

In 2011, our trade deficit with OPEC was \$127 billion. In 2010, it was \$96 billion. In 2009, it was \$62 billion. And in 2008, the last time we had a big oil price jump, it was \$177 billion. That means we're buying more oil from OPEC than they're buying of our own goods. But it goes beyond that. There is also the cost of blood.

In our first Iraq war in Desert Storm, one Army group in my district, the Quartermaster Unit, was hit by a scud missile, and it killed many of those soldiers. How do you put a price on that cost of war? And clearly we are battling Iraq because they also invaded Kuwait and were attempting to control more oil fields in the market. Yes, it was about dealing with Saddam Hussein; but, yes, it was also about dealing with control of oil.

Look what we're doing now with the costs—patrolling the Strait of Hormuz with our 5th and 6th Navy Fleet out there to patrol the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf to make sure Iran doesn't cut off world oil supplies and cause more problems.

But look also at the lives cost in the Iraq war in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sixty-three Pennsylvanians have been killed, including many from my own district, whose lives were lost defending our causes in Iraq. There are also, in Pennsylvania, 553 wounded. But overall, 4,484 have died up to 2011 in Operation Iraqi Freedom—Americans. Pennsylvania has certainly paid a high price on that; but also know between 224,000 and 258,000 civilians were killed in Iraq directly from warfare.

Now, although other countries may have paid us back in dollars for what we spent in first Desert Storm, gulf war, we are bearing the costs of Operation Iraqi freedom. And we can never, ever return to the families the lives of their loved ones, their wives and sons and daughters and mothers.

Let's remember that opening up our own oil fields in America is not just about paying the price for families and what it cost them, but also making sure we know we will never have to pay again the price of blood. That reason and that reason alone is enough to say let's be drilling for our own oil.

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 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Gerald Theriot, The American Legion, Schriever, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Most gracious and all-enabling God, awaken within our hearts and minds the ability to reason and discuss differences so that we may realize reasonable, fair, and just solutions to the issues that are before us.

Allow our legislators to meet the desires of those who support them and, at the same time, to do what is best for all in our Nation.

We know that we all must meet the obligations of the trust that is placed upon us, and we therefore come to You in faith seeking courage and strength to perform our tasks well.

Dear God, as I stand here today, I am thankful for and ask for Your continued blessing on this House as they endeavor to perform their duties.

We ask Your blessing on our Nation and the defenders of our freedoms, both civilian and military.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND GERALD THERIOT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our guest chaplain, Mr. Gerald Theriot, for his dedicated life of public service.

Chaplain Theriot is a retired veteran of the United States Air Force, a cryptologic linguist specializing in French, Vietnamese, and Korean. Mr. Theriot rose through the ranks and retired as a first sergeant. Following his military service, Mr. Theriot served his Louisiana neighbors in the Department of Social Services.

Chaplain Theriot is a loyal member of American Legion Post 513 in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where he has served as a vice commander, historian, service officer, and chaplain. He has also served as Louisiana's department chaplain since 1997. And on September 1, 2011, Mr. Theriot was appointed the national chaplain of The American Legion.

Chaplain Theriot is the proud husband of Mrs. Ethel Theriot, father of four, and grandfather of our State's future leaders.

On behalf of Louisiana's Third Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I applaud Mr. Gerald Theriot for his sacrifice and service and commitment to our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

PRESIDENT FULFILLS PROMISE TO INCREASE GAS PRICES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in his 2008 campaign, during an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, the President promised energy rates "would necessarily skyrocket" under his policies. Since February 2009, the price of gas has jumped from \$1.92 per gallon to an outrageous \$3.72 per gallon. Hardworking Americans continue to watch as a substantial amount of each paycheck is diverted by rising energy costs destroying jobs.

Although the President claims to have changed his policies, his decision to terminate the Keystone pipeline project from Canada shows that he remains dedicated to his campaign promise. House Republicans are focused on helping Americans feel relief at the pump by supporting legislation that expands supply and allows for the continuation of the Keystone pipeline.

I urge the President to put party politics aside and work with House Republicans to find ways to lower energy costs, which is necessary for American families.

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

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it's been over 400 days since the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives and they still have not put forward a jobs agenda.

Instead of focusing on creating new jobs, Republicans have been working on a partisan agenda that would end Medicare as we know it, protect tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas, and cut jobs, including 550,000 jobs that would be lost in the Republican transportation bill.

Now prices at the pump are on the rise across the Nation. American families are hurting. It's time for Republicans to stop political games and work with Democrats on all-of-the-above energy solutions that stop the speculators who are inflating oil prices, extend production tax credits to create over 37,000 new jobs in solar energy, and cut \$40 billion in tax breaks for oil over the next decade. Let's work together on a responsible energy plan to lower gas prices and create new jobs at home.

