

Now more than ever, most Republicans are content with cutting off the unemployment insurance and raising taxes on millions of middle class Americans while refusing to raise taxes on the richest 1 percent. The unemployment rates for the month of October in my congressional district of Union, Essex, and Hudson Counties in New Jersey are between nine and 10 percent, which is above the national average. If Congress does not act by the end of this year, 2.2 million unemployed workers, including my constituents, will lose their unemployment insurance benefits by February 2012.

When times could not get any tougher, Republicans also refuse to extend the payroll tax cut holiday enacted earlier this year that gave virtually all working Americans a much needed tax cut. Failing to extend the payroll tax cut will strip over \$120 billion from the pockets of consumers. We must act now and extend the unemployment insurance and payroll tax cuts.

□ 1230

EXPIRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. CHU. Dawn, a single mother of two, spends every day looking for a job. After 20 years working in human resources, she was laid off in July; and now, the only thing paying her heat and electricity bills, the only thing putting food on the table, is her modest unemployment benefit.

In just 35 days and counting, her safety net will be pulled away if Congress fails to act. If we don't extend emergency unemployment benefits when they expire, by mid-February, 2.1 million Americans will have their benefits cut off. And by the end of the year, 6 million will be without this critical lifeline.

Today one out of every 11 Americans is out of work. Congress has never allowed unemployment benefits to expire when unemployment was this high for this long. We should not start now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

GABRIEL ZIMMERMAN MEETING ROOM

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 364)

designating room HVC 215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 364

Whereas public events allowing Members of Congress to meet with constituents are an intrinsic element of American democracy and representative government;

Whereas at approximately 10:10 a.m. on January 8, 2011, a gunman attempted the assassination of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, opening fire at her "Congress on your Corner" event in front of a Safeway supermarket in Tucson, Arizona, killing 6 and wounding 13, including Congresswoman Giffords;

Whereas Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman lost their lives in the attack;

Whereas Gabriel Zimmerman began his Congressional career in January 2007 as Constituent Services Supervisor for then newly elected Congresswoman Giffords, a role in which he supervised a robust constituent services operation and worked directly with the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District to help them resolve problems with Federal agencies and to offer other forms of assistance;

Whereas Gabriel Zimmerman then served as Congresswoman Giffords' Director of Community Outreach, a position in which he proactively engaged the Congresswoman and her office with constituencies, organizations, and citizens throughout southern Arizona;

Whereas Gabriel Zimmerman organized hundreds of events to allow constituents to meet with Congresswoman Giffords while serving as Director of Community Outreach, and led the organization, planning, and implementation of Congresswoman Giffords' January 8, 2011 "Congress on your Corner" event;

Whereas Gabriel Zimmerman was a 1998 graduate of University High School in Tucson, Arizona, a 2002 graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a 2006 graduate of Arizona State University, where he received a Masters in social work;

Whereas prior to joining Congresswoman Giffords' staff, Gabriel Zimmerman was a social worker assisting troubled youth;

Whereas Gabriel Zimmerman was an outdoor enthusiast, all-around athlete, and lover of history, who at the time of his death at the age of 30 was engaged to be married, and who was known and respected by countless individuals throughout the Eighth Congressional District;

Whereas staff serve a vital role in the Congress, allowing the legislative branch to exercise its critical constitutional duties and enabling Members to effectively represent their constituents;

Whereas over 15,000 individuals are currently serving as Congressional staffers;

Whereas, on January 8, 2011, Speaker John Boehner stated, in reaction to the Tucson shooting, "I am horrified by the senseless attack on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and members of her staff. An attack on one who serves is an attack on all who serve"; and

Whereas Gabriel Zimmerman was the first Congressional staffer in history to be murdered in the performance of his official duties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That room HVC 215 of the Capitol Visitor Center is designated as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 364.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 364 would designate room HVC 215 of the Capitol Visitors Center as the Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room. This resolution has broad bipartisan support, with 367 co-sponsors.

On January 8, 2011, our Nation, and this Chamber in particular, suffered a horrendous tragedy. On that day, one of our distinguished colleagues, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was hosting one of her many Congress on the Corner gatherings at a local supermarket, where she routinely met and conversed directly with her constituents. During that event, a gunman shot and killed six people, while critically wounding 13 others, including Congresswoman GIFFORDS.

I am heartened to hear of the amazing progress the Congresswoman is making in her recovery, and our prayers go out to her and her family.

Sadly, on that day, six people lost their lives. Among the dead were a 6-year-old girl, Chief Judge John Roll of the United States District Court of Arizona, and Congresswoman GIFFORDS' director of community outreach, Gabriel Zimmerman. Earlier this year, we honored Chief Judge Roll in naming a courthouse after him. Today we honor Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staffer Gabriel Zimmerman.

Gabe Zimmerman was only 30 years old and engaged to be married when he was killed. He graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2002, and in 2006 received a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University. Prior to joining Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff, he worked as a social worker assisting troubled youth.

