

So this bill has been supported by the Church Alliance, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the YMCA Retirement Fund, the Church Pension Group, and others. And I thank my friend from Illinois, as I said. Churches do missionary work. Their workers need to have the ability to have their pensions.

And I close by saying there are those suffering in Kenya, they are dying, the Somalians who left because of the devastation of the drought, and I know our faith community wants us to do something about it.

REMEMBERING STANLEY REED, A GREAT LEADER IN ARKANSAS

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember a great leader from the State of Arkansas, Mr. Stanley Reed. Stanley Reed was prematurely taken away from us last Friday, but his legacy will live on.

Stanley was from Marianna in Lee County, but his influence is felt throughout the entire State of Arkansas. He served as president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau and worked tirelessly for the agriculture community, leading several initiatives to advance Arkansas agriculture.

For 10 years, he served on the Board of Trustees for the University of Arkansas. Stanley placed a great emphasis on the importance of education, and it can be seen through his work at the university.

Stanley was also an advocate for Arkansas businesses. He served on the Board of Arkansas World Trade Center where he shared his vision for Arkansas businesses to compete in the global economy.

Stanley leaves behind his wife, Charlene, his children—Nathan, Haley and Anna—and three grandchildren. Arkansas lost a great leader, advocate, and ambassador last week; but Stanley Reed's legacy will live on through the impact of his work.

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SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, later this week, this House will take up the second iteration—the second coming, if you will—of the House Republican budget, a budget designed to destroy Medicare, basically to terminate it for anyone who's 55 years or younger, a plan designed to put Social Security on a track to privatization, a plan designed to take nearly \$700 billion out of the Medicaid program, basically destroying those things that have held the fabric of America together.

Have no illusions about what this is all about. It's not just a constitutional

amendment; it's not just cut and cap. It is really about destroying Medicare, Medicaid, programs that are essential for seniors.

If you want to make a cut in something, why don't you take a third of a trillion dollars out of the war in Afghanistan, which is what we're going to spend over the next 4 years? Now there's a good cut that we ought to make.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOE MEADE: AN AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American hero, Private First Class Joe Meade. Private First Class Meade was a member of Mike Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines. He died in Vietnam when his battalion was fighting outside Da Nang. While carrying a wounded comrade to a waiting helicopter, Joe stepped on a land mine and, sadly, was killed. Private Meade was only 19 at the time. In recognition of his valor, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Duane Crawford, Private Meade's former commanding officer, who recently founded a scholarship in his honor, had these words to say about Joe's actions:

"With total disregard for his own life, he continually exposed himself to danger by administering first aid to his wounded comrades, offering them comforting words and helping them to medivac helicopters. His courageous actions saved many lives."

Even though he lived only 19 years, the legacy Joe left behind is truly remarkable. Private First Class Meade exemplified the best of America and the United States Marine Corps. For this reason, I ask you to join me in commemorating the life of this extraordinary marine.

Semper Par, and this is an honor for the 58,479 of our comrades who died in Vietnam.

ONE SOLUTION AND THREE SIMPLE STEPS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I have three simple words for President Obama and congressional Democrats: cut, cap, and balance. Last week when our Campaigner in Chief held his news conference, he asked for a plan.

Well, Mr. President, cut, cap and balance is our plan. It's a plan that cuts Federal spending immediately, puts in place enforceable spending caps, and demands a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. This plan cuts total spending by \$111 billion in 2012 and around \$5.8 trillion over the next 10 years, while not increasing taxes one single penny. We have too much debt

because we spend too much, not because we haven't taxed you enough.

Mr. President, you asked for a plan and here it is. It's your turn to get serious and work with us to solve this problem—not against us. Stop demagoging this issue with cheap scare tactics and politics because the American people are tired of it and deserve much better.

ON THE RECOVERY OF RINGGOLD, GEORGIA

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to let the American people know that the city of Ringgold, Georgia, is open for business. I know that we all remember the tornadoes that ravaged much of the country in April. Over 180 of these destructive storms were confirmed in just one day, and the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia was not spared. Some of the worst storm damage in north Georgia occurred in the small town of Ringgold. Over 100 businesses and 500 homes were damaged or destroyed on April 27. This was a devastating moment to the local community and the local economy, which relies heavily on travelers passing through on Interstate 75.

However, Ringgold is on the mend and ready to share some of that southern hospitality it is known so well for. Nearly half of the damaged businesses have reopened, homes are being rebuilt, and the jobs are returning. While there is still much to be done, if you find yourself passing through Ringgold on I-75, I encourage you to take exit 348 for gas, a bite to eat, or an overnight stay in Ringgold, enjoy the shops and sights in the historic downtown, and know that you are playing a part in helping this great and resilient community rebuild.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. A few hours ago, the President issued a veto threat to Cut, Cap, and Balance. While, of course, this was expected, it is still disappointing. It is disappointing because this legislation answers his demand that we on this side of the aisle offer a plan. It is also disappointing because he doesn't have a plan himself.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the last few years often called the Republicans the "party of no," but this President who ran on "hope" has become President Nope. The President doesn't know what he's for, but he certainly knows what he's against.

His opposition to Cut, Cap, and Balance includes opposition to a balanced budget amendment. He said it's not

necessary, and that lawmakers should simply do their jobs. It's ironic that a President who is so insistent on tying the hands of the private sector with onerous regulations would oppose tying the hands of politicians when it comes to spending and borrowing.

Dodd-Frank, ObamaCare, the EPA—they all restrict what Americans can and cannot do. The President wants no such restrictions on either Congress or himself. No, the only restriction-free zone he wants is Washington, D.C.

