

American family will lose a tax break worth \$1,000 and our economy will lose \$30 billion as the unemployed will lose much needed assistance.

Now is not the time to play risky games with our economy. We must pass a clean extension of the payroll tax and continue assistance for the unemployed.

□ 1210

SUPPORT THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE PROJECT

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from west Georgia, Congressman GRAVES, just said, the House took action yesterday to boost our economy and create jobs. And I stand before you now to implore Senate Democrats and President Obama, follow suit and to support the Keystone pipeline project. The pipeline, which has been delayed for more than 3 years by this administration, would be a critical step towards energy independence and job creation in the United States.

This pipeline would transport 1.4 million barrels of oil per day from Canada down to the gulf coast refineries, drastically reducing our reliance on Middle East imports and create, yes, more than 100,000 jobs nationwide. This does include Georgia, where Keystone fuel would be shipped by existing pipelines to terminals in Atlanta, Rome, Augusta, Athens, as well as to other east coast customers.

The time to act is now, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and President Obama to allow production to begin.

HONORING CAPTAIN JAMES HENRY

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American, fishing Captain James Henry from the town of Mystic, Connecticut. Captain Henry has just published his first book, "In a Fisherman's Language," at the age of 98.

What's even more extraordinary is that Captain Henry was illiterate until the age of 91. But after learning the inspiring story of George Dawson, the grandson of a slave who taught himself to read and write, at the age of 98, Captain Henry began his journey to literacy. A retired East Lyme English teacher and literacy volunteer from eastern Connecticut, Mark Hogan tutored Captain Henry along his journey and helped him edit his book.

"In a Fisherman's Language" artfully weaved together the life of this lobsterman, sharing his stories from his life on his grandfather's farm in Portugal, his work on the boats, a

member of the Connecticut National Guard, a professional boxer, and a ship-fitter at Electric Boat shipyard.

What initially started as a small project has gained international attention. Selling the original 750 copies in just 2 weeks, he's been contacted by film producers, TV stations, and audio book companies, alike, who want to share his story with the world.

It has been quite a long journey from being unable to read and write to being a source of inspiration to young writers and a beacon of hope for those struggling with their own literacy.

I urge my colleagues to read this amazing book, and I salute Captain Henry for his amazing accomplishment.

REGULATIONS

(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, throughout this year, House Republicans have been fighting for job creation, working to prevent the Federal Government from damaging our economy and job growth.

The present administration has tried to downplay the effect new regulations will have on companies struggling in the weak economy. Today's Wall Street Journal documents efforts of the White House Office on Information and Regulatory Affairs to muddy the waters about regulations.

The official Obama administration compilation of regulations ignores significant institutions such as the National Labor Relations Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission, yet the number of economically significant rules at all stages has risen to 149, a historic high.

Vast sections of industry are waiting to hear how the Federal Government will change the way they have to do business. How on earth can we expect them to hire new workers when they can't plan with this regulatory uncertainty?

The administration can try to manipulate the numbers, but there can be no doubt that the Federal regulatory juggernaut is holding back job growth.

THE PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Well, folks, your Congress is at it again. Republicans have been talking about debt and deficit for the last year, and here we're going to add nearly \$200 billion in new spending to the deficit. Well, we're going to use a bunch of pay-fors that we're setting aside for the original deficit.

This is the most disingenuous group of folks that I've seen in a long time; and to be honest, a little bit on our side of the aisle. We've been railing about doing anything that would re-

motely affect Social Security, yet we're willing to pass another payroll tax cut that adds to the difficulty of funding our system.

Oh, no. We're going to issue some IOUs. I don't think there is a single American out there that believes that another IOU is a good thing for Social Security. We have got to stop borrowing against our Social Security.

Not only that, the payroll tax, you get only 60 cents back for every dollar you invest. I don't think that's a very good investment. President Bush tried that in 2008, and there was no change in consumption.

What we should be doing is focusing on unemployment, where you get \$1.60 back in economic activity for every dollar you put in, just like the President asked for. And we should have a more robust doc fix that makes sure seniors and doctors get paid what they need to keep Medicare solvent.

THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Last night the House passed jobs bill number 28 that is now awaiting action from President Obama and the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act will protect American workers from higher taxes while ensuring that resources are not taken from the Social Security trust fund to pay for this relief. Most importantly, this legislation includes a measure that will support the creation of more than 100,000 new American jobs by expediting the creation of the Keystone XL energy pipeline.

This Christmas season, Congress and the President have the opportunity to give the American people the gift of jobs and tax relief that they need without spending more money that we do not have.

It is time for President Obama to live up to his own rhetoric of "we can't wait" and put partisan politics aside and get Americans back to work.

THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN HERITAGE IN TURKEY

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report that the ancient Christian heritage in Turkey is being threatened with extinction.

When a government compromises the right of its citizens to peaceably assemble, the right of expression, and the right of independent thought, the people of such a country are not fully free. When a government takes the property of citizens without just compensation and due process of law, the people of that country are not free. And when a

government discriminates against citizens on account of their religion and ethnic origins, again, freedom is denied.

