

We go out there, all of us, on both sides of the aisle every day and meet with thousands and thousands and thousands of constituents. I think that she embodied the best of what Congress has to offer. I am sorry that she is resigning, but I know that she's doing what she feels is best for her State of Arizona and also best for her. I know that we all wish her Godspeed, and I know we all wish her as speedy a recovery as we can get.

I know we haven't seen the last of her. She will come roaring back and will continue to make tremendous contributions to this country for years to come. So I want to thank the gentlewoman for doing this. I think that both of us standing here today shows the American people that Congress can work together and should work together, and in the fine tradition of GABBY GIFFORDS, we are going to make sure that we all continue to work together.

HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF 93 WXRT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Chicago is a city of many treasures. From the architecture to the museums and cultural institutions, from the sports teams to our food, there are many, many reasons to celebrate the Windy City. But with so much to do, see, and eat, some of our city's finest features do not make it onto most tourists' to-do lists. But if you want to share with the visitors some of the true heart and soul of Chicago, drive down Lake Shore Drive with our lake on one side and our beautiful skyline on the other and 93 WXRT on the radio.

I have tried to explain to my children about the vast wasteland that was music radio in Chicago before XRT. Forty years ago, all you had was the same 10 songs on AM radio. Then came XRT, with a rich, diverse playlist, with a passion and an integrity unmatched even today. No coincidence it became a 24-hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked me to a new world. XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to listen to Steve Goodman and my first concert at the Aragon Ball Room to see Mott the Hoople and the New York Dolls, not to mention other famous haunts that played host to greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxie Music and the like.

Thank you, XRT, for 40 great years. You made me a better person. And when your kids turn their dial to 93, they will find Lin Brehmer, "your best friend in the whole world." Lin has been the morning voice of XRT for the last 20 years and is a Chicago institution unto himself. For 20 years, Lin has

been there with us to celebrate all things Chicago, from commiserating with us over another Chicago Cubs loss to suggesting the perfect restaurant for a post-concert dinner. He shares with us the best of the city and makes sure we better understand the world with "Lin's Bin." He helps us discover new sounds, rediscover old favorites and provides an unparalleled soundtrack to our days.

A celebrated fixture in radio, Lin has received a variety of honors throughout his illustrious career. In 1990, he was honored as Music Director of the Decade by Hard Report.

Lin's musical sensibilities are nicely summed up by his motto, borrowed from the writing of Gerard Manley Hopkins: "Flesh fade and mortal trash fall to the residuary worm, you and I might as well rock and roll." Dubbed the Reverend of Rock and Roll early in his radio career, Lin sought to put together a radio program unlike any other.

Now, more than 35 years since he first hosted a radio show in Albany, New York, Lin has succeeded in doing that and so much more.

Radio isn't Lin's only passion; he is also quite the accomplished foodie, never going anywhere without a food guide in his car and his self-described "eating pants," an outfit with enough give to accommodate another Chicago meal—oh, that Wiener Circle. His favorite restaurants in Chicago include a wide variety of cuisine for an even broader array of occasions. His recommendations have included "best upscale Mexican restaurant for when you want to leave the kids at home" and the very specific "best late night steak burrito." I'm sure he also enjoys splitting a cinnamon roll with our friend and his colleague, Teri Hemmert, another Chicago jewel, at her favorite table at Ann Sather's Restaurant on the north side.

Lin Brehmer is a man who helps us discover the best about Chicago, and in doing so, has become a Chicago treasure himself. We appreciate and applaud his career as one of our city's finest radio personalities and most recognizable voices, and look forward to the music experiences and food he will help us discover in his next 20 years. Thank you, Lin, for always reminding us why it's great to be alive.

PUTTING PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I know in just listening to some of the comments that I'm joined by I think all of my colleagues in welcoming GABBY GIFFORDS back to this body for this evening's State of the Union Address, and certainly our thoughts and prayers are with her for a full and speedy recovery as she continues to make strides.

Mr. Speaker, this past month, I've had the opportunity, as many of my

colleagues have, to travel throughout our districts, and as the number one manufacturing district in our country, it's no surprise that people are frustrated and concerned about jobs and the economy.

□ 1020

I know that's common because when I talk to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my colleagues over on this side of the aisle about the number one issue we face, they also say it's jobs and the economy. So whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or an independent, I think we can all come together and agree that we need to find the common ground to spur economic growth.

It's time that we work together in a bipartisan way to pass legislation that empowers job creators and puts America back to work. I firmly believe that if we put people before politics and progress before partisanship and find common ground, we will move our country forward. If you have an idea that is going to move our country forward, I think that we ought to vote on it and move it forward immediately.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1,000th day that the United States Senate has not passed a budget. As someone that ran a small business before coming to Washington, sitting around kitchen tables, Americans are wondering how they tighten their belt, how they balance their budget.

But the point there is that they have a budget. Small businesses all across the land can't operate without a budget. Big businesses can't operate without a budget. American families generally can't operate without a budget. And yet we here in Washington have not had a budget in far, far, far too long. You could build the Empire State Building two and a half times in the time that it has taken the Senate to even pass their version of a budget. This is just plainly unacceptable for the American public.

Put something forward. Let us know where we should be putting our priorities. And that, unfortunately, creates an enormous inefficiency. Can you imagine trying to figure out where you're supposed to spend your resources, what you're supposed to spend your money on in terms of trying to move your family forward without a budget?

There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty, Mr. Speaker, out there and I hear it from people each and every day, uncertainty that Washington is creating. Excessive regulations, there's no question about that. We look at Dodd-Frank. In Dodd-Frank, frankly, we've got 400 rules and regulations, over 200-some-odd that have yet to even be written. What it does is it paralyzes small businesses. People are sitting on their hands. They're not moving forward; they're not hiring people. This is something that we here in this body have an opportunity to change. We can provide that level of certainty, and I think that we must.