Cut, Cap, and Balance recognizes that Washington's solutions have to be long-term and permanent. Quick fixes are what got us into the position we find ourselves in; they are not what will get us out of it.

AN UNREALISTIC APPROACH

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

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, we have a President who likes to talk about polling numbers, while the President seems to completely ignore one of the most important polling numbers that the American people have spoken to, and, that is, asking the Congress of the United States to do exactly what Americans around their kitchen tables are doing this evening: figuring out a way to be able to balance that budget, to be able to fill up that gas tank, to be able to put food on the table. The very thing that 49 of our States are doing on a regular basis, balancing their budget.

Today, we have the President of the United States come out and say a balanced budget amendment is unrealistic. No, Mr. President, your approach is unrealistic. We are on an unsustainable glide path, destroying the future for our children and our grandchildren, if we fail to get our fiscal house in order. Now is the time. This is our opportunity. Cut, caps, and balance. Not cut and run, Mr. President.

This is our opportunity to set America straight, to be able to get our people back to work, and to get America moving again.

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CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. ELLMERS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, we are going to discuss tonight the cut, cap, and balance bill that will come before this body tomorrow morning. I just want to express some thoughts about how desperately important I believe this bill is for America. I have seen in the media oftentimes the bill diminished. Madam Speaker, I believe this is an opportunity that is very unusual for those of

us in this body to have, where we can put this Nation on a track to fiscal sanity and where we can truly do that thing that we were sent here to do.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by saying that all financial budgets will eventually balance. No individual, no family, no business, and no government can indefinitely continue to spend more money than they take in without someone having to make up the difference. That includes the budget of the United States Federal Government. Neither Mr. Obama nor congressional Democrats can repeal the laws of mathematics.

The Federal budget of the United States Government will eventually balance, Madam Speaker. The question is whether the House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and the White House will work together to balance this budget ourselves by wise policy, or national bankruptcy and financial ruin will do it for us.

From the day Barack Obama walked into the White House, he has, with breathtaking arrogance, absolutely ignored economic and financial reality. It took America the first 216 years of its existence to accumulate the debt that Barack Obama has accumulated in the short 2½-year span of his Presidency. During his short time in office, Madam Speaker, he has increased our Federal debt by nearly \$4 trillion.

Just to put that nearly \$4 trillion in new debt in perspective, let me put it this way: if all of a sudden a wave of responsibility swept through this Chamber and we stopped all deficit spending and began to pay installments of \$1 million every day to pay down the nearly \$4 trillion debt that Barack Obama has created in just 2½ years, it would take us more than 10,000 years to pay it off. And that's if we didn't have to pay one dime in interest, Madam Speaker.

But, you see, we are not paying off Mr. Obama's debt by \$1 million per day. We are going deeper into debt, more than 4,000 times that \$1 million a day every day under Mr. Obama's own submitted budget and deficit projection. Let me say that again: if we paid down the debt \$1 million a day, the debt that Mr. Obama has accumulated in his 2½ year Presidency, it would take us 10,000 years to do it. But we are not doing that. We are going deeper into debt, 4,000 times that much, every day, almost \$4 billion per day.

And then when speaking of the effort to reduce the deficit, the President has the hubris to tell conservative Republicans to take a balanced approach and to eat our peas. Madam Speaker, if there is anything more catastrophically out of balance than our Federal budget, it is the arrogance to competency ratio of this White House. We have already tried Mr. Obama's way. We have for far too long been testing Democrat economics 101; the theory, as Vice President BIDEN put it, we have to spend money to keep from going bankrupt.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to balancing our budget, Mr. Obama and the liberal media have suggested that Republicans are unwilling to address the revenue side of the equation, but that isn't true either. Just because Republicans are not willing to increase job-killing tax rates on this country doesn't mean that we don't understand the revenue side of the equation.

History and experience have demonstrated time and again that the best way to increase the amount of revenue coming into this government is to get out of the way and allow the private sector to increase the quality and number of jobs for the American people. This has historically resulted in the increased productivity and the broadening of the tax base in this amazing Nation.

And yet the President is willing to ignore that history and the reality of the amazing American economic engine and kill the goose that lays the golden eggs by raising taxes. Madam Speaker, that is like saying putting additional weight on the back of a race horse will help him win more races.

You will recall that the Democrats, when they had control of Congress, raised the debt limit six times. I so clearly remember the surreal spectacle at the time of then-majority leader of the House, STENY HOYER, leading the entire Democrat caucus in a rousing standing ovation after the debt limit was raised by \$2 trillion in 2010. We have watched as President Obama ran up a trillion-dollar deficit for the first time in history and then break that record the very next year, and then say that we would have \$1 trillion-plus deficits "for years to come."

We have watched as Mr. Obama and the administration promised that if we just allowed them to spend another \$800 billion on their stimulus package that the economy would rebound and unemployment would never go beyond 8 percent. Now, Madam Speaker, the American people have awakened, and they are tired of Democrats telling them that 2 plus 2 equals 13.

So as we now find ourselves facing the prospect of raising the debt ceiling yet again, Republicans have said the only way we are going to consent to raising the debt ceiling is if we cut spending by the same amount we increase the debt ceiling and then if we give the people and the States of this Nation the historic opportunity to adopt a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution to put this country back on the track of fiscal sanity once again, Madam Speaker.

Now, I know that Mr. Obama and the Democrats have falsely said that the balanced budget amendment is just a Republican plan to destroy Social Security and Medicare. But the truth is that the bill we will be voting on tomorrow does not cut Social Security, it does not cut Medicare, and it does not cut the compensation to our men and women in uniform by one dime. But the balanced budget amendment does