

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BETTY ROSE STAIR PATCHELL

(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 Betty Rose Stair Patchell. Betty's memory will continue to live on with her beloved family and friends.

Betty was married to Jack Daves Patchell for over 45 years. Together they had three children: George, Jacque, and Mark. Betty was a devoted mother, grandmother of four, and great-grandmother of 10.

Betty began her 50-year career as organist, at the age of 15, for the First Baptist Church of Heber Springs, Arkansas. She was an accomplished pianist and a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers. Over the years, Betty served countless organizations as an accompanist.

Betty had a love for the arts, as well, as an oil and water color painter. She also loved to garden. Betty was an avid golfer, and for over 20 years she assisted pro golfers in the annual Shell Open Golf Tournament.

My thoughts and prayers are with Betty's family. While her presence here on Earth will be missed, her example will be a guide for her family and friends.

God bless Betty Rose Stair Patchell, and God bless her family.

TAX DAY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. On tax day, remember the ramifications of waging wars abroad.

In 2011, 39 percent of our income tax dollars went to the Pentagon and war, only 9 percent for trade, commerce, education, and employment programs. The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation estimates the war in Iraq and Afghanistan cost the average American family of four almost \$13,000 in 2011 alone.

National unemployment rates continue to be between 9 and 10 percent, while our families struggle to pay their mortgages, send their kids to school, and feed their families. Compared to the approximately \$159 billion budgeted in fiscal year 2011 for wars, the \$6

billion Congress budgeted for the Workforce Investment Act, primary Federal programs supporting workforce development, is paltry.

We have nearly 23 million Americans either unemployed or underemployed and about 5.5 million who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or more. Wake up, America. Wars are ruining our economy. On tax day, remember our government has a responsibility to use our money wisely, not to waste hard-earned tax dollars on unnecessary wars.

The answer to war and economic decline is peace and prosperity.

DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION

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

Mr. BUCSHON. I recently conducted a survey on my Web site regarding gas prices because I wanted to hear directly from my constituents how higher gas prices are affecting their lives, and I received over 880 responses.

Henry, from Odon, Indiana, told me he owned a car wash, and when people are paying \$40 extra for gas, they aren't paying for a car wash, affecting his small business and his employees.

Rob, from Lynnville, Indiana, lives in a rural part of the State. He and his wife are forced to drive over 30 miles to get to work. A \$1 increase per gallon of gas can cost them up to \$2,000 extra per year.

An overwhelming majority of responders believe we should expand our domestic oil production and become more energy independent. After paying \$3.91 per gallon in Evansville, Indiana, last week, I agree.

Since President Obama has taken office in January 2009, domestic oil production has decreased by 7 percent on Federal lands. In January 2009, gas was \$1.83 per gallon. It's an average of \$3.86 per gallon today. Under this administration, they have risen over 100 percent, the highest for any President.

I urge the President and the Senate to act on the nine bills the House has passed to reduce energy costs and help reduce gas prices for all Americans.

BUDGET

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, before we left 2 weeks ago, my Republican friends attempted to enact their budget, a budget that would have ended Medicare as we know it, shifting costs to seniors and raising their health care costs by \$6,000 a year; a budget that would cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans and multinational corporations by \$4.6 trillion; a budget that would slash Medicaid, food stamps, and Pell Grants for students. Thankfully, the Senate has said "no."

Now, instead of reaching across the aisle and instead of working with us to

pass bipartisan transportation and jobs legislation, Republicans are pushing legislation to allow the importation of animal remains. Yes, that's how we're spending our valuable time today, considering laws to allow hunters to bring back polar bear heads. Really?

I will vote, again, against this budget, and I ask my Republican friends to let go of their tricks, concentrate on what's important, and work with us to create jobs.

BUFFETT RULE TARGETS SMALL BUSINESSES

(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, the President's proposal of the Buffett rule tax increase is just another political gimmick, rejected by the Senate, which is targeted at small business owners. With our Nation's record unemployment rate of over 8 percent throughout the last 3 years, it is clear the President's policies are destroying jobs and chilling economic growth.

In last week's Washington Post, Charles Krauthammer wrote:

The Buffett Rule is nothing but a form of redistributionism that has vanishingly little to do with debt reduction and everything to do with reelection.

The President is using the Buffett rule tax increase as a way to distract Americans from focusing on his failure to implement policies that will create jobs. House Republicans remain focused on reducing barriers that are discouraging job creation.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the President to put party politics aside and work with House Republicans to enact policies that will help create jobs for American families.

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

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GOP BUDGET AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on a rule that once again moves forward the misguided Republican budget. The American people cannot afford this misguided budget which devastates seniors and working families. The Republican budget ends Medicare guarantee, shifting health costs to our seniors. That's a no-no. It turns Medicare into a private voucher system. That's a no-no. It increases prescription drugs for America's seniors.

The American people deserve better than to be left out in the cold with cuts to Medicare, SNAP, and our educational programs. After a long life of service to our Nation, our seniors deserve a strong safety net. Let's stop

and ask ourselves: Who actually benefits from this misguided budget? Millionaires and billionaires and oil companies who would receive \$3 trillion in new tax breaks. That should be a no-no.

Let's stop this shameful budget and work together on a plan that does not favor the rich over seniors and the middle class.