Gabe Zimmerman began his congressional career in 2007 as a Constituent Service Supervisor for then newly elected Congresswoman GIFFORDS. In that role, he supervised her constituent services operation and worked directly with the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. He was later promoted to the Director of Community Outreach, where he organized hundreds of events to coordinate outreach to constituents.

As the first congressional staffer to be murdered in the performance of his

official duties, this resolution seeks to honor Gabe Zimmerman's ultimate sacrifice to the citizens of Arizona. This is also a gesture of sincerest gratitude from the Members of this Chamber who rely on their dedicated staff to help them serve the citizens of this Nation.

I support the passage of this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and the 367 bipartisan cosponsors of House Resolution 364.

I recognize, Madam Speaker, that this is an unprecedented bill, but the bill commemorates an unprecedented act, the sacrifice of the life of a staffer of the one of our Members who, herself, is still recovering from that tragedy, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

We do not often have opportunities to speak on the floor of the House of our staff, whose duties are performed almost entirely behind the scenes. The tragedy in Arizona, however, does remind us that staffers are often exposed as much as Members to harm and are in harm's way.

Therefore, I think it entirely appropriate that we commemorate this loss of life, first in the history of the Congress, by naming a room after Gabriel Zimmerman in our Visitors Center.

I rise in support of House Resolution 364 and am pleased today to speak in support of a bill that designates a room in the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room".

Gabriel "Gabe" Zimmerman was a Congressional staffer who was killed along with five others, at a community meeting at a local grocery store sponsored by Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS on January 8th, 2011 while 13 other individuals were wounded, including Representative GIFFORDS and two other Congressional staffers. Gabe Zimmerman was a dedicated Congressional staffer who had worked for Representative GIFFORDS since 2006, first as an aide to her first congressional campaign, next as a Constituent Services Supervisor in Tucson, and eventually rising to the position of Director of Community Outreach where his duties included managing the logistics for all of Representative GIFFORDS' public District events and helping her constituents with the day to day details of navigating various federal agencies.

Gabe Zimmerman, a Tucson, Arizona native, was a 2002 honors sociology graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a 2006 graduate of Arizona State University, where he received a Masters in Social Work. Before he went to work for Representative GIFFORDS, Gabe Zimmerman worked as a social worker assisting troubled youth. He had a strong reputation of being dedicated to providing services to Representative GIFFORDS' constituents. Gabe also served on the boards of several organizations including the local YWCA, the Comstock Foundation, and the Child and Family Resources organization. At the time of his death, Gabe Zimmerman was 30 years old and engaged to be married.

Gabe Zimmerman was a respected Congressional aide serving on the front lines of providing services to the Arizonians that Representative GIFFORDS represented. There are nearly 15,000 Congressional aides that stream into House Office buildings and District offices across the nation, assisting Members of Congress in conducting the business of the American people. In many ways Gabe Zimmerman represents some of the best aspects of these men and women, with his colleagues describing him as "fiercely loyal to his boss" and "dedicated to providing services to the constituents of the 8th Congressional District of Arizona".

It is important to note that Gabe Zimmerman is the first staffer in U.S. history to be killed while in the performance of his official duties. Sadly, Gabe Zimmerman had been responsible for organizing Representative GIFFORDS' "Congress on Your Corner" event and was staffing the event when he was killed. This dedication should also be seen as a tribute to not only Gabe Zimmerman but to all staff members who work behind the scenes to assist Members of Congress. Given Gabe Zimmerman's dedication to public service and in honor of his death while in service to the U.S. Congress, I believe it is appropriate to designate room HVC 215 in the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room."

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be managed by its sponsor, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida will control the time.

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer House Resolution 364, designating HVC 215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room.

On January 8, in Tucson, Arizona, tragedy struck this country in a shooting that shocked our Nation and tore through the fabric of the congressional community. Six people died that horrific day, including Gabriel Zimmerman, a congressional staffer for our friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District.

Now, less than a year after this horrible day, it is fitting that the United States House of Representatives, through passage of this resolution, properly honor the sacrifice and service of one of our own.

Gabe Zimmerman served as the community outreach director for our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. Gabe was perfectly suited for this position, as anyone who knew him would tell you. That's because working as a community outreach director married two great passions in his life: his drive to help individuals and a firm conviction that America's Government needed to be open, accessible, and responsive to every American.

Ask any Member of Congress here what is one of the most valuable positions in their office, and they will tell

you it is our constituent outreach director. They listen each and every day to the concerns of our constituents—their problems, their suggestions, their complaints—and then they work to help them. The hours are long. Nights and weekends at home with family or out with friends are often sacrificed to attend community meetings. Each and every one of us have staff members working for us who show such dedication, and the hallways of this Capitol have echoed for two centuries with the hurried footsteps of congressional staffers serving the American people.

This resolution, designating the Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room, is not put forward to mark Gabe's death but, rather, to recognize his commitment in life and to making others' lives better. Ask those who knew him and they will tell you that Gabe had a way about him that invited conversation. He could walk into any room and find a way to connect to people. Gabe would often put in extra hours and was known to pay out of his own pocket for poorer constituents' bus fare, whatever he could do to help that little extra amount.

