

JANUARY 25, 2012.

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO INSERT EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) be authorized to insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

JOBS AND ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, my constituents are outraged by the lack of leadership coming from this administration and Senate Democrats.

Last night, the President came here and talked about working with any projects that would put Americans to work. Well, Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have passed 27 bipartisan bills that help job creation, and the Senate Democrats refuse to take action on them.

We also gave the President a bill that creates over 20,000 jobs associated with the Keystone XL pipeline—a project that not only creates jobs but reduces energy costs and leads us to independence from Middle Eastern oil. But President Obama has once again put politics first and has halted the Keystone project. Even one of the President's strongest allies, the unions, have said that the President is wrong on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that, in an effort to save his job, the President is willing to sacrifice the jobs and energy security for Americans that Keystone will create. The President keeps asking for blank checks so he can do more failed stimulus projects or play venture capitalist with companies like Solyndra.

House Republicans will continue our progress in crafting and passing bipartisan legislation like the 27 jobs bills that await action in the Senate. Republicans will continue to create an environment in which businesses can grow and create jobs, and we will continue to work to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF STEVE PERKINS TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REP- RESENTATIVES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. We just saw a very moving ceremony to acknowledge our dear friend and colleague, and again, I offer my appreciation of her service. But in the course, we mentioned her staff as well, and I

wanted to make sure that I added my appreciation to Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff.

That leads me to say that we depend upon the staffs of this House and our personal staffs and committee staffs. Not often do we get to know them personally. But I rise today to salute Steve Perkins, who will be retiring, and to thank him for his service to this august body.

To each and every Member, remember that those who serve in this body do not recognize Democrat or Republican; what they recognize is the great service to America.

Mr. Perkins has served this Congress with excellence, commitment, and dedication. He truly should be commended and admired and respected for his service to the Nation. I wish him well in his retirement, with his family, his children, and his grandchildren, and I know that he will continue to be a very special person in the hearts of all of us.

Steve Perkins, we thank you for your service. Thank you for letting us know how much you care about this institution, how much you care about us. Let me say we care about you. Thank you for your service to this Nation and to this great body, the House of Representatives of the United States of America.

KENNETH GUETZKE—FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

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

Mr. PAULSEN. I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Guetzke, a World War II veteran from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, one of my constituents who landed at Omaha Beach on D-day and who went on to fight at the Battle of the Bulge. He later was awarded and received both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service.

During the battle to liberate occupied France, Lieutenant Colonel Guetzke's mission was to protect some of Paris' most famous landmarks—the Eiffel Tower, the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, and the Arc de Triomphe—from being destroyed by retreating Nazi forces. Earlier this month, the people of France formally thanked Lieutenant Colonel Guetzke, and awarded him the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

I want to thank Lieutenant Colonel Guetzke for his exemplary service, and I also want to congratulate him on receiving France's highest honor.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In 2001, strongly holding the belief that there is no higher calling than serving my country, I went from selling tires in my Tucson family business to being a freshman representative in the Arizona State House. And for 10 years I served—in the Arizona legislature, in the United States Congress, and, after marrying Mark, as a proud military spouse. Always I fought for what I thought was right. But never did I question the character of those with whom I disagreed. Never did I let pass an opportunity to join hands with someone just because he or she held different ideals.

In public service, I found a venue for my pursuit of a stronger America—by ensuring the safety and security of all Americans, by producing clean energy here at home instead of importing oil from abroad, and by honoring our brave men and women in uniform with the benefits they earned. I found a way to care for others. And in the past year, I have found a value that is unbreakable even by the most vicious of attacks.

The tragic January 8th shooting in Tucson took the lives of six beautiful Americans and wounded 13 others, me included. Not a day goes by that I don't feel grief for the lives lost and so many others torn apart. Christina-Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneek, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabe Zimmerman embodied the best of America. Each in their own way, they committed their lives to serving their families, community and country, and they died performing a basic but important act of citizenship that's at the heart of our greatness as a nation. They will be remembered always by their country and by their Congress.

I don't remember much from that terrible day, but I have never forgotten my constituents, my colleagues, or the millions of Americans with whom I share great hopes for this nation. To all of them: Thank you for your prayers, your cards, your well wishes, and your support. And even as I have worked to regain my speech, thank you for your faith in my ability to be your voice.

The only way I ever served my district in Congress was by giving 100 percent. This past year, that's what I have given to my recovery. Thank you for your patience. From my first steps and first words after being shot to my current physical and speech therapy, I have given all of myself to being able to walk back onto the House floor this year to represent Arizona's 8th Congressional District. However, today I know that now is not the time. I have more work to do on my recovery before I can again serve in elected office.

This past year my colleagues and staff have worked to make sure my constituents were represented in Congress. But if I can't return, my district deserves to elect a U.S. Representative who can give 100 percent to the job now. For that reason, I have submitted the attached letter of resignation to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer.

Amid all that was lost on January 8th, there was also hope and faith. This past year, it is what I have often clung to: Hope that our government can represent the best of a nation, not the worst. Faith that Americans working together—in their communities, in our Congress—can succeed without qualification. Hope and faith that even as we are set back by tragedy or profound disagreement, in the end we come together as Americans to set a course toward greatness.

Everyday, I am working hard. I will recover and will return, and we will work together again, for Arizona and for all Americans.

Sincerely,

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

JANUARY 25, 2012.

Hon. JANICE K. BREWER,
Arizona Governor, Executive Tower, West
Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ.

