

that's like. It's like an irresponsible teenager taking out a credit card in your name. They fill it out. The bill will come to you. You get that bill and you see that your irresponsible teenager has run up that credit card, and now the bill is coming due. You have a couple of choices. You could pay that credit card and let it be. That's what the President is asking us to do, pay the credit card and then walk away. I don't think very many parents would say okay to that. Or you could not pay the credit card. That's going to impact your credit. Or you could pay that credit card and then cut it up.

Those are the choices before us.

I would agree with the 2006 Senator Barack Obama when he said that the buck has to stop here. The buck does stop here, which is why House Republicans have put forward over \$6 trillion worth of spending reform ideas. We actually don't need them to enact all \$6 trillion of those. We could enact \$2 trillion of those and avert a debt crisis. But the President and some of my friends on the other side of the aisle have said, no, no, no, that's irresponsible. Coming back to this quote, I would agree with the then-Senator Barack Obama that those bad choices are being shifted onto our children and our grandchildren, and the buck does have to stop here.

Since 1964, Congress has voted to raise the debt limit, the debt ceiling, 74 times—74 times. I suggest to you that unless we require a cut-up of the credit card, unless we require structural spending reforms, 20 years from now—if our economy can subsist that long—our children are going to be asking why did no one do something about this? Because we are under crushing, crushing debt burdens. And it's going to impact jobs not just today. We're talking about our future and our children's ability to grow, prosper, and thrive. In an America where we had those opportunities, they are not going to have those same opportunities.

I refuse to make it easier to allow our debt to get so crushing that economic recovery is permanently beyond our reach. It's time for a culture change in Washington, DC, and that starts with real spending cuts accompanying any debt limit negotiations.

COMMEMORATING THE FALLEN SONS OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF INDIANA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as Memorial Day approaches, I rise to commemorate the men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States who have died in the line of duty to our country. This past year, three sons from the Second District of Indiana lost their lives to preserve and protect the American ideals that have made this country great. To honor the legacies of these men, I would like to

share with this body and with the American people a little bit about our Hoosiers.

Staff Sergeant Kenneth McAninch, of Logansport, Indiana, a proud member of the United States Army, died on October 21, 2010, in Afghanistan from injuries sustained when his unit was attacked by small arms fire. Kenneth attended Lewis Cass High School and enlisted in the United States Army in 2003. He was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. For his service, Kenneth was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal and Joint Service Achievement Medal in addition to many other commendations.

His loved ones remember Kenneth as a hardworking man and dedicated son, husband, father, and friend. Kenneth was an avid artist and also enjoyed fishing and hunting. He is survived by his wife, Shawanna; four sons, Jeremiah, Braxton, Brayden and Colby; one daughter, Shyanne; his mom, Cheryl, and her husband Richard; his dad, Marvin, and his wife Regina; his three sisters, Kayla Ann, Katie Lee and Brianna; two brothers, Jason and Briar; and his extended family and friends.

He is missed by all.

Sergeant Marvin Calhoun, Jr., of Elkhart, Indiana, a proud member of the United States Army, died on September 21, 2010, in Qalat, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed during combat operations. Marvin died alongside eight fellow soldiers who were also his brothers.

Marvin attended Elkhart Central High School where he played football and enlisted in the Army in 2006. He was assigned to B Company, 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was on his second tour of duty as a gunner on the Black Hawk helicopter. Marvin's awards include the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal in addition to many other commendations.

Marvin's English teacher told folks that he exhibited leadership qualities in the classroom, and if any of his peers needed help, he would jump right in for them. He was a happy man who always wanted everyone else around him to be happy.

He leaves behind his wife, Yamili; his daughter, Yohani; his dad and stepmom, Marvin and Susan Calhoun; his mom and stepdad, Shirin and Michael Reum; his sister Shanon; his brothers, Travis, Marcus, Sydney, Jermael and Zachary; and his extended family and friends.

He is missed by all.

Specialist Justin Shoecraft of Elkhart, Indiana, a proud member of the U.S. Army, died on August 24, 2010, in Kakarak, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when his Stryker vehicle was hit by a roadside improvised explosive

device. Justin was only 5 weeks into his first deployment.

Justin graduated from Elkhart Memorial High School in 2001 and worked for UPS for 7 years before enlisting in the Army. He was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment out of Vilseck, Germany. His regiment had assumed control of Tarin Kowt in July of 2010.

Posthumously, Justin was promoted to the rank of Specialist. His awards include the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and many other commendations. He enjoyed working on old cars and motorcycles, and stock car racing. He had always wanted to drive tanks for the U.S. Army.

Justin will be remembered by his friends, family and fellow soldiers for his generosity, work ethic, and sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, Jessica, whom he married the day before he left for basic training; his parents, Carroll "Blue" and Donna; his brother, Michael, and sister, Sherry; and extended family and friends.

He is missed by all.

□ 1030

We owe a debt of gratitude to these three great Hoosiers and to all the sons, daughters, moms, and fathers who have fallen while serving our country. It is our duty to honor and remember their sacrifice, patriotism, and virtue. Let us also remember those brave Americans who are serving right now both here and at home.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, we want to thank our three heroes and all of the people who serve our country.

God bless Indiana, and God bless the United States of America.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues this morning to deliver a simple message, and that message can be summed up by reading a quote from our President when he was a former Senator dealing with the issue that we will face in the upcoming months when it comes to raising our debt ceiling. As then-Senator Barack Obama stated on the floor of the Senate: "Leadership means that the buck stops here. Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."