Gabe's dedication and cheerfulness had a profound effect on those with whom he came in contact. Just days after the shooting, well after dark, a gentleman came to Representative GIFFORDS' Tucson office, tears in his eyes, visibly shaking. He explained that just days before, Gabe had taken the time to sit down with him; and even though he'd come in late in the day, he listened to him, treated him like a human being, and made it clear he was going to work to help him. The gentleman simply couldn't believe that such a good person had been taken so young.

Among his colleagues in Tucson, Gabe was profoundly well liked. They told me, when I visited after the shooting, that Gabe was always excited to come in to work and that he cherished the ability to work for a Member of Congress and for one he so admired. His coworkers kiddingly called him Prince Charming because he was always there for them, always ready to come to their rescue.

□ 1240

In Representative GIFFORDS, Gabe found someone for whom he cared deeply as his mentor, as his boss, as a friend, and as a Member of his Congress who shared his passion for selflessly helping others. And while Representative GIFFORDS counted on Gabe to be her eyes and ears in her district, her husband Mark Kelly said that Gabby also looked upon Gabe like a younger brother, as so many of us as Members of Congress look at our own staff members.

Tragically, this loyal, determined, and talented public servant, someone who was a true apostle of our representative democracy, unknowingly also made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Gabe Zimmerman is the first congressional staffer in the history of this institution to be killed while carrying out his official duties. It is in this historical and hallowed moment that we vote on this resolution to name the congressional meeting room currently known as HVC-215 the Gabriel Zimmerman Room.

As those of us who work on the Hill know well, HVC-215 is frequently used for staff meetings of every variety. I can think of no better way to memorialize Gabe's service and ultimate sacrifice than to have this meeting place forever carry his name and memory.

Over the past 4 months, a bipartisan group of more than 400 of our colleagues, 402 now, to be exact, have signed on to this resolution in solidarity as cosponsors of this resolution honoring Gabe's sacrifice. This makes this resolution among just a select few pieces of legislation in history to have garnered such broad support in the House of Representatives.

With this vote, we honor the life of Gabe Zimmerman, and we also recognize all congressional staff—working in every corner of our great Nation—for their dedication to Congress and the American people.

From now on, each time we enter the Gabriel Zimmerman meeting room, let us be reminded of Gabe and of the service and sacrifice of every congressional staffer. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Resolution 364.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), who coauthored this important resolution.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Today I rise in support of House Resolution 364, renaming House visitor room 215 the Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room.

As a Member of Congress, each of us consider our staff more than employees. We work with them. They represent our districts. But they are part of our team. They are part of our family. And they're also the voice, the eyes, and ears in our communities. They solve problems, and they work very long hours. Often, and I particularly feel bad about this, we often forget to say "thank you" to those staffers.

Today we say thank you to Gabriel Zimmerman, who was truly one of these dedicated staffers. He had a great reputation of being one of the most caring individuals you could possibly ever meet.

After receiving his master's degree at Arizona State University, a fine institution, he chose to give back to Arizona and give back to the community in southern Arizona, making our State a better place.

But on the morning of January 8, he had organized a Congresswoman on the Corner meeting outside Tucson so constituents could talk and meet with Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. Representing, that Saturday morning in southern Arizona, was what democ-

racy is all about. It is democracy at its finest. And then the unimaginable happened. Gabe Zimmerman is the first congressional staffer to lose his life in the service of this House.

Today we honor Gabriel's talents, the compassion, and the wonderful things he did for Arizona, for southern Arizona, for the community. And naming something as simple as a room will never be enough for his sacrifice. But it is the right thing to do for Gabe, for the things he did for Arizona, the things he did for Tucson, and also for this congressional family.

Think about this: A hundred years from now, there will be a young staffer getting their first tour of this body, this building, and during that tour, they're going to come across the Gabriel Zimmerman room. And when they read about it, they're going to understand the sacrifice that he gave, just like so many Members here give, but Gabriel gave the ultimate sacrifice, his love and his talent, for this body and for this family.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield 2 minutes to a good friend of Congresswoman GIFFORDS and a wonderful representative of the great State of Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. I rise in support of House Resolution 364, which enshrines the meeting room in the visitors center in the name of Gabe Zimmerman.

My colleagues have retold the tragedy that happened in Tucson in January, the deaths, the injuries; and as we recover from that trauma, led by the courage and strength of Congresswoman GIFFORDS, this moment is an important moment as we commemorate the sacrifice and honor the service of Gabe Zimmerman.

I want to quote from the statement that his mom made, Emily, at a press conference on July 20: "It's right to honor Gabe here, at the Capitol, where Congress is charged with responding to the needs of those people who stood in that line, at that grocery store, to all Americans, by crafting our Nation's laws. While he was the first congressional staff person in the United States' history to be killed in the line of duty, it's not his death, but his work and his ideals that should be recognized here, ideals shared by thousands of congressional staff people over hundreds of years of our Nation's history.

"Gabe thought a lot about and cared a lot about the importance of civic engagement in an open and civil society. That concept, that goal, which is a cornerstone of our democracy, can be remembered in this room, along with an idealistic young man who died."

