

First, it creates a check-off box on the individual tax return form to make it more user friendly to give a tax-deductible contribution to pay down the national debt.

Second, it makes sure that 100 percent of those funds are used to reduce the national debt and not redirect it for any purpose.

And, finally, it makes it clear that it is tax deductible, as it has been to give that charitable contribution.

Our national debt is now \$14.2 trillion, and we need to do everything we can to pay down our national debt. I urge my colleagues from both sides to support this measure.

JOBS

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, we passed one of the worst bills I have ever seen in my time in Congress.

The cut, cap, and default plan jammed through by the Republicans is not a real solution to our fiscal crisis. Instead, it threatens Medicare benefits, and it increases out-of-pocket expenses for seniors. It's just another example of special interests holding our country hostage to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest few.

It has been 28 weeks since the Republicans took control of the House, and we have not seen a jobs bill. Instead, we see a bill that makes seniors suffer while cutting taxes for the ultrarich and corporations that shift jobs overseas.

The Bush tax cuts for the wealthy have failed to create jobs. We need a balanced solution to go forward. No new taxes, no new jobs.

Let's work on a plan that solves our Nation's deficit without making our seniors and our middle class pick up the tab.

HONORING TERRE HAUTE POLICE OFFICER BRENT D. LONG

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Terre Haute Police Officer Brent D. Long. Officer Long was killed in the line of duty on July 11, 2011, while assisting to serve a felony warrant.

A proud member of the Terre Haute, Indiana, Police Department for 6 years as a K-9 handler and a member of the department's SWAT team, Officer Long was 34 years old.

Terre Haute has lost one of its finest citizens, and the community will forever be indebted to Officer Long's service. His sacrifice and valor should be commended, and I would like to offer my most heartfelt condolences to Officer Long's family, friends, and to the Terre Haute Police Department, who have lost one of their own.

WE NEED A CLEAN ENERGY STRATEGY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, as we search for a bipartisan solution to our fiscal short-term and long-term issues, I don't think we should be unmindful of what is really happening in the real world. In the real world, there are two things: One, we have a jobs crisis; and, two, we have Americans sweltering from coast to coast with unprecedented heat. And these things are connected, because if we adopt a clean energy strategy to develop clean energy sources, we can prevent our climate from continuing to change, which left unabated will leave New York City with three times the number of days with over 95 degree temperatures in the next several decades.

We need to have an energy policy that will invest in those clean energy jobs. And as we look for this bipartisan solution, let's not cut off our energy research, which is going to be successful building a new clean energy strategy for this country and building millions of new clean energy jobs and, by the way, keep us down to a climate that's habitable.

SPACE PROGRAM'S END THREATENS AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, Shuttle Atlantis returned to Earth at daybreak this morning, and it marked the end of America's 30-year shuttle history of scientific and engineering excellence in space.

I am a strong believer in American exceptionalism, and at its heart, the story of America's exploration of space is a story of American exceptionalism. No other nation has mastered manned space flight like the United States, launched anything like the Hubble Space Telescope, or led efforts like the international space station.

Forty-two years ago today, Americans first walked on the Moon. No other nation has come close to matching this achievement. But I am deeply concerned about America's future greatness. Today, the path forward for our space program is unclear. Save for empty political rhetoric, President Obama has been unwilling to lead or articulate a vision for future American endeavors in space.

The Defense Department fears that the loss of our civilian space program will erode our aerospace industry base and threaten our technological edge in all fields. As a result, we are left relying on Vladimir Putin for rides into orbit. This is unacceptable and it's un-American.

I hope we will reform Washington's habit of borrowing and spending. And

after we have cut, capped, and balanced, it's time to lead again in space. It's time again for American exceptionalism.

□ 1210

CONGRATULATIONS, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to congratulate Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, on 150 years of academic excellence.

For a century and a half, Gustavus Adolphus College has thrived as a prestigious and nationally recognized liberal arts college and cultivated the values of faith, service, justice, and community in its students. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the many Gustavus students and graduates who live by the motto of the college: Make your life count.

Gustavus students are bright, engaged, and my interaction with them leaves me feeling optimistic about the future. I am also lucky enough to be married to one of their alums.

Every year, Gustavus hosts a unique and world-renowned science conference named after Alfred Nobel. The conference is dedicated to the ideals of Alfred Nobel as he professed in the final years of his life: international collaboration and science for the sake of improving our lives and progressing the human condition. This conference embodies what Gustavus is all about: pursuing academic excellence with the purpose of making it count.

Gustavus can be proud of its 150 years, and I am confident that its tradition of excellence will continue to leave a profound mark on Minnesota and the world.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT WYATT A. GOLDSMITH

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart today that I rise to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Wyatt A. Goldsmith. Twenty-eight-year-old Sergeant Goldsmith lost his life on July 15 while defending America in Operation Enduring Freedom.

As a native of Colville, Washington, Sergeant Goldsmith was a medic with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group. He was treating an Afghan commando when insurgents attacked his unit in the Helmand Province last Friday.