Before I close, I would just like to announce that I'm having a woman's health conference next month, March 15.

LOWERING GAS PRICES AND
CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, here's the sign at a gas station at the corner of Pike Street and I-77 in Marietta, Ohio: \$3.69 for a gallon of unleaded regular. It's one example of surging gas prices across southeastern Ohio.

When President Obama took office, the price for a gallon of gas was \$1.86. It has now doubled, and some estimate that it will be around 5 bucks by this summer. This is just one indicator that President Obama's energy policies have failed America and are continuing to make our economy worse.

He says that he wants an all-of-the-above approach to energy, but his actions do the exact opposite. In fact, President Obama cut oil production on Federal lands by 11 percent last year and he blocked the Keystone XL pipeline.

We can't afford President Obama's destructive energy policies anymore. Not only will increased energy production lower the price at the gas pump, but it will create much-needed jobs right now. Hardworking Americans need both, not more of the same from President Obama.

□ 1210

KICKOFF OF WOMEN'S HEALTH
WEDNESDAY

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to announce the inaugural Women's Health Wednesday. Starting today and continuing for every Wednesday, Members of this distinguished body will take to the floor to talk about mammograms, about comprehensive family planning, and, yes, even about birth control.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to kick off this first Women's Health Wednesday by reminding everybody this is 2012, not the dark ages. So it amazes me that the debate we've been having lately, both in the Halls of this Congress and out in the political scene, is about birth control. Birth control.

Ninety-nine percent of women have used birth control at some point in their lives, including 98 percent of Catholic women; and 1.5 million women in this country rely on birth control for noncontraceptive purposes to treat a variety of medical conditions. The Institute of Medicine has determined, based upon science, that birth control is a fundamental part of women's preventive care. Yet here we are, debating about birth control.

Mr. Speaker, over the next coming weeks, we will have many conversations, and I'm excited to talk about women's health.

PASTOR YUCEF

(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, this evening the House will consider H. Res. 556, condemning Iran for their persecution, imprisonment, and sentencing to death of Christian Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani. Pastor Youcef has been in prison for 2½ years now under the charges of apostasy and condemned to death by hanging. His wife, too, was arrested and condemned to life in prison, but later released.

Christians and other religious minorities are under assault in Iran today. Hundreds have been imprisoned and many have been executed on trumped-up charges. In fact, while the official charges against Pastor Youcef are apostasy and evangelism, the state media said that he has been charged with rape and extortion.

The authorities in Iran know that they are violating both their own constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in their treatment of Pastor Youcef and other minorities.

This week, the House will call on Iran to respect these agreements and to release Pastor Youcef so that he, his wife, and children may practice their

religion freely and not according to the dictates of the state.

WOMEN'S HEALTH WEDNESDAY

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, today I'm thinking about the 99 percent of American women who have used birth control. Today, I'm thinking about the 98 percent of Catholic women who have used birth control.

Birth control is a necessity for many women, and it is unfair that women have to pay 68 percent more for it in out-of-pocket costs than men because it is not covered by all health insurance plans.

It is especially unfair to the women who use birth control pills to save their lives. In fact, these pills have prevented 200,000 ovarian cancers and 100,000 deaths.

The nurses, secretaries, and janitors who work at religiously affiliated hospitals and universities should not have to pay more for their health care costs and be punished because of where they work. That's not fair. The Obama administration's policy changes this and is fair. It's about time that women get a break for all that they do to raise children in this world.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS PARR

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Christine Parr. Although Chris passed away earlier this month, her memory will live on with her family and friends.

For nearly 40 years, Chris was married to husband Al Parr. Together, they built a life and family in Harrisburg, Arkansas. Chris and Al have two children, Will and Angela. Chris joined Al in being active members of the Harrisburg Church of Christ where Al serves as pulpit minister.

Chris was a homemaker and a collector of souvenir spoons, bears, and Russian stacking dolls, among other things. Years ago she also operated a sewing business and day care from her home. She enjoyed anything to do with a needle and thread and over the years has made many clothes and quilts for her family and friends.

I will always remember Chris and the kindness that she showed my family and me. Chris had a passion for America. She loved people; and once she committed herself to a cause, she and Al devoted themselves completely and worked tirelessly.

My thoughts and prayers are with Chris's family. As a person of great faith, I know that Chris is now in Heaven with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While her presence here on Earth will be missed, her example will be a guide for her family and friends for years to come.