I think his mom said it best.

So as we honor Gabe, we honor those staff people that work for us, that sometimes make us look better than we are; to those staff people that work for us that sometimes have to deal with the controversies which we create, and in doing so, they extend service and support to the people that we represent.

There is no finer example than Gabe Zimmerman, and I'm honored to support this resolution and honored to be from a community that Gabe was from.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I stand here today with my colleagues to support the dedication of a meeting room in the Capitol Visitors Center to Gabe Zimmerman, a man known for seeking to bring healthy political discourse through civil service.

I would first like to reaffirm my condolences to Gabe's family and loved ones for their loss. He will be missed.

Both a devoted congressional aide and a community leader, Gabe served Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS' district with a smile and a willingness to go above and beyond in assisting both his office and his fellow citizens. With an extroverted personality and a deep concern for others' well-being, Congresswoman GIFFORDS has noted that Zimmerman became the go-to person for constituents in the district. He was what you call back home "good people."

We can all appreciate and learn from Gabe that representing our citizens means going beyond what is asked of us to assist them. Gabe Zimmerman lived this mantra day by day.

It is with great respect that I support this bill to dedicate this place of meeting in honor of a man who lost his life through a senseless act of violence. I join the Arizona delegation in hoping that his sacrifice and the principles of his public service are remembered and honored by all of those who seek to make our Nation a better place.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

□ 1250

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, one of GABBY GIFFORDS' closest friends. I acknowledge the presence of GABBY GIFFORDS' extraordinary staffer and extraordinary leader on her staff, who herself lost a valued member of her staff and Gabby's staff.

Madam Speaker, all of us who serve in this House know that we could not do the work we do without the help of our extraordinarily able and highly motivated staffs. They work long hours with pay below their counterparts in the executive branch and in the private sector. Many are young, in their twenties and thirties, with an energy and a passion for public service that give us all great hope for the future.

Gabe Zimmerman was one of those passionate and dedicated staffers who loved his job, who loved his fellow staffers, and who loved his Congresswoman. He was working for a beloved friend and colleague of all of ours, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

Gabe Zimmerman was a bridge between the Congresswoman and individuals and constituent groups in her district, fostering and expanding each day

the most important relationships Members of Congress maintain: those with their constituents, with the people who have entrusted them with the responsibility of representing them in this great body. Gabe Zimmerman was the first congressional staffer in history, as has been said a number of times, to lose his life in the line of duty, in the 222 years of the history of this body. He lost his life protecting, promoting, and defending democracy.

Gabe Zimmerman, along with six others, was not the object of attack, but a victim of a domestic terrorist intent on assassinating Congresswoman GIFFORDS and intent on randomly killing people participating in one of democracy's most basic activities—the discussion between constituents and their Representatives. Members of my own staff—and I'm sure the members of the staffs of every Member here—were profoundly shaken by this event, realizing that it could have been them or, indeed, any staffer, participating with their Members in any public or even private event.

It is entirely fitting, therefore, that we rename in his memory a room where, every day, Members and our staffs come together to further the representation of the American people. Every day, when we enter that room, we will remember Gabe Zimmerman. Gabe Zimmerman died while serving his country, and we honor him for that service.

But let me say to every staffer who serves with us that, by doing so, we honor you as well—your contributions and the contributions of all staffs—who, like Gabe, strive to make this country a better one for all Americans.

We send to Gabe's parents our deepest sympathy for a loss that cannot be compensated, but tell them that we share their extraordinary pride in this American hero.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE).

Mr. QUAYLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 364, which will name HVC-215 after Gabe Zimmerman.

January 8, 2011, was a dark day in our country's history. Six of our citizens lost their lives, and Congresswoman GIFFORDS and many others were severely injured during a senseless act of violence. There is nothing this House can do to ease the pain of the families and friends who lost loved ones that day. For them, Tucson's painful memories may never fully recede.

What we can do is continue to honor those we lost—Gabe Zimmerman, Christina Taylor Green, John Roll, Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard—and make sure they are never forgotten.

The loss of Gabe Zimmerman affected this body deeply. We all know staffers like Gabe—tireless public servants who work long hours and week-

ends for modest pay. Congressional offices wouldn't be able to function without people like Gabe. Yet they rarely receive the credit they deserve.

Shortly after the shooting, Gabe's friend C.J. told the Los Angeles Times about a visit he and Gabe made to the Lincoln Memorial. He said, "When we went to the Lincoln Memorial on a cold, damp January morning, the wind whipped through the place, and it was freezing cold, but Gabe had to read every single word of the Gettysburg Address . . . He put his all into his work. He put his all into his life."

Madam Speaker, Gabe's life was cut too short, but his life will be forever honored. Years from now, when young interns and staffers visit HVC-215, they will be reminded of Gabe Zimmerman's story—of his passion, of his service to his State and country, and of the example that he set.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield 2 minutes to a close friend of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' and someone who has stood by her, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I thank the leadership of this House, both Democrat and Republican, and all the cosponsors for bringing this resolution before us and for honoring Gabe Zimmerman by naming the room in the Capitol Visitor Center after him.