COMMONSENSE ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. PENCE. As I travel across Indiana, it's clear that Hoosier families are hurting: 8.4 percent unemployment and nearly \$4 per gallon gasoline at the pump when they go to fill up their cars and trucks. It's time for this Congress to come together in a bipartisan way and adopt an all-of-the-above energy policy that will include more access to America's energy reserves, more alternative energy sources, and greater conservation.

The encouraging news is that this House has passed bipartisan legislation to do just that. We voted to streamline the energy permitting process; lift the administration's ban on new offshore drilling in the gulf and the east coast; rein in the EPA's attempt to impose a national energy tax; and even require the administration to approve and complete the entire Keystone XL natural gas pipeline. Unfortunately, the Senate and the administration have not embraced these bipartisan, commonsense measures to advance our energy independence.

The reality is the price at the pump has more than doubled from the \$1.79 a gallon when the President took office to the price it is today. Hoosiers know what all Americans know: we can do better than \$4 a gallon, but we must embrace a commonsense, bipartisan, all-of-the-above energy policy to do it.

PASS THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Instead of being called the "Road to Prosperity," the Ryan Republican budget should have been named the "Road to Austerity," because it is a plan that is most noteworthy for the harsh austerity it demands of the many and the lavish benefits it extends to the few.

Nobel Laureate in Economics Paul Krugman has called this budget proposal the most fraudulent budget in U.S. history, calling its priorities inconceivably cruel. Our recent economic history has shown that while Republican budgets might poll well, they do not perform well. The Bush budgets produced stagnant income growth for the middle class, a jobless recovery, and a huge deficit. The Ryan Republican plan is the Bush budget plan on steroids.

If we look at what actually worked in the past, the single best model for growing jobs, sustaining economic growth, and reducing the deficit can be found in the 8 years of the Clinton administration, which created 22 million jobs, erased the deficit, and left this country with a huge surplus. A more balanced approach to deficit reduction will work for everyone. Let's pass a budget based on facts, not on fictions. Pass the Democratic budget.

HONORING OUR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS WITH SHORT CHANGE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2006, then-Senator Barack Obama gave a speech where he mentioned that a number of our veterans had been apparently "shortchanged." He went on to say:

When a young man and woman goes off and serves the country in the military, they should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect when they come home.

Unfortunately, the President's budget proposal seeks to further increase the cost for health care for our military retirees and all of our veterans. On October 1, 2011, TRICARE Prime annual enrollment fees were increased dramatically for new family enrollments and dramatically for new individual enrollments. In fiscal year 2013, the administration proposes additional fees and cost-sharing increases, a new annual enrollment fee for TRICARE for Life, increases in pharmacy copayments, and a catastrophic cap of \$3,000 per family.

Mr. Speaker, when our President promised our servicemembers change, I'm sure they didn't expect it would be "shortchanged."

WHERE'S THE FAIRNESS?

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Many of us were back in our districts for 2 weeks. I had town halls, like I'm sure many of my colleagues did, and I'm sure they probably heard what I heard. We call them kupuna in Hawaii. That means our elderly. They're concerned about their Medicare. They're concerned about their safety nets, which we provide. And the reason is because they've done everything on their part to make us the great Nation that we are today.

Today's space shuttle flying over the Capitol was a great statement. That shows you what an amazing country that we are. So we should ask ourselves, Why can't we keep our word to our elders? Why can't we keep our promises? Why can't we in our greatness ensure that they will be comforted in their senior years? Why? These are fundamental questions. Just show the compassion and fairness. That should

make us the greatest country in the world.

WHERE'S OUR SENSE OF JUSTICE?

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we pick up the Politico today, and the headline is: "Republicans Ax Aid to the Poor." It goes on to explain that there's a \$33 billion cut in food stamps in the Romney-Ryan Republican budget that passed the House so that the average family of four gets an 11 percent cut in their monthly benefits after September 1, and it requires that households exhaust most of their liquid assets before qualifying for help. This hits hardest among the long-term unemployed, who will be forced off the rolls until they've spent down their savings to less than \$2,000, in many cases.

Then, we read we're going to do another tax cut this week. Majority Leader CANTOR wants to cut taxes by another \$46 billion. In fact, the majority of it goes to less than 3 percent of all taxpayers and less than 8 percent of business owners. It's available to highly paid professionals, longtime lobby firms, professional sports teams, and entertainers like Paris Hilton, Kim Kardashian and the like. They all get another tax cut.

Where is our sense of justice? Where are our priorities? Where is our commonsense?

TAX CUTS TO THE WEALTHIEST

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012 and its provision to deem the reconciliation of the Republican budget. In fact, it was the Republican leadership that stood right here on the House floor and emphatically claimed that they were committed to not using deeming resolutions when they were in the majority. But here we are today, and that's exactly what they're doing.

I guess it's not terribly surprising that they would break their commitments, especially when we consider the budget that they've presented. The GOP budget breaks many of the basic commitments that Congress has to all Americans. The Republican budget is an all-out assault on Medicare and the middle class. Instead of a budget that protects the middle class, the Republican budget creates tax cuts and giveaways to millionaires and the super-rich, providing income tax cuts for millionaires averaging at least \$187,000 in 2014.

How do the Republicans propose that they'll pay for these savings to the wealthiest Americans and the big corporations? Well, they end Medicare as we know it, and they balance their