DEAR GOVERNOR BREWER: In 2001, strongly holding the belief that there is no higher calling than serving my country, I went from selling tires in my Tucson family business to being a freshman representative in the Arizona State House. And for 10 years I served—in the Arizona legislature, in the United States Congress, and, after marrying Mark, as a proud military spouse. Always I fought for what I thought was right. But never did I question the character of those with whom I disagreed. Never did I let pass an opportunity to join hands with someone just because he or she held different ideals.

In public service, I found a venue for my pursuit of a stronger America—by ensuring the safety and security of all Americans, by producing clean energy here at home instead of importing oil from abroad, and by honoring our brave men and women in uniform with the benefits they earned. I found a way to care for others. And in the past year, I have found a value that is unbreakable even by the most vicious of attacks.

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The only way I ever served my district in Congress was by giving 100 percent. This past year, that's what I have given to my recovery. Thank you for your patience. From my first steps and first words after being shot to my current physical and speech therapy, I have given all of myself to being able to walk back onto the House floor this year to represent Arizona's 8th Congressional District. However, today I know that now is not the time. I have more work to do on my recovery before I can again serve in elected office.

This past year my colleagues and staff have worked to make sure my constituents were represented in Congress. But if I can't return, my district deserves to elect a U.S. Representative who can give 100 percent to the job now. For that reason, I am resigning from the U.S. House of Representatives effective at the end of today.

Amid all that was lost on January 8th, there was also hope and faith. This past year, it is what I have often clung to: Hope that our government can represent the best of a nation, not the worst. Faith that Americans working together—in their communities, in our Congress—can succeed without qualifica-

tion. Hope and faith that even as we are set back by tragedy or profound disagreement, in the end we come together as Americans to set a course toward greatness.

Everyday, I am working hard. I will recover and will return, and we will work together again, for Arizona and for all Americans.

Sincerely,

GABRIELLE GIFFORDS,
Member of Congress.

□ 1110

HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

SENATOR MARK KIRK'S CONDITION

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the leadership for allowing me this time to come to the floor. I'm going to do two short items, and then I'll address the weekly discussion on high-level nuclear waste and Yucca Mountain.

First, because of this day and our focus on the sacrifice of our colleague GABBY GIFFORDS, let me update my colleagues on Senator MARK KIRK's progress, since he was a former colleague in this Chamber.

Senator KIRK's early prognosis is good, and his doctors are pleased with his progress at this point. As the Senator continues his recovery, his offices will remain open to constituents. I will just add very similarly, Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff continued to do the best job they could to serve the constituents of her congressional district. While she was unable to attend to many events, staff really did pick up the ball and carry it for her, as Senator KIRK's staff will continue to do for the State of Illinois.

During MARK's five terms in the House of Representatives and his first in the Senate, Senator KIRK has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. From traveling around the State holding town halls, to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to build consensus on key issues, to traveling overseas to advocate for strengthening America's security in relationships with foreign nations, Senator KIRK has demonstrated endless energy and dedication in public service. I have no doubt that he will return to the Senate with the same zeal and passion for his job that he had when he first entered this Chamber 12 years ago.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK COOK

Mr. SHIMKUS. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. It's an organization designed around legislators from all of our NATO countries. It's been in existence over 50 years. Since the legislative bodies in most chambers are the funding for the military, it's important that the legislative body talks about NATO's role in the past, in the present, and in the future.

During my time as a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I became great friends with a member of the British Parliament who recently passed away, and I would like to pay tribute to him.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to my British friend and colleague, Frank Cook, who passed away on January 12. Frank was a longtime colleague of mine in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. As you know, the Assembly brings together Members of Congress with their counterparts from Canada and Europe to talk about issues that concern us all. As a leading member of the Defense Security Committee, Frank Cook made vital contributions in debates in the Assembly from the mid-1980s to 2010 on issues as wide ranging as Afghanistan, arms control with Russia, NATO's operation in Kosovo, and its relations with Ukraine and other partners. He also served as vice president of the Assembly.

Frank embodied the spirit of the transatlantic alliance. He was never shy to express his opinions with a clear mind and a sharp wit. Even when Frank and I disagreed on policy, we remained friends and allies because we shared the values that underpin NATO: freedom, democracy, fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. We both believed that the NATO Alliance was critical to our collective security and defense, and that we as legislators in our own countries needed to do everything we could to make sure it was capable of meeting the threats we face in the 21st century.

I can recall many unforgettable experiences I've shared with Frank. I observed him lead a forceful debate on controversial issues and get all sides mad, like a debate he led on Nagorno-Karabakh in Quebec in 2006.

He and I took incoming artillery fire from the Taliban in Kandahar Airfield in 2007.

During the summer of 2010, we visited Greenland together. We visited a military encampment called Point North, which is north of the Arctic Circle. The dogs there pull sleds and provide early warning for polar bears. They appear quite scary, but Frank was the first to amble up and pet them.

Frank was a throwback to a time when characters could be listed—and by being listed, in parliamentary speak, that means being put on the party list for election—so Frank was a throwback to a time when characters could be listed and serve constituencies.

But perhaps my most memorable experience was when Frank would regularly treat us with the best performance of "My Way" since Old Blue Eyes himself—not a small feat for a Brit.

I learned a great deal from him, and he will be deeply missed by many of his friends at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and here in Congress.

Now to the business at hand, Mr. Speaker. Again, thank you for letting me come down once again to talk