I can think of nobody who better personified the idea of public service than Gabe Zimmerman. A lot of people get involved in politics for a lot of different reasons, but I think that the base reason that we all should want to be involved in it is to represent people. So when you read the stories about Gabe and about the service that he did even before he worked for Congresswoman GIFFORDS, you can see someone who truly understood what it meant to be a representative.

Gabe made so much of his life about caring for other people, and there can be no higher calling. In naming this room after him, we have a permanent reminder to everybody who comes through this Capitol about what this place is all about. It's about serving other people, and it's about public service. On the base fundamental level, Gabe understood that to do his job right—to represent his district, to represent this country—he needed to make sure that everybody in his district believed that they had a voice in Congress, and that's not an easy thing to do. We represent around 700,000 people, but there was nobody who Gabe wouldn't reach out to and listen to.

I have no doubt that there are thousands of people, if not tens of thousands, who have a better appreciation, who believe more in their government because of the work that Gabe Zimmerman did, and that's something that we need to be permanently reminded of. By naming this room after him, we will offer that opportunity to everybody who comes through this Capitol.

I also think it is reflective on Congresswoman GIFFORDS as well. Gabe

worked for GABBY because he believed in her and believed in what she was doing. She, too, personifies that notion that we're here to represent people—all of them—whether we agree with them or not. It's not just a matter of taking the ones we agree with and fighting for them. You have to fight almost extra hard for the ones who maybe you don't agree with, because that's what makes representative democracy work—believing in this country. Congresswoman GIFFORDS and her staff do that as well as any group of people that I've ever encountered.

It's fitting that we honor Gabe and that we offer our condolences to his parents with the encouragement that he has personified what this institution is all about. We will never forget that.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Florida has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, it's hard to add to all of the things that have been said today about Gabe Zimmerman, but I identify with each one of them.

I would simply say to you, though, that I never met Gabe. I did have the privilege to meet his lovely, precious family, and it was clear to me that everyone who knew Gabe loved him. If they knew him well, they loved him more. His selfless spirit of service is an inspiration to all of us, and it's also a reminder of how short our time here may be.

So, Madam Speaker, I just want to suggest to you that everyone in this place should embrace this resolution because it is a testament to the noble dedication of a young congressional staffer who lost his life in the service of his country.

I had the privilege of being there when this room was dedicated to him, so I hope that all of us can embrace this. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and to honor Gabe Zimmerman and the legacy of service that he left behind.

□ 1300

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. PASTOR).

(Mr. PASTOR of Arizona asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I also rise in support of this legislation, and I too want to thank both the sponsors of this resolution, the cosponsors and the leadership, both on the Democratic side and the Republican side, for bringing this resolution before us today. I urge all my colleagues to vote "aye."

It's a tribute to Gabe Zimmerman, who gave his life less than a year ago in Tucson, and also it's a tribute to his family. His mother was a public servant in Tucson. She worked for many years for the city of Tucson, so he knew what public service was through his family.

It's also a tribute and a recognition of the service that all public employees give to our country and make our lives every day a little better. So may Gabe rest in peace, and may we continue to give thanks and gratitude to the public servants who give us a better quality of life.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, this is a somber occasion, but I am honored to speak in support of congressional action dedicating a room in the Capitol Visitor Center as the Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room.

As all America knows, Gabe and five others lost their lives on January 8 of this year in a parking lot in Tucson, Arizona, when a deranged man opened fire on innocent people. Gabe was just doing his job.

And while I've never had the pleasure to meet Gabe, I feel like I know a lot about Gabe. He worked for GABBY GIFFORDS, a Congresswoman who has become a good friend through our close work as leaders in the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the Science and Technology Committee in the last Congress. GABBY showed me something rare in Washington, true bipartisanship; and it says a tremendous amount about Gabe that he had GABBY's trust and confidence.

I also feel I know Gabe because, like him, I was a congressional staffer. I served in the offices of two Texas Senators, Senator PHIL GRAMM and Senator JOHN CORNYN, for nearly 9 years; and there is nothing I wouldn't do to protect my bosses.

Gabe was put in a position that no congressional staffer in American history has faced, asked to sacrifice his life for his boss and innocent people. When the shots rang out, Gabe was in the line of fire. He didn't run. He made the ultimate sacrifice and became the first congressional staffer to give his life in the line of duty.

One final comment about Gabe's courage. Prior to my time as a Senate staffer, I served for nearly 10 years as a pilot in the United States Navy. Our military heroes who lay down their lives for their comrades are celebrated and remembered. They're given our Nation's highest military honors. They're immortalized in history.

And while Gabe Zimmerman was not wearing a uniform the day he died, he deserves to be immortalized nonetheless. This Congress does so today by passing H. Res. 364, permanently affixing Gabe Zimmerman's name on a plaque in the Capitol Visitor Center. We can never, ever forget Gabe's sacrifice for the United States of America,

and by passing H. Res. 364 we ensure that Gabe's short life is forever remembered, revered, and immortalized.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the author of this resolution for giving us all the opportunity to recognize Gabe Zimmerman and to honor his memory and to extend to his family, Ross Zimmerman, Emily Nottingham and Ben Zimmerman, our gratitude for giving their son and their brother in service to this country.

