

have to vote for a balanced budget. I just thought we were going to be able to do the right thing and balance the budget on our own. I thought that's the job of the Congress. Do what you're supposed to do. Do what's right. Why do you need an amendment to the Constitution to do what's right? Mr. Speaker, it turned out to be a bigger job than I anticipated. The disagreements turned out to be more fundamental than I anticipated, and the desire of constituents back home turned out to be more complicated than I anticipated. This is our opportunity, though.

I have a copy of the Constitution that we have here. It's right behind my job creators card. And I keep it behind the job creators card because balancing the budget in this country has everything to do with preserving economic opportunity in this country and everything to do with growing our economy in the generation to come. My copy of the Constitution has a little space right there after amendment number 27. A space right here, Mr. Speaker, where we can put amendment number 28 today and ensure that our Republic survives for another generation.

You see what's going on in Europe. There but for the grace of God go we. This is our opportunity. It is not a divisive issue.

□ 1110

It is not an issue that divides north or south, east or west, Republicans or Democrats. It is an issue that unites America. It was a huge bipartisan vote in 1995, and it will be a huge bipartisan vote today.

I hope your telephone lines, Mr. Speaker, are ringing as are mine. If not, why not, Mr. Speaker? Why hasn't everyone in your district called to say, Please support the balanced budget amendment? Why, Mr. Speaker, hasn't everyone in my district called to say, Please support the balanced budget amendment?

Raise taxes, lower taxes; cut spending, raise spending—that's an American decision that we get to decide, but borrowing and putting off those tough decisions to another day is immoral. We have a chance this week to change that.

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 10 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:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your spirit, and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. Help them to think clearly, speak confidently, and act courageously in the belief that all noble service is based upon patience, truth, and love.

May these decisive days through which we are living make them genuine enough to maintain their integrity, great enough to be humble, and good enough to keep their faith, always regarding public office as a sacred trust. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens nor You.

May all that is done this day 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FUDGE 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.

HONORING CAPTAIN DALE GOETZ

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Captain Dale Goetz, who was killed in Afghanistan by the enemy on August 30, 2010, in service to his country and his God. Captain Goetz, you see, was a chaplain and Baptist minister. The last time the Army lost a chaplain in combat was in 1970 at the height of the Vietnam War.

The picture by me shows the memorial service at Fort Carson, Colorado, for Captain Goetz and other brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. If you look closely, you will see that in place of a rifle there is a cross. Chaplains, you see, are unarmed.

Captain Goetz leaves behind three sons—Landon, Caleb, and Joel—and his loving and devoted wife, Christy.

Captain Goetz will always be remembered by his family and friends who survive him and by his fellow soldiers for whom he gave so much. They will remember his love of country, his bravery under fire, his devotion to others, and, most of all, a heart fully committed to the Lord and Savior he served and loved so fully.

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

VOTING RIGHTS

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

Ms. CHU. There was a time when women and minorities could not vote in this country. People were jailed and even killed for the right to vote. But because people fought back, every U.S. citizen gained the right to vote—that is, up until now.

This year, an unprecedented 42 bills were introduced in various States to deprive you of that right. States have passed voter ID laws that would stop 21 million legal U.S. citizens from voting, including your grandmother who was born in this country and lived here for 82 years. Why? Because she no longer drives and doesn't have a picture ID.

These laws would stop early voting and voting by mail, so that if you know you have to travel out of town or have an operation on Election Day, you would be deprived of casting your vote. This threatens the very basis of our democracy.

We must work together to protect every American's right to vote.

CONGRESS MUST PASS BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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. Madam Speaker, on Friday, Congress will have the opportunity to vote on the balanced budget amendment. This legislation will limit Congress from spending more than it receives in revenues unless both the House and Senate agree with a three-fifths vote.

Under the current President, the national debt has increased at 34 percent and grown to almost \$15 trillion. With the Federal Government borrowing 42 cents for every dollar it spends, it is past time to take action fulfilling the first bill, introduced by my predecessor, the late Chairman Floyd Spence, for a balanced budget amendment.

The passage of the balanced budget amendment will help grow the economy and create jobs. I hope both parties will come together and pass the balanced budget amendment, which will put America back to work and promote small business job creation.

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

IRAN

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, if anyone had any doubt that Iran was pursuing a nuclear weapon, they can stop their questioning. Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, and according to a new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, they could have a bomb within a year.

Iran is not only developing the material for a nuclear weapon, but, as the report makes clear, they are also pursuing the means to trigger and deliver a nuclear bomb, posing a threat to our ally Israel, our troops, and the entire region.

