

the benefits provided in these programs. They deserve to live their retirement years with dignity. We should not ask seniors to sacrifice benefits before asking the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations to pay their fair share.

COMMEMORATING THE BOMBING OF THE USS "COLE"

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 39 wounded and the memory of the 17 killed who were aboard the USS *Cole* when it was attacked by terrorists this day 11 years ago. I have the privilege of representing Norfolk Naval Station, the home port of the USS *Cole*.

On the morning of October 12, 2000, the USS *Cole* was moored off the coast of Aden, Yemen. At around 11:18 a.m., a small craft approached the port side of the ship and exploded, ripping a 40-by-40-foot gash through the steel of the destroyer. The ship's galley, where the crew was gathering for lunch, took a direct hit.

The attack was organized and executed and planned by Osama bin Laden. In his death, justice was served, but at the dinner table of 17 American families, there sits an empty chair. What should be a joyous family gathering is tempered by the loss of a loved one.

So we pause today, and rightly so, to honor and remember those who stand boldly in defense of America, in defense of freedom. We must meet our deep obligation to them, to our veterans, and to the families of the fallen.

May God forever bless the crew and families of the USS *Cole*, past and present, and may God forever bless the United States of America.

REJECT PROPOSED BENEFIT CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget would turn the American Dream into a nightmare for millions of senior citizens—eliminating Medicare, threatening Social Security benefits, and turning Medicaid into a block grant. Those same proposals are now being discussed in the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

Seniors are terrified, and they are speaking out against cuts—people like Debby from Wilmette, Illinois, a public school teacher whose husband was diagnosed with MS and was forced to sell his business at a loss. She says, "My husband only gets \$1,800 a month now. There is no way we will be able to keep our house and pay our bills. We are worried."

Or Nirlean from Chicago, who lives on her Social Security check. "Medicare helps with my medication. I'm liv-

ing month to month, and I always run out of food before the next month. I really miss getting the cost-of-living increase, because my rent takes half my income."

Let's listen to Debby and Nirlean and to millions of seniors. Let's reject benefit cuts.

LET'S PUT THE GULF BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge the administration to issue drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico in a more timely and efficient manner.

As demonstrated at today's Natural Resources hearing, there is a critical need to correct the regulatory backlog. The long-term effects of the moratorium and subsequent regulatory slowdown will lead to decreased development levels in the Gulf of Mexico, which will reduce oil and gas production levels and associated employment and economic activity in the Gulf South's economy. Recent reports show that up to 20 deepwater drilling rigs could leave the Gulf of Mexico due to the slow, uncertain pace of the permit process. Continued regulatory uncertainty will only exacerbate this trend as operators reallocate resources to other major offshore provinces.

President Obama has said over and over that jobs and the economy are the administration's number one priority.

Mr. President, the Gulf of Mexico sits ready to work. Let's put her to work for America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

AMPSURF

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Association of Amputee Surfers and its founder, Dana Cummings.

On Saturday, I participated in AmpSurf's sixth annual Operation Restoration on Pismo Beach in California. Together, disabled veterans and other people with disabilities took to the water and learned to surf with the help of the local surfers. This event proved that the power of the ocean can inspire, educate, and rehabilitate the disabled, especially our veteran warriors.

Earlier this year, I met one of those veteran warriors at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was recovering from injuries he sustained from an IED attack in Afghanistan. Before he'd enlisted in the Marines, Cody had volunteered with AmpSurf right there on Pismo Beach. So it was a special treat to see

his mother at the beach on Saturday, supporting all those in the water as her son rehabilitates.

I know Cody and so many others are resolved and determined to get back out in the water, and they'll be able to do it with the help of AmpSurf. Cody's story brings AmpSurf's wonderful cause full circle.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring AmpSurf and what it does for our veterans and for those who share the powerful forces of sacrifice, perseverance, and healing.

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IN SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the President has proposed the American Jobs Act to get people back to work. The bill will revitalize American manufacturing and invest in infrastructure to create jobs now.

It contains proven ideas for job creation that received bipartisan support, and economists agree. Mark Zandi at Moody's says passing this bill will create almost 2 million jobs and won't add a dime to the deficit.

So why aren't we passing the bill now? Sadly, last night, Senate Republicans stood with House Republicans to stop the American Jobs Act from even coming to a vote. In fact, in 40 weeks in which they have been in control of the House, Republican leaders have never called a vote on a jobs bill. It's time we put the country first in the face of this tough economy.

Last month, I welcomed some amazing World War II veterans to their memorial here in D.C., who shared with me their great challenges of their time, how they set their differences aside and pulled together for the good of the country. Now, Mr. Speaker, with the great economic challenges we face today, it is time for us to pull together for the good of the country.

PRAISING LAWRENCE COMPANY COTTONWOOD

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a not-for-profit organization in Kansas that I recently visited. Cottonwood, located in Lawrence, Kansas, provides a valuable service to our country by establishing employment and living opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities. Over the years, Cottonwood has earned a reputation for quality services and care as a community service provider.