We have said it already: Gabe Zimmerman, a young man, a passionate, idealistic, 30-year-old man, engaged to be married to his beloved Kelly, lost his life in gunfire while assisting his Congresswoman, GABBY GIFFORDS.

In the routine course of affairs in this House, our staff Members often sacrifice their peace of mind in service to the needs of our constituents. In many of our hectic moments, they sacrifice their family time and the events with children that create a lifetime of memories.

Gabe Zimmerman loved his community and his Nation that he served, and it is just appropriate that we take the time today to recognize him and to affix a plaque in his honor.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Gabe Zimmerman, I didn't know him, but I know many people that are just like him. They are called the congressional staffers.

Gabe Zimmerman dedicated his life to public service, and he died dedicating his life to public service. He died from an assassin's bullet in January of this year hosting a Congress on Your Corner event for GABBY GIFFORDS, which he organized.

There are many men and women just like Gabe Zimmerman who come to work every day and work in Congress. These staffers work very long hours, sometimes late into the night. They work weekends, they deal with people from our districts, and sometimes they get little or no appreciation for their hard work.

Congresswoman GIFFORDS is blessed to have a wonderful staff. I had the pleasure to be with her legislative director, Peter Ambler, and her director of operations, Jennifer Cox, when they hosted me at the Arizona border so I could talk to ranchers in Arizona; and this occurred after GABBY was shot and wounded.

I was impressed with these staffers and their work and keeping up the mission of our fellow Member of Congress, GABBY GIFFORDS, as she was recovering from her wounds. The energy and drive of these bright Americans represent really all that is good about our country. So on this day, it is good that Members of Congress remember and

give thanks for Gabe Zimmerman, his colleagues in Representative GIFFORDS' office, for Representative GABBY GIFFORDS, and for all the men and women who allow this great body to continue to be the people's House.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 1 minute to a woman with whom I experienced one of the most emotional experiences in my life, along with our colleague from New York, KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, when we watched GABBY GIFFORDS open her eyes after her injury, the gentlelady from California, our leader, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for taking the time today to bring this important legislation to the floor.

Yes, we did indeed experience an emotional moment to see GABBY open her eyes, but we all experienced an emotional moment here on August 1 when Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS came back to the floor of Congress to cast a vote. With all the smiles that we had that day, and we were part of history, we had deep inside of us the sorrow of those who lost their lives last January, and one of those people was Gabe Zimmerman.

So I'm pleased and saddened to come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to join my colleagues. I thank Congressman FLEISCHMANN, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and the Congresswoman from the District of Columbia for their leadership here and join in a bipartisan way, especially with the leadership of Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and the Arizona delegation in a bipartisan fashion speaking on behalf of this resolution.

□ 1310

As has been mentioned, Gabe Zimmerman and five others were tragically taken from us on January 8 of this year in the attack on Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. All the Nation watched and prayed.

Today, in permanently naming a room in the Capitol complex after Gabe, we honor his life. As Gabe's mother, Emily Nottingham, said: It's not Gabe's death, but his work and his ideals that should be recognized here.

Gabe's ideals were rooted in service. He worked, as has been mentioned, as a social worker assisting troubled youth, served on the boards of several community organizations in Tucson, and tirelessly assisted the constituents of Congresswoman GIFFORDS. The work that he did made a difference to veterans seeking the benefits they were owed, to families facing foreclosure, and to seniors with lost Social Security checks.

As this resolution notes, there are more than 15,000 individuals serving as congressional staff. In honoring Gabriel Zimmerman today, we recognize all of them for their service.

I want to particularly acknowledge Pia Carusone, who is the chief of staff

for Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS, for her leadership in guiding the staff through this tragic time but not for one moment diminishing the concern and the service to the people of the district that GABBY GIFFORDS represents in Tucson.

Today we pray for Gabe's family. His mother, Emily; his father, Ross; his stepmother, Pamela; his brother, Ben; and his fiancée, Kelly. We hope it is a comfort to them to know that Gabe will be forever remembered here in the Capitol complex. When people walk through that complex and they see that name, that signage, whether it is above the door or directions to it, some may ask the question: Who is Gabe Zimmerman? They may not know him by name, but they know him by his sacrifice. We all honor that here today.

May Gabe Zimmerman, of course, rest in peace. May his memory always be a blessing to us. We know that it is, but we want everyone else to know it as well.

With that, I again thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her leadership, persistence, determination, advocacy, and relentlessness in making this possible. In honoring Gabe, we honor the work of all of our staff, past, present, and future.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank those who have brought this resolution to the floor, particularly the gentlewoman from Florida, and for the hard work she has put into it, and for the staff of GABBY GIFFORDS for working so hard to get this done, and for the family of Gabe Zimmerman, working with this body, both sides of the aisle, to make sure that this resolution came to the floor today.

