

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD EARL ROBERTS, SR.

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

Ms. BASS of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today to pay tribute to a man of exceptional valor, a quiet hero, a committed family man, a successful entrepreneur, and my constituent: Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr.

Mr. Roberts lived an extraordinary life. At the age of 16, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and later voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Platoon Sergeant Roberts led a special unit ashore on D-day. He and his entire squadron received the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for Assault Troopers, and he received the Purple Heart.

After he was honorably discharged at the close of the war, Mr. Roberts returned home to claim the hand of his childhood sweetheart, Dessie, and then used the GI Bill to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Roberts used his MIT engineering degree to invent a machine that would revolutionize the aerospace industry. And in 1972 in Torrance, California, with his wife and family by his side, Leonard Sr. established Roberts Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering Corporation, one of today's leading companies in the industry.

Leonard Earl Roberts, Sr. was a great American born of a great generation. He was a man of service, honor, integrity, faith, and family. He lived an inspirational life, and our Nation will forever be enriched because of him.

□ 1210

JOBS AND JOB CREATION

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

Mr. GUINTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of jobs and job creation in our country. For 29 consecutive months we have seen unemployment exceed 8 percent. Back in June, we announced 18,000 jobs were created in this country. That's less than 300 jobs per State, for a now 9.2 percent unemployment rate.

In response to this, in New Hampshire I have established a getting Granite Staters back to work initiative, where I have hosted two job fairs. Over 400 people have attended, where one gentleman had said to me he was out of work for 3 years. Back here in Washington, people like that gentleman need us to pass a balanced budget, reduce our spending, reduce our debt and deficit, and get serious about creating an environment where small business can once again succeed in our country.

I have and hope that the Senate and the administration will join the House in this effort.

TAXING OUR SENIORS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I respectfully suggest a small correction to the Republicans' statement that their position on the deficit negotiations is no new taxes. It would be far more accurate for them to state their position is no new taxes except for seniors, because sharp increases to participate in the costs of Medicare and Medicaid or decreases in the benefits of Social Security would act just like a tax on income targeted right at the elderly.

The Republican proposal for Medicare would hit retired seniors immediately by reopening the doughnut hole. And according to a report from the Joint Economic Committee, for my home State of New York it would cost future retirees an additional \$6,500 out of pocket. You can call that some sort of adjustment if you like, but I call it a tax, and I call it wrong. Grover Norquist agrees. He says changes to the CPI is a stealth tax increase: wrong for our seniors, wrong for the economy, and wrong for the country.

PRESIDENT OBAMA, JOIN US IN SUPPORTING POLICIES THAT WILL PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, 9.2 percent unemployment in June. Twenty-nine months in a row of over 8 percent unemployment. Twenty million Americans remain unemployed or underemployed. It has to stop. These are stark reminders that President Obama's excessive spending, unprecedented debt, and overregulation, as well as the threats of job-killing taxes on small businesses and entrepreneurs, are holding back private sector job creation in our economy.

American job creators fear the regulatory and fiscal environment they will face in the near future. Until they have some certainty, they will not invest or hire. We are working hard to bring back that certainty and ensure our pro-growth economic environment. By doing that, we must cut red tape, cut spending, and keep taxes low, but also pass legislation to expand domestic energy production and open new markets for American goods overseas.

We need President Obama and his party to stop trying to raise taxes on job creators and instead embrace our commonsense proposal to put Americans back to work.

WE NEED A BIPARTISAN DEBT LIMIT AGREEMENT

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, as Secretary Geithner has observed, failure to raise the debt ceiling would have catastrophic economic consequences that would last for decades. This view was shared by former Treasury Secretary Paulson, who says that inaction is simply not an option. I agree, and believe that raising the debt ceiling must be accompanied by deficit reduction, mostly by cutting spending, but also by eliminating some unnecessary tax breaks.

Now, there are those who say that there are no unnecessary tax breaks. Let me just give you one. If your neighbor buys a car and pays interest on the loan to buy that car, that interest is not tax-deductible. If your other neighbor buys a yacht and pays interest on the loan to buy that yacht, that interest is tax-deductible.

When we are borrowing 40 cents for every dollar, we have to ask ourselves if those tax breaks are really worth it. If we are starting from scratch, would we really give yacht owners an extra tax break?

BETTY FORD MEMORIAL

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

Mr. AMASH. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that west Michigan learned on Friday of the passing of our First Lady, Betty Ford.

The First Lady spent most of her life in Grand Rapids. A graduate of Central High School, she worked in a department store downtown and was a dance instructor. Early on, Mrs. Ford showed her heart for the disadvantaged in our community, teaching dance to children who were physically disabled, deaf, and blind.

A mutual friend introduced Mrs. Ford to Jerry in 1947. A successful lawyer and former star of the University of Michigan's football team, the future President was not quite in public life when they met. No one could have foreseen the set of circumstances that thrust the Fords into the White House, but Mrs. Ford took the challenge with gusto.

As First Lady, she revealed many of her struggles to the public so that she could help others with similar difficulties. In the 1970s, she publicly spoke about her battle with breast cancer, which was not often discussed during that time. In the 1980s, she took the lessons she learned battling alcoholism to found a number of foundations and institutes dedicated to helping others with the condition.

Betty Ford honored west Michigan with her public service, humor, and grace. We are proud to have called such a fine citizen one of our own.

RAISING THE DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, in 1983 President Ronald Reagan said the following: "The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of a default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on domestic financial markets and the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The risks, the costs, the disruptions, and the incalculable damage lead me to but one conclusion: the Senate must pass this legislation before the Congress adjourns."

Thank goodness Congress had the good sense to listen and pass a higher debt limit with no conditions at a time, by the way, when Medicare solvency was far worse than it is today, and then did it 16 more times during the Reagan Presidency.

Today, we have the head of the national Republican Party, Reince Priebus, saying yesterday, don't worry, the government will find some other way to pay its bills. That is dangerous nonsense. It is time for the Republican Party to stop playing Russian roulette with the American economy and American families. Let's pass a clean debt limit and move on to growing the U.S. economy and creating jobs.

CONGRATULATING THE U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, like millions of other Americans, I was watching the women's soccer team play in Germany. What a wonderful moment it was when they came back at the last second and grabbed victory from defeat. Abby Wambach's tremendous header, the save by Hope Solo, and the five kicks by the American women made us all proud to be Americans. The American soccer team won, and they are going to play again tomorrow, and we need to cheer for them.

Abby Wambach, when asked about her kick, said it was something about being an American. We don't give up. We know we can win, and we don't give up, and we win. I would ask my Republican colleagues to remember Abby Wambach and not give up and win on the deficit, because otherwise we will be losers in the eyes of the world on our economics and our ability to finance our own debt. Go United States of America.

FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, negotiations over the Nation's debt ceiling have reached an impasse. After more than 2 years in office, trillions of dollars in borrowing

and spending and bailouts and takeovers, the President now says the failure to reach an agreement is because of Republicans in the Congress, Republicans who were in the minority in the last Congress in fact; the President says because Republicans in Washington haven't "fully realized that the philosophy of politics does not work in governing." He is telling us to eat our peas.

Okay. Well, the President basically is saying that Congress owns the problem. But that's not what he said 5 years ago. Explaining his opposition to raising the debt ceiling, then-Senator Barack Obama said, "The fact we are here today raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure." He said that doing so weakens us domestically. He said, "Leadership means the buck stops here. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership." He said Americans deserve better. Well, I say Senator Obama, you were right.

When the U.S. Government can't pay its bills, it's not only a debt problem, but it is a failure of leadership at the Presidential level, just as you said. The truth is it's the President's problem. If President Obama wants to raise the debt ceiling, he should recognize it's his responsibility, it's his problem, and come to the Congress and ask us to step forward and help him solve that problem by cutting spending now, capping spending, and sending a balanced budget amendment to the States.

□ 1220

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, we can all agree that we need to bring down our deficit, but we disagree on how to do it.

Republicans in Congress say that the only way to do this is to gut the services that American families rely on. Their priority is to protect the wealthiest among us who continue to enjoy loopholes and tax breaks. They should be paying their fair share.

Social Security is a promise to every American worker for years of hard work and provides dignity in retirement and help to support surviving children. Today nearly 55 million Americans rely on Social Security, including 214,000 in Hawaii. The program is vital to women, particularly single women, who disproportionately face poverty in old age.

The American middle class and our seniors deserve a fair solution on the deficit that gets our economy back on track and creates jobs—but not, not on the backs of our families and seniors.

PUTTING OUR COUNTRY AT RISK

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, the ongoing stubbornness by my Republican colleagues to even entertain the idea of increasing revenues is putting our country at risk.

Over the past decade, the top 2 percent of Americans making over \$250,000 have done incredibly well. And while I have enjoyed reduced taxes as a result of the Bush-era tax cuts, our seniors, our workers don't even come close. They have lost pensions, 401(k) plans, home values, and all that's left is Social Security and Medicare. As you can see here, these tax cuts are the primary contributor to our debt and deficit over the long term.

Madam Speaker, default on America's debt would be catastrophic to both our economy and the world. It's time for my Republican colleagues to get serious. Stop playing with fire and put the future of the Nation first ahead of millionaires, corporations that avoid taxes and benefit from loopholes in the law, and ahead of those who would ship jobs overseas.

So, no, seniors and those with disabilities didn't cause this deficit, as we can see, and the long-term debt, and they shouldn't have to cut their benefits to pay for it.

JOBS, OFFSHORING PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, last week's jobs report showing an unemployment rate going in the wrong direction from 9.1 percent to 9.2 percent underscores the urgent need to focus on policies in this House that help create jobs and grow the economy.

Part of that agenda should be the passage of the Offshoring Prevention Act of 2011, which I introduced last week. At a time when we should be working to restore our manufacturing sector, we are undermining it because our Tax Code actually rewards companies that send manufacturing jobs overseas.

The Offshoring Prevention Act will close the tax loophole that allows this to happen. It has been 27 weeks since the majority party took control of this House, and they have done nothing to create jobs. They haven't even brought a single jobs bill to the House floor.

While they have been stalling on the most important priority for our country, Democrats have put forth our jobs agenda, the Make It in America agenda, which will help rebuild our manufacturing base, invest in policies that keep good-paying jobs here in America, and allow us to compete in the global economy.

Madam Speaker, this is the kind of legislation we should be pursuing here in this House. Sensible legislation that helps our recovering economy, helps us compete in the global marketplace, and puts Americans back to work.