At Cottonwood, workers help make a number of consumer products, including industrial-strength cargo straps

that are used by our troops here at home and overseas for a variety of purposes. Thanks to the workers at Cottonwood, our soldiers have a great and much needed tool to help them do their jobs and keep them safe.

Cottonwood is a shining example of the potential within every American that can be developed and maintained when local community groups couple with the private sector to create products at a good value for our American military and other consumers. I am proud to use my voice on the floor of the U.S. House to praise Cottonwood and other organizations who provide meaningful employment for Americans with disabilities across the United States.

FREE TRADE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as policy-makers, it is our job to learn from the mistakes of the past and not repeat them.

Nearly 700,000 American jobs have been lost as a direct result of NAFTA. In my district, the 43rd Congressional District, we have lost over 2,000 jobs since the passage of NAFTA and other trade agreements; and the United States has gone from a \$1.6 billion trade surplus to a \$97 billion trade deficit with Mexico. Yet we stand this week ready to pass three more NAFTA-style trade agreements: Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

My constituents face a 15 percent unemployment rate. They need us to create jobs, not shift them overseas where thousands of jobs will be sent.

I ask you, who benefits from these trade deals? Not the American working families. Major corporations are the ones who benefit with this misguided agreement.

This is a debate about the haves and the have-nots. It is time to stand up for working families. I say it's time to stand up for working families and do the right thing for the American people.

COMMEMORATING 9/11

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, last month Americans around the country commemorated the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. I had the honor and privilege to spend the day with some of the brave police, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and first responders that put their lives on the line every day to protect us from harm.

In Berthoud and then in Fort Collins, Colorado, I had the opportunity to speak with local firefighters and police as we remembered the tragedy of 10 years ago and the sacrifice and loss of so many lives.

The lapel pin that I have on this morning was lent to me by a friend of

mine, Ed Haynes. It's a pin given to New York Police Department police officers in the wake of September 11. An officer gave it to Ed in 2004.

The pin is a reminder of that day and the understanding that police officers and firefighters around the country share, the understanding that every day they go to work willing to give their own lives to save the lives of others.

As the 10-year anniversary of September 11 passed, we remembered the victims and the devastation, the fear and the anger of that time. But we also remember the unity, the sense of understanding that existed across the Nation in the days after that horrible tragedy.

The people that have observed September 11 over this past month, September 11 through today, the people that I saw that weekend, the firefighters, the police and the citizens, remember those days as well. And in today's political environment, we could do well to focus on how it should not require a national tragedy to bring us together.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, we talk a lot about our different concerns for the future of our Nation, but there is one gravely serious threat that exists in every single congressional district and could cripple future generations and the long-term strength of our Nation.

More than 12 million American citizens, children, 17 percent, are currently obese. In my home State of Kentucky, the number is even worse, with obesity affecting 37 percent of Kentucky kids. That's millions of children who are at a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer, millions at risk of having their dreams cut short and millions who may not get the chance to contribute all their potential to our Nation's growth.

I am proud to applaud the work of Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, one of dozens of children's hospitals around the U.S. taking new steps to educate kids about the importance of eating healthy and getting active. Children's hospitals are essential allies in the battle to stop childhood obesity.

I urge my colleagues to support these initiatives and every effort to get our kids focusing on a fitter future.

PASS THE 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. Mr. Speaker, unemployment numbers just came out for our country; and again we see the country at 9.1 percent unemployment. The

number one issue that we face here in this body and this government, I would argue, is jobs and the economy.

This week we have an opportunity to come together in a bipartisan fashion. The President has talked about the trade agreements with both South Korea, Colombia, and Panama; and I think this is an opportunity for us to be able to level the playing field to allow the American worker to win.

We know that if we level the playing field, the American worker can win; and we know that if we take South Korea alone, this is an opportunity for us to add \$10 billion to our GDP. For every billion dollars that we send in exports, we create 6,250 jobs right here at home. Seventy-three percent of the dollars are outside of the United States and 95 percent of the consumers.

We want to make sure that we're selling America abroad. This is an opportunity for us to put American workers back to work, try to lower the unemployment rate from 9.1 percent, and move the country forward.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together today and this week to pass the free trade agreements and move our country ahead.

OPPOSING THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, free trade deals are not an industrial policy. Unlike most industrial countries in the world, the United States is the only one that has no overall strategy for bringing back the 5 million manufacturing jobs that we've lost in the last decade or reopening the 50,000 factories that have been shuttered.

Without enforcing current trade laws, or pressuring China to adopt fair currency policies, or using U.S. taxpayer dollars to benefit U.S. companies, we are on the losing end of free trade before the deals are even negotiated. Where's the focus on industrial education? Where's the focus on requiring other countries to live up to their trade obligations? Where's the focus on making sure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on U.S. jobs?

Now, I get the benefits of free trade, but come to Waterbury, Connecticut; New Britain, Connecticut; and Meriden, Connecticut, and what you will hear is a cry for help, not for more trade deals, but for a country that recognizes what every other developing industrial country has in this world, that we need a domestic industrial policy to protect and support our manufacturers here before we engage in free trade deals abroad.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR JOB CREATION

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1