We're going to hear a lot about a do-nothing Congress, and frankly, I get frustrated when I hear about that. This body has passed over 30 jobs bills and sent them across the courtyard to the other side of the Capitol where they sit on HARRY REID's doorstep. Now, these aren't partisan bills, Mr. Speaker; these are bills like Access to Capital for Job Creators that passed this body by over 400 votes. That's wildly bipartisan, something that we agree upon, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my colleagues on this side of the aisle; and yet they're sitting on HARRY REID's doorstep, and they won't even come up for a vote. This is the frustration that I think the American public has.

Washington needs to move forward. We need to address jobs and the economy. We need to address the out-of-control spending that has happened, yes, on both sides of the aisle. We need to figure out a way that Washington can tighten its belt so that we do not bury our children and grandchildren under a mountain of debt and jeopardize the very fabric of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I talk to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I do sense that there is a frustration. There is a concern that we may be the first generation of Americans that leaves our country worse for our children and grandchildren than we received from our parents and grandparents. For me, this is absolutely unacceptable, which is why I think that we have to find that common ground—find the common ground and move our country forward.

I certainly hope tonight we talk about a united America, we talk about a vision that unites us as opposed to one that divides us. This will be an opportunity. And I hope it's about jobs and the economy, the out-of-control spending, and making sure that hard-working American taxpayers are moving forward.

This is our time. It's time we all come together to put America back to work.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL OF SERVICE FOR YOUTH RECIPIENT SALLY WHITE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sally White, a remarkable young lady from the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama who was a recent recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award.

Sally is a driven, committed, and determined young lady who is destined for success. She is currently a senior at Thomasville High School in Thomasville, Alabama, and has a 4.32 grade point average. She has been a member of the varsity cheerleading squad for 3 years and was captain of the squad this

year. She was also named a Universal Cheerleaders Association All-American.

Sally has been involved in the Thespian Drama Honor Society for 6 years and attended the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska where she worked with theater students from around the world. She is a member of the National Honor Society, attended Alabama's Girls State, and is a Thomasville Chamber Ambassador.

Sally has been very passionate about public service and mission work. She traveled to Ecuador for 2 weeks in the summer of 2010, planting trees to raise money for village schools. Sally serves as a volunteer for the summer reading program at the Thomasville Public Library and volunteers in the extended day program at Thomasville Elementary School to assist young students with homework.

Sally plans to pursue a college degree in either biomedical or chemical engineering. After college, she plans to attend graduate school to earn a Ph.D. or medical degree. Her ultimate goal is to one day work in the medical research field to develop cures for this Nation's most troubling diseases.

Sally is one of 14 youth in the State of Alabama who has received the Congressional Gold Medal of Service Award since its inception by Congress in 1979. The award provides a unique opportunity for young people to set and achieve personal challenging goals that build character and foster community service. Unlike many other awards, recipients do not win the Congressional Gold Medal of Service. They earn it. Sally earned this accolade by setting and achieving goals in four program areas: volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and explorations. In her more than 800 hours of community service, she strengthened her commitment to public service and realized the power that one individual can make in one's community and in this world.

I had the great privilege of presenting the Congressional Gold Medal of Service Award to Sally 2 weeks ago on January 11, 2012, during a student assembly at Thomasville High School. I was impressed by Sally's poise, grace, and strength and her commitment to helping others. When asked about the award, Sally stated: "Receiving the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award has been a tremendous honor for me. I am thankful for the love and support I have been provided while working towards this award. I am extremely humbled by this honor."

Sally's principal, Mr. Kyle Ferguson, expressed the sentiments of her teachers, advisers, and mentors when he stated: "Sally White is without a doubt one of the most driven, goal-oriented, and conscientious young people that I have ever encountered. She is certainly operating at a level far beyond her years. We are honored that she has been with us through her high school years."

Sally White is an excellent role model and a wonderful example of servant leadership. We should all aspire to work as hard as Sally for the good of others and for our own personal development. I want to applaud Sally's teachers, family members, friends, and the Thomasville community for helping to shape and nurture an outstanding student.

On behalf of the Seventh Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and this Nation, we recognize and congratulate Sally White for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal of Service for Youth Award for her hard work, dedication, and community involvement. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sally White for her exemplary commitment to public service.

□ 1030

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all around the Hill today, you will see Members of Congress wearing a red button, "1,000 Days," a reminder that it has been 1,000 days since the United States Senate has passed a budget for the United States of America; 1,000 days of acting irresponsibly.

I want to pause and tell you that last year on January 8, just 3 days after being sworn in as a new United States Congressman, we were informed of the tragic incident that happened in Arizona; and I want to let the gentlewoman from Arizona, GABBY GIFFORDS, know that I'm going to be honored that she will be on the floor with us today. The prayers of my family and of the members of the South Carolina delegation and our State go out to her and her family and the folks in Arizona that she represents every day, and we will continue to do that long after her service to this country.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National School Choice Week. All across our country, students and families are rallying for National School Choice Week, a grassroots campaign dedicated to the idea that all students, regardless of background, should have the opportunity to choose the school that most effectively motivates them to learn. For too long, we have made increases in spending and new standards from Washington our focus, which have, sadly, strangled our parents' and teachers' ability to help our students succeed.

Now, with that, I want to give a shout-out to the Nation's teachers who have to deal every day with complying with the mandates that come from Washington, D.C., while they struggle to educate the children of our country. Instead of propelling them to success, the United States has fallen to 14th in