While Turkey has taken some positive steps in recent times, freedom is not a matter of half measures. Our NATO ally must unequivocally and zealously defend the individual liberties of all its citizens.

I support passage of House Resolution 306 to urge the Republic of Turkey to safeguard its Christian heritage and to return confiscated church properties.

IT'S TIME TO STAND WITH THE AMERICAN WORKER

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues in the Senate and to the President, it's time to stand with the American worker. We're talking about adding 20,000 jobs as we approved the Keystone pipeline coming from Alberta, Canada, down to the gulf shore. But Canada's already a leading source of our oil. They actually give us more oil and produce more oil than Saudi Arabia.

Michigan is actually an excellent example of what happens with that partnership. Enbridge, which is actually a competitor to TransCanada right now, is already looking at increasing its capacity and expanding its pipeline; Marathon Refineries, looking at expanding its capacity to be able to handle these Canadian crudes.

We know that this inflow of Canadian oil is a positive thing. Zero taxpayer dollars are going to be used for this, and it will be put thousands of our American workers back to work at a crucial time.

The oil will be extracted. The question is: Where is it going to go? Is it going to be shipped to the United States and create U.S. jobs, or is it going to Asia to help fund the engine to compete against us?

It's time to stand with the American worker, Mr. President.

□ 1220

END OF THE IRAQ WAR

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as we gather here, President Obama is at Fort Bragg honoring and thanking our men and women in uniform for their service in the war in Iraq and for the sacrifices they've been willing to make to keep us the home of the brave and the land of the free.

America's brave men and women in uniform have done everything that has been asked of them. They have performed with valor, with courage, with patriotism and a dedication to duty.

It is because of our troops and the leadership of President Obama that this month we will be able to say that the war in Iraq is over, our troops are coming home for the holidays with their families. As we thank our troops, we also thank the families of our men and women in uniform for the sacrifices they have been willing to make for our country.

President Obama promised to end the war in Iraq responsibly. Promise made, promise kept. When he took office, nearly 150,000 American troops were deployed in Iraq. This month our troop presence will wind down to just around a few thousand. In winding down the war, the President honored the wishes of the American people.

As we mark the end of the war, we honor the nearly 4,500 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. Tens of thousands more have been wounded. We will never forget those who were lost in the war. We will forever be grateful to them and to their families.

I'm from Baltimore, Maryland. When my father was mayor, they built Baltimore stadium. What would they call it? The consensus name was Baltimore Memorial Stadium to honor those who made so much sacrifice for our country. General Pershing said, and that was engraved on Baltimore Memorial Stadium, "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds." Time will not, indeed, dim the glory of those who served and sacrificed in Iraq.

I'm particularly proud to have presided over 4 years of a Congress that made more progress for our veterans and military families than has been made since the passage of the original GI Bill in 1944.

But our work is not done. On the battlefield, the military says we will leave no soldier behind. And when they come home, we promised, Democrats and Republicans working together, to leave no veteran behind.

Over a million of our men and women in uniform served in Iraq. We must honor their service with economic opportunities and the benefits they deserve. We must remember that our commitment to our veterans is not while they serve or even for life. It is a commitment forever, to them and their families.

We must build a future worthy of their sacrifice. As the war in Iraq comes to an end, we express our enormous gratitude to those who have served. Because of them, we express our great optimism for the future.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. HURT. I rise today in support of the Iran Threat Reduction Act offered by Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I thank the chairman for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that Iran poses a threat to our Nation, our interests, and our allies. In the wake of the International Atomic Agency report, it is clear that the United States must take swift action to proactively enforce policies that will not only deter but completely disengage the Iranian regime from its hostile nuclear proliferation program.

This legislation will take steps to adequately address Iranian nuclear proliferation by taking aim at its primary source of funding, its energy sector, adding more rigorous financial and energy sanctions, including a provision that will allow judicial sanctions on those that conduct business in Iran's petroleum industry.

As Iranian nuclear threats continue to evolve, so should the United States' ability to address those threats. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, millions of hardworking Americans have lost their jobs in this economic crisis through no fault of their own. But rather than standing up and helping struggling Americans, yesterday this Chamber advanced a bill doomed to fail because of all of the unrelated and controversial riders that were attached.

According to the Rhode Island State director of labor, for every two part- or full-time positions in Rhode Island there are seven applicants. There's an urgent need for Congress to extend Federal emergency unemployment compensation in my State with a total of 58,000 unemployed Rhode Islanders.

This social safety net provides a lifeline to struggling individuals, helping them to pay their mortgage and utilities as well as put food on the table for their families. Families like Betsy Hamel's in Jamestown, Rhode Island. Betsy supports her disabled husband and her severely disabled son but doesn't know how she'll make ends meet while continuing to look for work if unemployment assistance is not extended.

It's time to stop playing partisan games and stand up for the millions of Americans like Betsy and extend unemployment benefits now.

HONORING BORDER PATROL AGENT BRIAN TERRY

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

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry lost his life doing what he had done his entire life: serving his country. A native of Detroit, Brian Terry served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps and then as a police