

talk to me, expressing their support and telling me that they agree with McGovern and myself.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the 26 Republicans who voted in favor of the McGovern-Jones amendment last week. I believe we came within 11 votes of passage. Mr. MCGOVERN and I will continue to fight until there's a definite plan to bring our troops home before 2015.

Bin Laden is gone, and there is zero al Qaeda presence in Afghanistan. We have done our job.

In closing, I would like to quote Leslie Gelb from his May 9 article in *The Wall Street Journal*: "Afghanistan is no longer a war about vital American security interests. It is about the failure of America's political elites to face two plain facts: The al Qaeda terrorist threat is no longer centered in that ancient battleground, and the battle against the Taliban is mainly for Afghans themselves."

Mr. Speaker, I have with me, as I have many times—the true cost of war is those who die, and those who lose their arms and legs, and those who are paralyzed and blind for the rest of their life. Beside me is a very, very frank picture of war. It is an Air Force honor guard at Dover Air Force Base with the officer in charge saluting the transfer case that is covered with the American flag.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, to both parties, how many more have to die in the next 4 or 5 years before we as a Nation and we as a Congress wake up to the fact that Karzai is a corrupt leader? He has a corrupt government. We are spending \$8.2 billion a month to prop him up. And yet, Mr. Speaker, on this floor of this House, I've been part of many, many debates where people are saying, well, we've got to cut the senior citizens, we can't keep their programs going; we've got to cut the children so they can't get milk in the morning at school.

We make sure that Karzai gets his \$8.2 billion every month in Afghanistan for what we can't even account for.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. MCGOVERN and I will again this summer have an amendment on the floor to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. And I will say to the moms, the dads, the wives, and the husbands who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan, you have won the war. The war is over. Bin Laden is dead, and al Qaeda does not exist in Afghanistan anymore.

So, Mr. Speaker, before I close, as I do always on the floor, as I look at this poster with the flag-draped coffin, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I will ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I will ask God, in His loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people and this great Nation. I will ask God to please

give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for this Nation.

And I will say three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray in thanksgiving for the thousands of men and women our Nation honored this past weekend who have given so much of themselves to the service of our Nation. Grant them, living and dead, the peace of Your presence.

We ask Your blessing as well upon the men and women of this, the people's House. May they strive with all their energy and good will to serve our Nation, to work on legislative solutions to the challenges we face in this time, always mindful that they are entrusted especially with the well-being of so many who are powerless. We know, O God, these little ones are of special interest and concern for You.

Bless us this day and every day. And may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be done for Your greater honor and glory.

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 Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAVAACK 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.

REPORT ON H.R. 2055, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2012

Mr. CULBERSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-94) on the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

#### HOUSTON POLICE OFFICER KEVIN WILL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between the law and the lawless. They go forward each day to protect the people and risk their own lives doing so.

Very early Sunday morning, one of Houston's finest, Officer Kevin Will, was investigating a hit-and-run accident when he was run over and killed by a speeding vehicle that had blazed past police barriers. Immediately before being struck, Officer Will yelled for an accident witness to jump out of the way, thus saving the citizen's life just before the officer's life was stolen from him.

Officer Will was 38 years of age and had been a Houston police officer 2 years. He leaves behind a pregnant wife and two step-children.

The driver of the speeding vehicle ignored the safety lights of police cruisers at the accident scene. He was drunk, charged with intoxication, manslaughter of a police officer, evading arrest, and possession of cocaine. The accused killer was in the United States illegally, having been deported at least once before returning to become one of the lawless.

And that's just the way it is.

#### OUR PRESENT MONETARY SYSTEM: WORKING FOR A FEW AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MANY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Why are we in debt? We borrow trillions for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, trillions for tax cuts for the rich. We borrow billions from China and Japan.

We have plenty of money for war, Wall Street, and welfare for the wealthy; but when millions of honest Americans need jobs, need wage increases, need health care, need education, need retirement security, they're told no, we don't have the money.

How is it that the Fed can create trillions of dollars to give to the banks but the U.S. can't meet its needs without going into debt to banks? The financial system works for a few at the expense of the many.

