

And did I again—should I mention the 20,000 labor jobs created by this pipeline, the fact that it doesn't impact the fragility, the ecosystem or environment of the sand hills and the aquifer?

Mr. Leader, bring this bill up in the Senate. Let's create these jobs, let's produce our infrastructure, and let's secure America's energy future.

HOMELESSNESS AMONG OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 4 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we approach Veterans Day and we set aside time to recognize our Nation's veterans, also to address the problem of homelessness among those who have served our Nation.

Homelessness is a problem facing many Americans today, but it is particularly acute in the veteran community. While less than 10 percent of the population of the United States are veterans, they comprise 25 percent of the entire homeless population. All told, the Veterans Administration estimates that there are 107,000 homeless veterans nationwide. Among a population that have devoted themselves to the service of our Nation, these numbers are unacceptable.

The National Cemetery at Washington Crossing is located in my congressional district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and serves as a final resting place for many veterans. The location of the National Cemetery is in the heart of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District and places the plight of all veterans, homeless or not, preeminently in the collective psyche of my community.

Bucks County takes a solemn measure of pride in guarding both the mortal remains and the honor of veterans from across the Nation. And while Bucks County is honored and proud to provide a final resting place or final home to our Nation's veterans, our Nation must ensure all veterans are honored and sheltered while they are living as well. Today I would like to share one of their stories.

This past Flag Day, I was handed a pouch containing spent shell casings from a memorial service at the National Cemetery. The casings were from the service of U.S. Army Veteran John Griffin, who was buried at the National Cemetery at Washington Crossing earlier this year. John served our Nation in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. He passed away in February of this year at a nursing home in Pennsylvania, and for some period before John entered the nursing home, he was homeless.

John's service was not attended by any relatives or friends. The National Cemetery holds monthly services for veterans who are laid to rest without the presence of their families. At this service, the flag that draped John's coffin was accepted by a group of women

from the community who have undertaken this role to provide a measure of respect and recognition to those who have passed.

Despite numerous inquiries, neither I nor my staff has been able to learn any more about the life, service, or death of John Griffin. We know that John was honorably discharged, but beyond that, his life and his service to our Nation have been lost for the next generation of soldiers who will serve.

In his second inaugural address, President Lincoln, looking at the wounds that needed to be healed as the Civil War drew to a close, charged our Nation "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." This we must do, but we must be ever mindful that homelessness, among veterans or among the population at large, is often a symptom of a deeper problem. Addiction, posttraumatic stress disorder, and strained family relations can collude to leave veterans without shelter. And while these factors may explain homelessness among veterans, they do not excuse us, as a Nation, from remedying it.

I do not know with any certainty what, if any, root causes led to John Griffin's homelessness, but I'm certain that our Nation owed him better. We owed him more than a makeshift camp in a local woods. We must rededicate ourselves to the service of those who have served our Nation.

The story of John Griffin is not rare, but we must work to make it so, because among the men and women who sacrificed and risked their lives in the service of our Nation, one homeless veteran is too many.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) for 2 minutes.

Mr. CASSIDY. Unemployment continues to hover over 9 percent. And when we say unemployment as 9 percent, that is a statistic. But we know that it's just not a statistic; it is a family. It is a family which is less able to provide, less able to have stability because of this unemployment rate.

Now, as it turns out, the unemployment rate is not generally distributed. It turns out it's principally among blue collar workers. Blue collar workers have traditionally been employed in manufacturing, construction, and mining. And this is one of the reasons why I, and many Republicans and many Democrats, so strongly support the Keystone XL project.

Think about it. Because they will extract that oil from the ground, creating jobs there, they are then going to build a pipeline, construction. And to build that pipeline, they have to manufacture steel. We're going to be creating jobs by this one project in the three areas that those who are now unemployed are principally employed in.

Now, this is not done with government subsidies. It does not put the tax-

payer at risk. Indeed, it will generate more tax, not by increasing rates, but by increasing income, more tax receipts to help lower our Nation's deficit.

I could go on about the increase in energy security, about how the oil sands actually have a better carbon footprint than some of the oil we are now importing from Venezuela. But the bottom line is we are in a recession of 9 percent. The President has the ability to create 20,000 jobs directly and 100,000 thereafter.

I think because of this and to show the kind of across-the-aisle support for this—this pipeline is supported by the Laborers International Union of North America, the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, the Pipeline Contractors Association, and other major unions.

□ 1130

Mr. President, please create 20,000 jobs directly, 100,000 jobs indirectly, a total package, targeting those people who are most unemployed now without using a government subsidy and, in fact, by increasing government tax receipts and, in so doing, increase our energy security. Please approve the Keystone XL project.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House. Give them wisdom, strength, and love as they face the tasks of the waning weeks of the first session. Help them to be great in heart, genuine in commitment, generous in spirit, and good in mind that the work done may be for the highest welfare of our Nation and of all nations.

Whatever the experiences that come to them and to us all this day, grant that we may meet them with quick confidence and never-ending goodwill. Keep us ever faithful to our duties, committed to doing justice and truth, and loyal to our Nation in its lofty ideals.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

TRAFFICKING GRANT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, The Washington Post uncovered astonishing evidence that political appointees at the Department of Health and Human Services meddled with a grant to help victims of human trafficking. For 5 years, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided these services. Now The Post has revealed that the grant renewal was denied over the objections of career staff and despite the recommendation of an independent review board that rated the Catholic program as the best agency to do the work. In fact, some career staff within HHS refused to sign the documents awarding the new grants. It cannot be a coincidence that the ACLU is suing to force the Catholic bishops to offer abortion services with this grant money.

It is outrageous that the administration appears to be letting the ACLU dictate policy and interfere with a grantee that is doing good work. Victims of trafficking will now face a reduced level of service because of political meddling.

A complaint has been referred to the HHS inspector general. I hope there will be a thorough investigation determining whether religious bigotry played a role in this grant decision.

THE SUPERCOMMITTEE AND JOBS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week the partisan chairs of the previous deficit reduction commissions admonished the supercommittee to "go big" with a package that includes a

balance of cuts and revenues. Unfortunately, I think they will "go small," and that would be a tragic lost opportunity. It would also be a lost opportunity if the supercommittee's legislation does not include job-creating measures, because the best way to reduce deficits is to create jobs.

Just ten years ago, the debate in this country was over the implications of repaying our debt in its entirety. We had that debate because, under President Clinton, 22 million jobs were created and record deficits were turned into record surpluses.

Mr. Speaker, the supercommittee should be bold and include a major investment in infrastructure. With interest rates at historic lows, it will never be cheaper to finance the massive backlog of improvements that we need to make in order to stay competitive.

Optimistically, economic growth over the next 2 years is not expected to be enough to sustain the current employment levels. That means unemployment will increase unless we act to create jobs.

I urge the supercommittee to do the right thing—go big. The American people need to work, and much work needs to be done.

POLL SHOWS SMALL BUSINESSES FEAR REGULATIONS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, last week I was astounded to read a new Gallup Poll on small business owners' concerns; and as you can imagine, in an economy like this, they have many concerns. But the issue that they said was the most important concern for small business owners was complying with government regulation.

You know what? I didn't need a Gallup Poll to tell me what I've heard from dozens of small business owners across my district. They feel threatened by the Obama administration's avalanche of needless red tape.

In the House, we've worked hard to cut that red tape, provide a pro-growth, pro-jobs environment here. We've passed more than 15 bills to cut red tape, most of them with bipartisan support. You can see all of them at jobs.gop.gov. Unfortunately, they now languish over in the cul-de-sac at the other end of this building called the "do-nothing" Senate.

So I urge the Senate to listen to American small business owners, listen to their concerns. Pass the forgotten 15. Get Washington off the backs of small business and get Americans working again.

ACT NOW TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, 10 months ago this week, Republicans took control of the House of Representatives. Since then, we have not seen one comprehensive jobs bill to help put Americans back to work. Our GOP-led House must show urgency, where now they show indifference, in helping the millions of workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

The American Jobs Act will help create those jobs by investing in infrastructure and incentivizing businesses to hire new workers.

I have also proposed a plan to help put people back to work; and many others in this Chamber, both Republican and Democrat, have other great ideas to support job creation. But the majority has thus far refused to allow any such measures to come to the floor for consideration. They are common-sense and traditionally bipartisan steps that we should take today.

People need jobs, they need them now, and Congress must not delay any further.

DEFENSE CUTS INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT BY 1 PERCENT

(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, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently warned Congress that if the deficit reduction process does not succeed, the Department of Defense could be cut by \$1 trillion. These cuts will threaten the effectiveness of the world's greatest Armed Forces which provide peace through strength. According to Secretary Panetta, these cuts would increase America's unemployment rate by 1 percent, nearly 1.5 million workers. Drastic cuts will limit advanced equipment that is essential to protect our servicemembers who are defeating terrorists overseas.

For the United States to successfully continue to protect its families, Congress should not further cut the defense budget, which destroys jobs and undermines our manufacturing base. Yesterday in Roll Call, Army Secretary John McHugh, our former colleague, advised, "We can't break faith with the men and women who fought for us during the past decade."

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

VOTER SUPPRESSION

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the right of every American, and that is the right to vote.