While his life was cut way too short, his legacy lives on forever in the hearts of those who knew him, and even those who did not. His many years in the

service earned him the Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart, two Army Commendation Medals, an Afghan Campaign Medal, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, and many other honors for his valor and heroism in the name of American freedom.

So today I rise to remember an American hero who gave his life to make America safer, freer, and more prosperous. May God bless Sergeant Goldsmith's family and all of the brave men and women who have answered America's call to freedom.

REMEMBERING FELIX ANTON SCHWARZ

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and a remarkable public servant, Felix Anton Schwarz.

Mr. Schwarz was the executive director of the Health Care Council of Orange County, where he had such a passion for working with people until his 80th year. Unfortunately, he passed away on the 4th of July.

Mr. Schwarz will be remembered for his long and productive life in which he brought people together to seek solutions to so many of our health care issues back home. He was an avid advocate for improved access and affordable care for the people of Orange County. Through the Health Care Council, Mr. Schwarz was able to educate the public, educate health care professionals, and in particular policymakers in the need to support the county's safety net of health care services. He was a strong voice for the most vulnerable and neglected populations within our area.

Mr. Schwarz's energy and vision touched thousands of individuals. Today I rise to honor his memory and the legacy that he has left for our community.

DON'T RAISE TAXES IN A RECESSION

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Madam Speaker, in August 2009, President Obama visited my district in Elkhart, Indiana. A brave constituent of mine expressed his disappointment with taxes and asked the President to explain how raising taxes on anyone during a deep recession is going to help with the economy. President Obama responded: "I guess what I would say to Scott is his economics are right; you don't raise taxes in a recession."

Responding to a follow-up question by MSNBC's Chuck Todd, he stated: "So he is absolutely right. The last thing you want to do is to raise taxes in the middle of a recession because

that would just suck up—take more demand out of the economy and put business in a further hole."

Now the President is demanding that any debt ceiling compromise include higher taxes. That would discourage economic growth and, in his own words, take more money out of the economy.

Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. The GOP plan, the Path to Prosperity, addresses our spending problems, puts our Nation on a strong footing and begins the journey towards balanced budgets and economic recovery. As part of our Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, House Republicans have demanded that a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution be sent to the States for ratification, to require a balanced budget in Washington just like Americans do every day.

END DEBT DEFAULT CRISIS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, it is time to come together and put an end to this debt default crisis. Economists and business leaders warn us that failing to pay our Nation's bills would spell disaster for this economy. Interest rates would skyrocket, the dollar plummet, our modest economic recovery wiped away.

Are my Republican colleagues really going to continue to hold the U.S. hostage to protect special interests, subsidies for big oil, and profitable corporations sending jobs overseas at the expense of seniors? Are my Republican colleagues really going to drive this economy over the cliff?

Last year they promised America a jobs agenda, and now they confess they have none. Nearly a thousand of my constituents have contacted my office in the last two weeks concerned about the consequences of default. One writes: "If our elected leaders . . . let our country fall into default, it would be inexcusable. There must be compromise."

It is time to stop focusing on political posturing and give the American people the leadership they deserve for a stronger American future.

AMERICA'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked the 42nd anniversary of our Nation's greatest achievement—putting an American on the moon.

Today marks a different milestone with the last flight of the space shuttle. The space shuttle program has been the heartbeat of human spaceflight for the past 30 years. Today, we celebrate the shuttle fleet—

Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavor—for their awe-inspiring records: 135 missions, over 5 million miles flown in orbit, construction of the international space station, repair of the Hubble telescope. The list goes on and on and on.

We owe immense gratitude to those heroes on *Challenger, Columbia*, and their families who made the ultimate sacrifice for space exploration.

Most of all, we recognize the best space industry team in the world for enabling our country to bear the honor of such incredible achievements. I am proud beyond words to represent the Johnson Space Center, the home of U.S. human spaceflight now and forever.

May God bless America and remember this remarkable team.

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS THREATENED

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, last year we enacted historic new consumer protections as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

This landmark law created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the first Federal regulator dedicated exclusively to protecting consumers from deceptive practices and potentially harmful financial products and services. Protecting consumers from predatory lending and confusing credit cards is something we should all be able to agree on. It is good for consumers, and it is good for businesses that want to know their competitors are playing by the rules. But the majority has made it clear they don't like these new protections and has worked actively to undermine them.

This week, the House will consider H.R. 1315, a bill that increases bureaucratic redtape and seriously weakens the bureau's authority to protect consumers. Sadly, the majority is yet again choosing Wall Street and its high-paid lobbyists over middle class families. I urge my colleagues to put the needs of Main Street over those of Wall Street and vote "no" on H.R. 1315.

□ 1220

PASS PENDING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, our number one priority here in the United States Congress is jobs and the economy. I'm happy to say that I think that's the number one priority on both sides of the aisle. So the question then becomes: What other things can we be doing each and every day to move forward that agenda?