I was fortunate enough to be in Tucson just a few hours after the shooting and was with those assembled at the hospital, with friends and community activists and others when it was confirmed that Gabe Zimmerman had lost his life. I wish all who are within the sound of my voice today could feel in that room, that day and the days that followed, the love that was felt for this good man, for the work that he did for our colleague, and for how much he is loved throughout the State of Arizona. The State of Arizona will not forget what he has done. And with this resolution today, with this naming, we ensure that this institution does not forget Gabe as well.

Now, all of us as Members of Congress here have a plaque outside of our office that denotes that we are serving the people of our representative States. When we retire, when we leave after serving here, we will take those plaques with us, and maybe they'll decorate our office at home or a room at home. I think it is fitting that this plaque will remain here forever and will honor the service of Gabe Zimmerman and also honor the service of

many staff who work so hard that are often forgotten and often not appreciated for the work they do.

So it's an honor to be here, and I appreciate again those who have helped bring this resolution to the floor, particularly the family of Gabe Zimmerman. And I hope they know how much we appreciate their sacrifice and Gabe's sacrifice.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, before I yield back, I want to share one more story to really demonstrate to the entire country the heart of the young man that we are honoring here today, because even those who only occasionally came into contact with Gabe Zimmerman were touched by his passing because of the way he treated them in life.

The week following Gabe's death, the night shift security guard came and knocked on the door of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' Tucson office. They were working late, and her staff opened the door. The guard came hoping that the person he so often talked to at night hadn't really been killed. Tearing up, he said he hadn't known Gabe's name, but said that he often found Gabe working late and that Gabe would always ask him about his family or his weekend or just talk about sports. Gabe always treated him with dignity, which meant so much to him.

That's the importance of the legislation that we have in front of us today. Knowing that we are going to forever designate HVC 215 as the Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room sends a message to all of our staff and to the hearts of all who serve that we will honor their service, honor their commitment, honor their willingness to make a personal sacrifice to devote their lives to helping others. That was the epitome of Gabe Zimmerman.

I want to close just by thanking the entire Arizona delegation, particularly Mr. FRANKS and Mr. FLAKE, and most especially DAVE SCHWEIKERT, who had such courage in sponsoring this resolution with me, was passionately committed to garnering cosponsors for it, and really worked incredibly hard to bring it to the floor.

I also want to thank the leadership of both the Democrat and Republican Members. This is a very challenging and difficult time for our Nation, Madam Speaker. It is my hope, as hard as it is and as hard as it has become for us to engage in civil discourse, that we really all redouble our efforts as we have all publicly stated that we are willing and interested in doing, myself included, to make sure that we can earn the respect and earn every day the privilege that our constituents have given us to represent them here in our Nation's capital. And in doing so, we will honor Gabe's memory, honor the service of our colleague and friend GABBY GIFFORDS, and know that Gabriel Zimmerman did not die in vain.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I also want to thank my colleague from Florida for her leadership, along with the Members of the Arizona delegation, for putting this resolution together which is so important.

I have had the honor of knowing my colleague GABBY GIFFORDS since 2005 before either of us were actually elected to Congress. And there is no doubt in my mind that she wishes she could be here today on the House floor to speak in favor of this resolution that is honoring the life of Gabe Zimmerman, her director of community outreach who lost his life in that senseless attack on January 8.

As a former staffer myself, I know firsthand that working for a Member of Congress is not like most jobs. You rarely go home at 5 or 6; you work long hours; you typically do not have weekends off. But to those staff who work for all of us, every one of the House Members, the reward comes from working for constituents on behalf of our districts, our States, and our great country. All of our staff are extensions of the Members that they work for.

GABBY's staff is certainly a reflection of whom she is—a loyal, dedicated public servant. And Gabe Zimmerman is no different. I didn't know him, but I do know that he cared for his community, he cared for his country. Gabe was a passionate advocate for children, for social justice, and for antiracism. Gabe didn't wear the uniform of a soldier or a police officer, but he did give his life while serving his country, and so it is absolutely fitting that, inside the Congressional Visitor Center where thousands of Americans visit each and every year, a room will now bear Gabe Zimmerman's name in his honor. And I hope that this dedication will also serve as a reminder to all of us of the passion and the loyalty and that dedication that Gabe showed every day as a congressional staffer.

My thoughts continue to be with Gabe's family, with GABBY and her husband, Mark, and with all of GABBY's staff who have a constant reminder of how valuable life really is.

□ 1320

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I wish to thank Congressman SCHWEIKERT and Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their coauthorship of this very, very important legislation honoring Gabe Zimmerman. I want to thank the entire Arizona delegation for all their tireless efforts in this regard. I also wish to urge all of my colleagues in this great House, the people's House, to support this bill later today.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 364, legislation to designate room HVC 215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room."

I want to thank my colleague from Florida, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for introducing this important legislation.

Gabe Zimmerman was a young man who dedicated himself to the betterment of his community, and lived a life of service to others.

This led him to work for Representative GABBY GIFFORDS—first as a field organizer and constituent service director, and later as a community outreach director.