The Founders did not intend for America to be run by big banks and Wall Street. The Constitution put the ability to create money in the hands of Congress. The Fed took away that power in 1913. We need to get that power back to invest in our economy, to create jobs, to put America back to work, to rebuild America without going into debt. We must reclaim our destiny by reclaiming control over the money system.

#### THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Many people didn't notice that a little over 3 weeks ago, the Medicare Trustees Report came out and advised that the Medicare program would in be serious difficulty in the year 2023.

Now you might ask, What is Congress doing about this? We have well over 10 years to react. The Republican budget that was passed a few weeks ago did indeed lay out a pathway for dealing with the problems in the future. Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership in the other body has decided not to take up any type of roadmap or pathway that may lead to a resolution of this problem.

So we are left with the program that was essentially laid out by the President in the Affordable Care Act, and this program relies heavily upon a group called the Independent Payment Advisory Board: 15 people, not elected but appointed by the President, well paid to sit on a board and to deliver to Congress every year a menu of cuts in the amount of money that Medicare may spend.

Now, Congress, true enough, has the ability to accept or reject this menu of cuts, but if Congress rejects it, it must come up with its own plan. If Congress does not agree—and when has that ever happened?—the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have the ability to institute those cuts as planned.

#### RECOGNIZING CONNOR GUNSBURY

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

Mr. CRAVAACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to an extraordinary young man from my district, Connor Gunsbury, an eighth grader from Forestview Middle School in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Connor has advanced to compete this week in the Scripps National Spelling Bee here in Washington, D.C., after passing an extensive writing exam and winning two spelling bees. He will join

257 students from around the country to vie for the honor of being named the country's greatest young speller.

Connor spends 4 hours a day studying his spelling while still remaining active at his church, various sports, playing the trombone in the All-Minnesota Honors Band, and serving his community participating in the Builders Club with his Kiwanis.

Madam Speaker, Connor Gunsbury is a shining example of what young people today can accomplish, and I wish the best as he moves forward in the competition.

#### MEDICARE

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

Mr. BENISHEK. Madam Speaker, over the past couple weeks, we've seen an increase in the false attacks on this House's plan to save Medicare for future generations and prevent America from falling into an abyss of debt and deficits. These falsehoods represent a new low in political attacks. And to those of you who are trying to scare this country's seniors, I say, Shame on you. America deserves better.

Before coming to Congress this year, I spent 25 years as a physician treating patients in northern Michigan, many of whom were on Medicare. I find it ridiculous that some on the other side of the aisle accuse us of wanting to hurt seniors. The fact is we put forth a plan that ensures our children and grandchildren will have access to Medicare and doesn't change benefits for those at or near retirement. These false attacks are nothing more than a smoke screen from the other side.

The Democrats' plan, ObamaCare, calls for bankruptcy and rationing.

I ask my colleagues on the other side to stop playing politics and do what the American people sent us here to do, work together and face reality.

□ 1410

#### BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the Federal Government's highest obligation is to provide for the physical and financial security of the people of the United States. Physical security begins with border security. And the people of Houston have just suffered the loss and tragic death of another Houston police officer, Officer Kevin Will, the sixth Houston police officer to lose his life at the hands of an illegal alien.

I will not rest, the Texas delegation will not rest until the southern border is secure to protect the people of Texas, the people of this Nation, from the drugs, the violence, the gangs, the

guns. The criminal element coming across the border has got to be stopped. This is not complicated. It begins with enforcing existing law, with using the resources we have at our disposal to open up sufficient beds to lock up every illegal alien that crosses the border. With the full support of the people that live along the border, with zero tolerance, we can do this. It's being done in Del Rio. It needs to be done up and down the river.

This Congress, this Appropriations Committee, and the new Republican conservative majority in the House is staying focused on this vital mission of national security, beginning with border security, to ensure that no more law officers like Officer Will, no more Americans lose their lives at the hands of illegal aliens.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1645

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### INCREASING STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1954) to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1954

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDING.

The Congress finds that the President's budget proposal, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2012, necessitates an increase in the statutory debt limit of \$2,406,000,000,000.

#### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking