

Pastor Springer was recalled to serve in active duty and received the Air Force Achievement Medal for his service.

After 15 years of service to his Nation, Pastor Springer was called to serve God and entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1977. After graduating, Pastor Springer was ordained as a pastor of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 2000.

He received his first call to Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Chester, Illinois. His service to his church and his community, including his work as chairman of the Chester Veterans Memorial Committee, earned him the honor of Outstanding Citizen of Chester in 2001.

Today, Pastor Springer serves as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Ministries of Edwardsville, Illinois, where he oversees a church, Christian day school, and a day school center. He has completed three mission trips to Kazakhstan, Haiti, and Honduras and is working to complete his clinical pastoral education at Alexian Brothers Medical System in St. Louis.

Pastor Springer has been a model of service for his community, his church, and his Nation; and it's truly my honor, Pastor, to join my colleagues in welcoming you as our guest chaplain. It's a privilege to represent you, and it's a privilege that you're here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution.

For 24 years, I ran my own small business with my wife. We had to balance our budget every month and every year. I've also raised three boys with my wife, and we've had to balance our budget as a family in order to live within our means.

I believe the United States Constitution is one of the greatest documents ever written, and I don't take amending it lightly. However, we must curb the voracious appetite of the Federal Government and get our fiscal House in order.

We passed the \$15 trillion mark in our national debt yesterday, and we are seeing other countries around the world succumb to their debt. We must fix our debt crisis before it's too late.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this balanced budget amendment to our Constitution, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of House Joint

Resolution 2. Our kids and grandkids are depending on it.

SANCTITY OF VEGETABLES

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Congress seems determined to undermine recent nutrition standards proposed by the Obama administration. It's shameful that we are poised to intervene to make sure that pizza continues to count as a vegetable and that we protect the privileged status of French fries on the lunch tray.

The problem we have in front of us is the institution of vegetables has been weakened in this country, and the effort to redefine it on this vast social experiment that we have going on, redefining vegetables differently than they have ever been defined by mankind before. This effort of this vast social experiment, the early data that we see from other places harms the institution of the family, the raising of the next generation, and is harmful to the future of the Republic.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. You know, this month the national debt will reach the unprecedented level of \$15 trillion. That's nearly \$48,000 per American.

Under President Obama, the national debt's increased faster than any other U.S. President in history. Now more than ever, it's time to get our Nation's fiscal house in order to prevent another big, fat Greek catastrophe.

The American people have made it abundantly clear that Congress should balance the Federal budget just like families and business owners across the country have to do every single day. A balanced budget amendment is the solution we need to break Washington's reckless spending habit.

I implore the President and my colleagues in the Senate to join the House in passing the balanced budget amendment and send it to the States. We can't endure this any longer, and we need to fix it. Americans want, need, and deserve to know we're going to live within our means just as they all live within their means.

PRESERVE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong opposition to cuts in Medicare and Social Security.

In these last few days and the most important days that we face, I chal-

lenge the supercommittee to put politics aside and to work together to come up with a balanced, bipartisan deal that will strengthen and preserve our Nation's most successful health care and anti-poverty health programs.

Across-the-board cuts, which will result from the supercommittee's failure to work together, will do nothing more than increase health care costs to seniors and the disabled and weaken our already vulnerable economy.

I have received countless phone calls, stacks of letters, boxes of cards from concerned constituents all over north Texas who wait in fear to hear the fate of their economic future. I urge the supercommittee to reject any policies that will result in higher costs for our Nation's sick and elderly.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, last week a constituent from Washingtonville, New York, wrote this to me:

"I balance my family budget, so please explain to me why we don't have the will to balance the Federal budget? Pass a balanced budget amendment and future generations will be far better off. If not, we will have left them our errors."

Another one of my constituents—his first name is Joseph—and Joseph, I want to assure you that I agree with you completely. These are my sons. This is my family. These are Will and Jack. Together, as our distinguished colleague from Texas just told us, they owe nearly \$100,000 to the national debt as of today. They had no part at all in creating it.

Every dollar that the Federal Government spends has 40 cents in debt. That is unconscionable intergenerational theft. It must stop, and we must stop it this week. I urge all of our colleagues across the aisle to pass the balanced budget amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to direct their remarks to the Speaker and not to a perceived viewing audience.

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A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

The fact is for too long Washington has not made the necessary and tough decisions that need to be made to get our budget deficit under control. Working families in Indiana know all too

well the importance of balancing their budgets even when times are tight. Just as Hoosier families must make tough decisions about how to manage their budgets, so, too, must we in Congress make those tough choices about where to invest and what to cut.