We all know of the tragedy that occurred on January 8, when Gabe and 5 other individuals were forever taken away from this world.

But what many of us don't know is the type of life Gabe Zimmerman lived.

Gabe was integral in working with local charities, like Child and Family Resources, the YWCS, and the Comstock Foundation.

He was a loving son, brother, and fiancé—and a dedicated public servant.

I urge all my colleagues to honor the life and service of this tremendous young man, and vote "yes" on H. Res. 364.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 364, a resolution to name a meeting room in the Capitol Visitors Center after Gabriel Zimmerman, the only Congressional staff member killed while on duty. Gabe Zimmerman, a staff member for my friend and colleague Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, was one of six people killed in the January 8, 2011, attack in Tucson, Arizona.

The entire Capitol Hill community mourned the senseless deaths and the loss of one of our own. Those of us who serve in Congress know that the work we do to represent our constituents would not be possible without the support of our hard-working and dedicated staffs. Working early mornings and late nights, on weekends and federal holidays, these outstanding men and women bring energy and passion for public service.

Gabe Zimmerman died while helping Congresswoman GIFFORDS as she engaged in one of the most important functions of a Member of Congress, communicating with her constituents. It is fitting that the House of Representatives is today considering legislation to dedicate a space to the memory of Gabriel Zimmerman, a room where Members of Congress and our staff come together to represent the interests of the American people.

In honor of Gabe Zimmerman and all Congressional staff including my own, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women who dedicate themselves to public service.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the role of Congressional staff is an important one in helping all Members carry out our responsibilities, but it is a role too often not acknowledged. It is fitting that we pause today to honor one such staffer, Gabriel "Gabe" Zimmerman, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving this Congress and this nation. Gabe was the first, and hopefully the last Congressional staffer to be murdered in the performance of his official duties when he was shot staffing Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS at a constituent event in her district. Six other people were killed and 13 were wounded, including Representative GIFFORDS and two other Congressional staffers.

By all accounts, Gabe was a kind and dedicated young man who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the people in the 8th District of Arizona. He was a former social worker who assisted troubled youth, an athlete who loved the outdoors, a beloved son and brother, and he was engaged to be married. His life

was cut far too short. I am pleased that we are making this small tribute to him today.

Our hearts go out to Gabe's family and friends, to Ranking Member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, during her recovery, and to all those impacted by that horrible tragedy.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, on January 8, 2011 the nation was shocked and saddened by a senseless act of violence against a member of the House, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. That attack injured her and killed six innocent bystanders, including a Congressional staff, Gabe Zimmerman.

Gabe, a 30-year-old social worker, began work for Congresswoman GIFFORDS in 2007, supervising the constituent services operation and helping the people of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District resolve problems with Federal agencies and obtain government services. He was promoted to Director of Community Outreach, using his considerable talent and energy to engage citizens and make Congress accessible to them. In that capacity, he planned Congresswoman GIFFORDS' "Congress on Your Corner" event on January 8 and was at her side that day.

We continue to mourn his loss and pray for his family and friends. Gabe Zimmerman's life is a testament to the selfless work performed by Congressional staff every day for the American people. Today, we designate a room in the Capitol as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room" to honor his work and recognize the dedication that he and all staff show to their country.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 364, Designating Room HVC-215 of the Capitol Visitor Center as the "Gabriel Zimmerman Meeting Room." Adoption of this resolution would be a fitting tribute to Gabe Zimmerman's commitment to public service and the courage of our colleague Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS of Arizona.

Gabe Zimmerman's devotion to public service knew no bounds and he made the supreme sacrifice in service to the public when he was killed on January 8, 2011, in Tucson, Arizona, at the hands of the same gunman who left Congresswoman GIFFORDS gravely wounded. Like many Americans, the tragic events which unfolded on that day in January left me in a state of shock, anger, and tremendous sadness.

As the weeks and months have passed, Americans have looked to each other for strength and have been encouraged by the tremendous progress that Congresswoman GIFFORDS has made in her recovery. Nearly a year later, we pause to remember not only Gabe and GABBY, but all the innocent victims of this tragedy who were gunned down while waiting to exercise their democratic right to have their opinions heard.

Madam Speaker, 19 people were shot on that tragic day in Tucson—six of whom suffered fatal wounds. While this tragedy focused national discourse on the need to reassess current gun restrictions and the responsibility of public institutions in reporting potentially dangerous behavior, we were also reminded of the value of maintaining civility in our public discourse.

Gabe Zimmerman, Congresswoman GIFFORDS' director of community outreach, personified the spirit of public service and patriotism that has made America great. His work

with the people of Tucson made him a popular member of the community, and his passion for social justice transcended his official role as a member of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff and left an indelible impact on everyone around him.

Gabe's drive to help others led him to pursue a master's degree in social work and a career in politics. Although Gabe's nascent career was cut tragically short, designating room HVC-215 as the Gabe Zimmerman Meeting Room will allow us to memorialize and celebrate his commitment to public service for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 364.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3463, TERMINATING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND AND ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 527, REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2011; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3010, REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 477 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 477

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3463) to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 527) to amend chapter