduced this morning fails to put our country on a path to prosperity. Budgets are about priorities and values, and the Republican budget makes wrong choices for hardworking families.

Let's talk the Republican dictionary: Premium support system. When they talk about a premium support system, they mean vouchers and privatization.

Pro-growth changes to the Tax Code. When they talk about pro-growth changes, in fact, when they talk about anything that's going to change the Tax Code, they mean more cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

The Republican plan ends Medicare and Medicaid as we know it. By privatizing Medicare, millions of seniors who rely on this program will be left out in the cold.

While it's critical that we tighten our belts, we have choices to make. Let's choose not to do it on the backs of our seniors.

HONORING CHATTANOOGA POLICE OFFICERS TIM CHAPIN AND LORIN JOHNSTON

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor two members of the Chattanooga Police Department who were shot over the weekend, one of them fatally, while responding to a robbery in progress.

Sergeant Tim Chapin was a 26-year veteran of the Department. He lost his life in the line of duty on Saturday during a gun battle with an escaped