Mr. Speaker, I stand firmly here today to tell you that I do believe over the next 90 days that this will be the critical moment of this Congress, that this will be the critical moment in our Nation's history when we either succeed or we fail. And I will heed Senator Obama's words because the buck will stop here in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the question we face with raising the debt ceiling is a very

serious question. We cannot kick the can down the road any longer. We do not have any more road to kick it to.

So what I ask of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is let us set aside politics. Let us not worry about a reelection campaign. Let us not worry about our own personal interests. Let us come together as one Nation and deal with this problem because it is a serious threat and a clear and present danger to our very existence as a country.

Let me also be very clear that what we need to do with handling this debt is to send a message that we have answered the call and send a message to the world and to all the markets that America is strong; America is the place that you can invest in again. And by that investment, we will put people back to work. We will provide for families for generations, not only now but for generations we do not even see. This is about putting people back to work and being the voice that leads this Nation to greatness once again.

I have no doubt we will succeed in this effort, but it will take true leadership. There is no doubt in my mind that I join my colleagues on this side of the aisle and say no more of the petty political bickering. It is time to stand and lead, and we shall.

NO BOOTS ON THE GROUND IN LIBYA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Puerto Rico for allowing me to speak out of order. Thank you very much.

We recently passed the 2-month mark since the military air campaign in Libya began. This is significant because the War Powers Act requires that a President must receive a congressional mandate for any military action within 60 days. The deadline came and went without any resolution being brought before this body, which is a signal that our engagement in Libya is lingering without much accountability or checks, without a vigorous debate about the consequences of what we are doing there.

Who knows exactly what our mission is and how we will know when we have achieved it? What is the end game? What are the metrics or benchmarks for success?

At the same time, this week we will debate an amendment to the defense bill that would expand the authorization for use of military force, empowering the President, any President, to fire bombs and missiles against any nation or nonstate actor that appears to pose a threat. And without so much as a check-in or consultation with Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I have had enough. I have had enough of this state of permanent warfare. I have five grandchildren,

and not one of them knows what it is like to live in a country that is not at war with someone and killing someone else's grandchildren. It is time to put the brakes on. It is time for Congress to draw some clear lines, and Libya is the perfect place to do so.

I am proud to support the amendment offered today by my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), that will specifically prohibit the deployment of ground troops in Libya. We cannot afford any further expansion of this engagement. We owe it to the American people who are footing the bill and, of course, to our servicemen and -women who are already fighting on two fronts.

To keep this mission from mushrooming into a full-blown ground war and military occupation, we must stop now. We must not put boots on the ground in Libya, and we must close any loophole that allows any President to do so.

We still have combat troops in Iraq. We are spending a staggering \$10 billion a month on an ongoing war in Afghanistan that has been a devastating moral and strategic failure. We can't keep doing this, Mr. Speaker. Our military is at a breaking point. The American people's patience is wearing thin. Two wars are already more than we can handle.

Let's define the mission in Libya, let's complete it, and let's get out. Anything less is a replay of Iraq and Afghanistan, where we must move quickly to bring our troops home.

THE LAST NAIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the last nail is being driven into the coffin of the American Republic. Yet Congress remains in total denial as our liberties are rapidly fading before our eyes.

The process is propelled by unwarranted fear and ignorance as to the true meaning of liberty. It is driven by economic myths, fallacies, and irrational good intentions. The rule of law is constantly rejected and authoritarian answers are offered as panaceas for all our problems.

Runaway welfarism is used to benefit the rich at the expense of the middle class. Who would have ever thought that the current generation and Congress would stand idly by and watch such a rapid disintegration of the American Republic?

Characteristic of this epic event is the casual acceptance by the people and the political leaders of the unitary Presidency, which is equivalent to granting dictatorial powers to the President.

Our Presidents can now, on their own: order assassinations, including American citizens; operate secret military tribunals; engage in torture; enforce indefinite imprisonment without due process; order searches and sei-

zures without proper warrants, gutting the Fourth Amendment; ignore the 60-day rule for reporting to the Congress the nature of any military operations as required by the War Powers Resolution; continue the Patriot Act abuses without oversight; wage war at will; treat all Americans as suspected terrorists at airports with TSA groping and nude x-raying.

And the Federal Reserve accommodates by counterfeiting the funds needed and not paid for by taxation and borrowing, permitting runaway spending, endless debt, and special interest bailouts.

And all of this is not enough. The abuses and usurpations of the war power are soon to be codified in the National Defense Authorization Act now rapidly moving its way through Congress.

Instead of repealing the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force, as we should now that bin Laden is dead and gone, Congress is planning to massively increase the war power of the President.

Though an opportunity presents itself to end the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, Congress, with bipartisan support, obsesses on how to expand the unconstitutional war power the President already holds.

The current proposal would allow a President to pursue war any time, any place, for any reason, without congressional approval. Many believe this would even permit military activity against American suspects here at home.

The proposed authority does not reference the 9/11 attacks. It would be expanded to include the Taliban and "associated" forces, a dangerously vague and expansive definition of our potential enemies.

□ 1040

There is no denial that the changes in section 1034 totally eliminate the hard-fought-for restraint on Presidential authority to go to war without congressional approval achieved at the Constitutional Convention.

Congress' war authority has been severely undermined since World War II, beginning with the advent of the Korean War, which was fought solely under a U.N. resolution.

Even today we're waging war in Libya without even consulting with the Congress, similar to how we went to war in Bosnia in the 1990s under President Clinton.

The three major reasons for our Constitutional Convention were to: guarantee free trade and travel among the States; make gold and silver legal tender and abolish paper money; and strictly limit the executive branch's authority to pursue war without congressional approval.

But today: Federal Reserve notes are legal tender, gold and silver are illegal; the Interstate Commerce Clause is used to regulate all commerce at the expense of free trade among the States;