

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of an American soldier from Homer Glen, Illinois, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country.

Private First Class Michael C. Olivieri was a dedicated soldier serving his first tour of duty in Baghdad where he was helping to train and support the Iraqi police. On June 6, his base came under attack, resulting in the death of five soldiers, including Michael.

Last week would have marked Michael's first wedding anniversary, which he had hoped to celebrate during a scheduled visit home. During that same visit, he was to attend his sister's wedding.

Mr. Speaker, Michael was a caring husband, a loving son and grandson, a beloved sibling, and a dear friend to countless members of the Homer Glen community. A 2002 graduate of Lockport Township High School, Michael attended Southern Illinois University and went on to enlist in the U.S. Army, where his talents and leadership were on full display.

Often playing the guitar for his buddies in the field, Michael was well known for lifting the spirits of his fellow soldiers, and he will be missed dearly by those who knew and loved him.

Today I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Sharon; his parents, Michael and Jody; his sisters, Abby and Ashley; his brother, Joe; and his grandparents, Joseph and Adeelaide Olivieri and Dorothy Riegel.

Private Michael C. Olivieri was a great man, a distinguished soldier, and a true American hero.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Last December, with one vote, Congress voted to add \$400 billion to this year's deficit by extending all the Bush tax cuts and adding a new Social Security tax holiday. The premise was this would put America back to work. Well, guess what? It hasn't worked—borrowed money, a consumption-driven economy is anemic at best. Now the Republicans and President Obama want to double down. They want to expand and continue the Social Security tax holiday at a cost of \$220 billion borrowed dollars.

How about instead of more tax cuts, instead of reducing investment in infrastructure, how about \$220 billion of real investment in our crumbling national infrastructure? We could put 7.5 million people to work, not just in construction, in engineering, in small businesses and manufacturing, and add \$1.5 trillion to our economy.

The choice is clear: more failed policies of the past or investment in the future.

ACTION NEEDED ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask one simple question to the other Chamber across the Capitol: Where is their appropriation bill for the Department of Homeland Security for FY 2012?

On June 3, some 19 days ago, the House passed its version of the FY12 appropriation bill for the Department of Homeland Security, a bill that not only invokes fiscal discipline and needed oversight, but one that ensures that our frontline security and personnel and homeland security programs are adequately funded for the coming fiscal year. In addition, the House-passed bill includes \$1 billion in supplemental funding for FEMA's disaster relief efforts that is available immediately upon enactment. Unfortunately, as of today, we have seen absolutely no action from the other body. There is no plan, no leadership, and no commitment to fiscal discipline, security, or disaster relief.

The Democrat leadership in the other body was not elected to wait. That is not what the American people elected them to do. Waiting only puts our security and disaster relief on hold.

SAYING NO TO REPUBLICAN THREATS ON THE BUDGET

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we are now less than 6 weeks away from a magical date, August 2. That is the day when the Secretary of Treasury said we will essentially have to foreclose on the United States of America. We will begin paying China before we pay our troops. That is right. That is the day we run out of tricks to avoid raising the debt ceiling in this country.

Just Sunday, my senior Senator, the minority leader of the Senate, said on CBS News that he was actually threatening basically to derail whatever deal comes on raising the debt ceiling if we don't do a deal on entitlements. It is an interesting threat, and I would like to point out what Ezra Klein wrote in The Washington Post. He said:

"But what, specifically, is the threat here? That Republicans will endanger the economy and run a campaign demanding deep Medicare cuts necessitated by an unrelenting hostility to tax increases on the richest Americans in an election year? That's not a credible threat. At some point, Democrats need to begin saying no to this stuff, and now's as good a time as any."

I say no.

□ 1150

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. DENT. I too rise today to urge the Senate to take up this year's Homeland Security appropriations bill. The Senate has a bad habit of waiting to do just about anything. It's bad enough that the Senate has refused to even take up a budget. It's been hundreds of days before they considered to do one. But now they're derelict in their duties by failing to deal with the Homeland Security appropriations bill. We need to fund ICE, we need to fund CBP, we need to fund the Coast Guard, and many other critical functions of this Department. Of course, FEMA has great needs right now with the floods in Missouri, and elsewhere, and all the tragedies we've seen with the tornadoes across the country. It's important now that we get this funding, which was appropriated out of the House, through the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, with the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and those horrific attacks just weeks away and disasters occurring all over the country, I certainly urge today that the Senate move forward. There can be no further delay. The motto of the Senate simply can't be: do nothing, do nothing, do nothing; start slow and then wind down from there.

That's what we seem to be getting. But not on this bill. Move the House appropriations bill on Homeland Security immediately.

ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my growing concern regarding the events unfolding in Syria. President Assad has repeatedly refused to usher in democratic reforms for his people and instead has chosen to continue his indiscriminate killings of innocent men, women, and children. His ruthless campaign of brutality has now shifted to northern Syria, where Syrian security forces led by President Assad's brother have instilled fear in the residents. Many of those innocently protesting for reform and freedom have been gunned down and many more have fled their homes, leaving all belongings and possessions behind.

With a complete ban on the entry of foreign journalists into the country, it is nearly impossible to determine just how dire the circumstances are. However, with the thousands of Syrians fleeing the violence into nearby Turkey, it is clear that conditions both in Syria and on the Turkish-Syrian border are deteriorating.

I therefore urge President Assad to allow humanitarian aid groups access

into Syria. By refusing entry, President Assad has forced his own people to not only live under deplorable conditions but he has forced them to live in a constant state of fear. Aid groups must be allowed in to provide the vital care. If the Syrian regime has any compassion, it will do so.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO EDNA YODER

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

Mr. YODER. Today, I rise for a very special tribute to a strong, wonderful, and sweet woman who has played a remarkable role in my life and all those who know her. Edna Yoder, my grandmother, will be celebrating her centennial birthday next week on June 28. Edna reflects the heart and soul of our American rural heritage, and she embodies the prairie spirit that is the bedrock of our Nation's values.

Born in 1911 and raised on a Kansas farm, she and my grandfather, like so many other Americans, carved a way of life out of the Kansas prairie through hard work, determination, and strong heartland values. Each time I step on the floor of the United States House, I strive to honor these principles that my grandmother and her generation have taught us.

Mr. Speaker, join me in wishing my grandmother Edna Yoder a happy 100th birthday.

DEFINITION OF MEDICARE

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

Mr. POLIS. There's been a lot of discussion in the House about how best to characterize the Republican plan to eliminate Medicare. I want to start with the definition. The Oxford English Dictionary definition of Medicare: a Federal system of health insurance for people over 65 years of age and for certain younger people with disabilities. So, again, a Federal system of health insurance.

If you replace a Federal system of health insurance with a Federal system of assistance or a voucher or helping to pay part of the cost, you don't have anything that meets the definition of what we know as Medicare. Maybe they want to call it "Medi-Assist." Maybe they want to call it "Medi-Voucher." Maybe it covers part of the cost of care for some people. Maybe it costs a lot less than it really costs to get health care insurance for others. In fact, according to nonpartisan estimates, the average senior will have to pay \$6,000 more for health care by the time the Republican budget is fully implemented. But whatever it is, it ain't Medicare.

Medicare is very simple. The American people truly understand what

Medicare is. We all have family that rely on Medicare. Lord knows, we need to improve Medicare to help make sure it's sustainable for the next generation. Ending Medicare is not an improvement.

FOLLOW HOUSE RULES

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, shortly, the House will begin its consideration of the so-called "patent reform" bill.

At last night's meeting of the Rules Committee, when the debate on the rule within the committee wrapped up, the chairman chastised the Judiciary Committee for voting out a bill in violation of House rules, and specifically the House CutGo rules. However, the Rules Committee also voted a waiver that allows the CutGo rules to be ignored. That waiver is described by its supporters as a technical correction. This technical correction involves \$700 million, hardly something that is technical.

It seems to me that the best thing that should have been done was that the Rules Committee ordered the bill re-referred to the Judiciary Committee so the Judiciary Committee could do it right in conformity with the House rules, like the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) did when he was the chair and which I did when I was the chair. We ought to know this when we're debating it.

TIME TO "CUT AND GROW" IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate for the month of May was 9.1 percent. This marks the 28th consecutive month that unemployment has been at 8 percent or above. The President said unemployment would never reach 8 percent with his economic policies, which have sadly failed. Tragically, almost 14 million Americans are unemployed and looking for a job. The average job seeker in America has been unemployed for almost 40 weeks—almost 10 months.

This administration and its job-killings policies continue to spend and borrow money at a reckless rate without understanding a basic and fundamental principle: when the Federal Government borrows money wildly, it takes it away from the private sector's ability to create jobs. The House Republicans have solutions to promote jobs with the "cut and grow" congressional plan. First, you cut spending and then small businesses add jobs. This is the best way for families to get back on the path to prosperity.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2021, JOBS AND ENERGY PERMITTING ACT OF 2011, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1249, AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 316 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 316

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2021) to amend the Clean Air Act regarding air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf activities. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An initial period of general debate shall be confined to the question of the constitutionality of the bill and shall not exceed 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by Representative Smith of Texas and Representative Kaptur of Ohio or their respective designees. A subsequent period of general debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original