Given the report's findings, claims by Iran's leaders that their nuclear program is peaceful are no longer credible, and the window for action to stop them is shrinking. We must execute crippling sanctions immediately. Specifically, we must put in place debilitating sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran, a crucial financier of Iran's nuclear program.

There can be no doubt that Iran is pursuing a nuclear bomb. There can be no doubt that we must and will do what it takes to stop them.

HONORING RON ROONEY FOR SERVICE TO MEDICAL COMMUNITY

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take this time to honor a constituent from my district, Mr. Ron Rooney. Mr. Rooney is president and CEO of the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould, Arkansas. The Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has provided Arkansans with the highest quality medical care available for over 60 years and has continued to raise their standard of service under Mr. Rooney's leadership.

Mr. Rooney graduated from George Washington University with a master of business and health care administration and has used his expertise in health care to benefit his community for the past 40 years.

In addition to his duties as president and CEO, Mr. Rooney remains active in the health care community nationwide. As a member of the board of directors of VHA, Mr. Rooney helps provide best practices for nonprofit hospitals throughout the United States. He previously served as chairman of the Arkansas Hospital Association and remains active on the organization's governmental relations committee.

As the son of a doctor, Ron Rooney has been surrounded by health care his entire life. He has raised his own family with his wife, Lois, his four children

and seven grandchildren. Mr. Rooney remains committed to his profession, and his contribution to health care in Arkansas and his community is immeasurable.

I want to say happy retirement after several, several years—decades—of service. Mr. Rooney, we appreciate your service.

THE STOCK ACT

(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, I rise today to urge—no, to implore—my colleagues to support the STOCK Act and ask Speaker BOEHNER to bring this bill to the floor immediately.

On Sunday night, the CBS news program "60 Minutes" highlighted a problem of potential insider trading on Capitol Hill. Unlike other Americans, Members of Congress and their staffs are not held legally responsible for profiting from nonpublic information they gain in their official positions. It's outrageous. When I came to Congress several years ago, I couldn't believe it wasn't already a law.

At a time when Americans are understandably frustrated with bickering and gridlock here in Congress, the one thing we can do is restore their trust in the system. This legislation is a big step in that direction of restoring that trust. It's very simple. It asks that if you are a Member of Congress and receive information, you cannot trade stocks to profit from those.

It's a simple bill. I ask Speaker BOEHNER to allow this bill to come to the floor. Let's make sure that the American people—may differ with us on ideas, and healthy debate is fine, but they must not believe the system is corrupt and people are gaming the system.

I ask that this be brought to the floor, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

□ 1210

SURVEY SHOWS SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNED ABOUT BIG GOVERNMENT, OUT-OF-CONTROL SPENDING

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, last week I saw the results of a survey of the businesses from the National Federation of Independent Business. I want you to hear some of the concerns of the small businesses of the 14th Congressional District of Illinois.

Eighty-eight percent of the small businesses support repeal of ObamaCare, something we've been working hard to achieve here in the House of Representatives. Ninety percent support passage of a balanced

budget amendment, something this body will be voting on later this week, of which also I strongly support.

Small business knows, as I do, that the way that we get our economy moving again is by shrinking the size of government, bringing confidence back to job creators, and getting Washington bureaucrats off the backs of our Nation's small businesses. We're working hard to do just that with the forgotten 20 bills that are now sitting over in the Senate, and I look forward to continuing their fight.

I also want to take this opportunity to say happy birthday to Christy and Kaden. I wish I were home with you today.

THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the poverty rate in California and the Inland Empire has risen from 11 percent to 17 percent. My constituents are hurting and it's time for Congress to live up to its responsibility.

But in the 45 weeks since the Republicans took control of the House, they have failed to pass a single bill that creates jobs for the American people. The American Jobs Act contains bipartisan ideas, keeps our teachers, firefighters and cops on the jobs, provides tax cuts to help small businesses grow and hire more workers, helps to rebuild our crumbling roads, bridges and airports, puts more of our veterans who are returning troops back to work.

This is a balanced approach to help fix the American jobs crisis. It's long past overdue. We need to bring it up for a vote. The 14 million Americans looking for a job can't wait any longer. They need a job.

Let's act now. Let's pass the Jobs Act.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BERG. Madam Speaker, 15 years ago a balanced budget amendment failed by a single vote in the Senate. Since then, our debt has tripled, largely due to President Obama's increased spending. In fact, it took our Nation over 200 years to accumulate the same amount of debt as we've accumulated in the last 2½ years.

In North Dakota we know that you can't do the same thing over and over again and expect different results. This week, Congress has the opportunity to get it right.

In North Dakota we balance our budget. We work to leave that next generation better off. Washington could learn a lot from North Dakota, and that's why I will proudly vote for a balanced budget amendment this week.