

(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 shutdown 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

convict who had robbed a local store. Throughout my law career, I had the chance to interact with Sergeant Chapin on many occasions. I found him to be an outstanding officer and an even better human being.

Officer Lorin Johnston, who a few years ago donated a kidney to a fellow officer, was wounded during the gun battle as well.

I ask everyone to join me in saying many prayers for Sergeant Chapin's family and his wife, Kelle, as she now has to raise two boys as a single mother.

Today we remember officers Chapin and Johnston and those who serve alongside of them keeping our community safe. They are our heroes.

PROTECT AMERICANS FROM BIG POLLUTERS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider a misguided and dangerous bill to repeal the Clean Air Act standards that protect Americans from big polluters.

Republicans are calling this bill the Energy Tax Prevention Act, except there is nothing to do with preventing taxes in the bill. Instead, this Dirty Air Act is a giveaway to any company who wants to dump pollution into the air free of charge and is a big gimme to all the Members of Congress hoping to collect their share of dirty campaign contributions.

If my Republican colleagues want to write a bill to overturn a decision by the Supreme Court, turn science on its head, increase our dependence on foreign oil, and put the interests of big polluters above taxpayers, they should at least come up with a catchier title, like the "Make Smog in America Act" or the "National Hot Air Distribution Act."

If my Republican colleagues want to write a bill to guarantee that more American children get sick with asthma, maybe they could call it the "Take Your Child to the Emergency Room Act."

Really, anything else would do.

DEATH BY REGULATION

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. To balance our budget, we have got to do more than just cut spending. We've got to cut excessive government regulation that keeps businesses from growing, expanding and hiring more people. We have got to get rid of the culture of "no" that infects our regulatory agencies like a cancer.

A small business from south Texas that knows firsthand the detrimental impact of shortsighted and excessive

regulation is Zarsky Lumber Company with its 135 employees. They survived the Great Depression and this economic downturn, and they now face another big threat—the EPA and its job-killing rules.

Another large business is considering locating a new plant in China instead of south Texas to avoid oppressive regulations. Our government has become too big and Federal regulations too onerous.

In a recent meeting with a Federal agency, I asked how long their permitting process took. They told me between 3 and 7 years. How do regulators sleep at night knowing that every day they delay is a day someone doesn't get a job they need to support their families?

Our job is to help create jobs. And we create jobs by getting the government out of the way. Cutting redtape is just as important as cutting spending to get our financial house in order.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today we are beginning to get some of Budget Chairman RYAN's proposals for so-called "fixing" our economy.

He doesn't propose eliminating tax breaks for the hugely profitable oil and gas industries. He doesn't consider asking multimillionaires to pay a fairer share. In fact, he wants to reduce the top corporate and individual tax rates so that middle class Americans can pay even more.

Instead, he is focused on cutting the safety net programs for our seniors and those less fortunate. He plans to turn Medicare into a voucher plan and to dramatically restrict eligibility for Medicaid.

Last week, Majority Leader CANTOR clearly explained Republicans' plans for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security when he said, "Listen, we're going to have to come to grips with the fact that these programs cannot exist if we want America to be what we want America to be."

It is clear whose side Chairman RYAN and Majority Leader CANTOR are on. I stand with the Nation's seniors and the working people who are counting on Medicare and Social Security when they retire. When will these heartless attacks on the most vulnerable members of our communities stop? How about a little aloha?

GET TO WORK AND PASS A BILL

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's been 45 days since House Republicans passed a bill to cut \$100 billion in Federal spending, spending that quite honestly the prior Congress

didn't have to spend and should have never appropriated.

I want to remind you that we are here today because Senator REID, the Democrats in the House, and the President when they were in charge last year chose not to pass a budget. It was irresponsible of them then and it is irresponsible of them now to continue to do nothing.

House Republicans spent 72 hours debating spending bills. We held 107 votes on spending amendments. Senate Democrats, 4 hours, four votes—4 hours and four votes in 45 days, Mr. Speaker.

I want you to think about that. It's unacceptable.

Senator REID needs to get to work and pass a bill. The American people need it. American livelihoods are depending on it. Senator REID just needs to wake up in the morning, put on his big-boy britches, come to the Capitol, pass the bill, and help us reduce this big hairy deficit.

MEDICARE

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern over my Republican colleagues' cheering the impending prospect of a government shutdown, as was reported in the press.

Then, this morning, we wake up to find out that the Republican proposal to address the deficit and debt is not to address major tax loopholes or tax earmarks, but it's to undermine Medicare and to end Medicare as we know it. Now, for decades and decades, we have had this wonderful Medicare program that ensured that our older neighbors live their retirement in dignity. They can see the doctor. If they have to go to the hospital, it is there for them. And a hospice benefit in their last days. This is all at risk now because the new Republican plan announced this morning will end Medicare as we know it by eliminating benefits.

We're not going to stand for it. We're going to stand on the side of our older neighbors to ensure that, yes, they can live their retirement years in dignity and financial security.

□ 1220

CONGRATULATING WHEELING HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Wheeling High School students Preston Riley and Rajarshi Roy, who were selected as finalists in Samsung's national Solve for Tomorrow contest. I'm particularly proud of these students for their energy and creativity in using STEM education to tackle real-world challenges. Strong