I have always supported a balanced budget amendment because it is another important tool that can be used to help get our fiscal house in order. Having a balanced budget amendment in place is crucial to the country going beyond speaking about tough decisions and actually making them. I am aware this will not be easy and that tough decisions that affect many people will have to be made to match our revenues with our spending priorities. We have to live within our means.

We are facing significant fiscal challenges, and the American people expect us to come together on a bipartisan basis and to do something that will more effectively deal with them.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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, today we begin debate on H.J. Res. 2, the balanced budget amendment. This resolution is similar to the amendment that nearly passed the Congress over 15 years ago. I can only imagine how much improved our current fiscal situation would be today if the amendment would have passed then. In that time, we have seen the national debt increase from just over \$5 trillion then to more than \$15 trillion now.

This rapid rise in public debt endangers our currency and creates deep economic uncertainty. For some of that time, we had a balanced budget; and we did it with a government divided between the political parties. It was not easy to negotiate, but we made it happen. We need to get back to balanced budgets and go further to pay down our debt. A balanced budget amendment will require us to take that action.

We cannot endlessly pile up debt. That is a recipe for disaster, and we have to turn things around. To help us accomplish that, we need a constitutional amendment ratified by the American people.

H.R. 3346, THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. This past week, I joined with Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT and with many other Democratic colleagues to introduce the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.

If Congress fails to pass this bill by the end of the year, Americans who have lost their jobs not by any fault of

their own will begin losing their unemployment benefits in January. By mid-February, 2.1 million will have lost their benefits, and by the end of 2012, six million will have, which includes 34,600 Tennesseans.

Congress has never allowed emergency unemployment benefits to expire when the unemployment rate is anywhere close to where it is now—9 percent. This extension not only will help the unemployed, but it will also promote economic recovery.

The Congressional Budget Office has declared that unemployment benefits are “both timely and cost-effective in spurring economic activity and employment.” The Economic Policy Institute has estimated that preventing UI benefits from expiring could prevent the loss of over 500,000 jobs. They are timely, targeted and temporary—the best way to stimulate our economy. In addition, there are benefits for the States that are having problems with their unemployment insurance programs and with certain extensions there.

I urge the Republicans to join with us in passing this Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, the big spending policies of the Obama administration have failed America. Millions of Americans have lost their homes, their jobs—and even their hopes for a brighter future. Our economy has stalled, and the American people are looking for solutions.

This week, the House will vote on a balanced budget amendment. It is an honest and bipartisan solution to the problem of overspending that threatens our economic recovery and prevents job creation. Forty-nine States, including Colorado, comply with a balanced budget amendment. Spending cuts, caps and promises, though helpful, are only temporary. A balanced budget is permanent.

When the Federal Government starts living within its means, the Nation's job creators will have the confidence to create more jobs. That certainty is essential to restoring our economy and putting Americans back to work. In an otherwise bleak economy, a balanced budget amendment is our brightest ray of hope.

OUR RIGHT TO VOTE IS UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our right to vote is under attack. Photo ID laws on the books in nearly a dozen States, including in my home

State of Georgia and pending in 35, are most troubling.

Proponents say State-issued photo ID laws prevent voter fraud, but in-person voting fraud has not been a significant problem throughout the years. The problem was that too many people went to vote for President Obama. An estimated 21 million people do not have current government-issued photo IDs. The numbers are even higher for blacks and Hispanics and other minorities. The Texas legislature passed one of the worst laws whereby a concealed-weapon permit qualifies as a voter ID while a student ID does not. The Justice Department should vigorously challenge these voter ID laws.

Nothing is more fundamental, ladies and gentlemen, than our right to vote. We must reject any attempts to curb citizens in the exercise of their right.

SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, today the House is scheduled to consider House Joint Resolution 2. This bill proposes a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I am a very proud cosponsor of this legislation.

Earlier this year, the Texas Legislature called on Congress to propose and submit to the States a balanced budget amendment. I am pleased that the House is taking the first step today to fulfill this request by Texas and other States. As a former city council member and mayor and State representative, I was always required to present a balanced budget.

We must act now before we further ruin the economic futures of our children and grandchildren. We cannot ignore our fiscal situation any longer. The Federal Government should balance its budget.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me today in voting in favor of this resolution.

SUPPORT 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. Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 days since the CBS News program “60 Minutes” ran a troubling piece on insider trading in this very House. Mr. Speaker, you and I and our colleagues are the only people in this august body today who are exempt from insider trading rules.

How do we expect the public to take us seriously about anything we do when there is the belief that people here are enriching themselves from the knowledge they gain on the job? Even the perception of wrongdoing undermines the trust in the democracy.

The good news is that Ms. SLAUGHTER, myself, and now 55 of our colleagues have joined together to put an