

Though the ethnic cleansing programs occurred over 20 years ago, they were atrocious acts of cruelty. We cannot forget them.

I worry the sentiments that sparked this violence still remain in the Nagorno-Karabakh. Just last month, Azerbaijan began buying up weapons to regain control of the region. The President of Azerbaijan declared this is, "not a frozen conflict, and it's not going to be one."

America must remain committed to a peaceful and democratic resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, not one that relives the past.

□ 1210

AUTO MANUFACTURING RETURNS TO INDIANA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate some great news for manufacturing in Indiana's Eighth Congressional District, my home. On January 17, the 3 millionth vehicle rolled off the line at the Toyota Motor Manufacturing plant in Princeton, Indiana. Approximately 80 percent of the parts for these vehicles were made here in America within a 300-mile radius of the plant. These vehicles are then shipped and sold both across this country and around the world thanks to the free trade agreements that Congress passed this year.

This plant began operations in 1996 and employs 4,149 people. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the Princeton team members last February, and I want to commend each of these employees for their hard work and dedication. I congratulate them on a job well done. I have no doubts that it won't be long until we celebrate another millionth vehicle made right here in the U.S.A. in my district in Indiana.

STOP PUTTING POLITICS OVER PEOPLE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, for those who believe in the Mayan end of days and the prophecy of the end of the world in 2012, the fact that our Republican friends have finally met a tax cut they don't like surely must be a sign of the apocalypse. Republicans fought tooth and nail opposing the middle class tax cut, only relenting at the 11th hour to a 2-month extension. But in the more than 40 days since then, they've ignored almost every attempt to enact a full-year extension. Why?

Perhaps because it's primarily a middle class tax cut, saving 160 million Americans almost an average of \$1,000

a year. Perhaps it's because President Obama proposed it, and in an election year, they'd rather defeat the President than, in fact, support initiatives designed to help the American people. Whatever the reason, Republican opposition, once again, threatens to raise taxes on millions of Americans, deny unemployment insurance to 2.3 million Americans, and risk Medicare access for 48 million Americans.

It's long past time the Republicans stopped putting politics over people and instead extend those tax cuts for 160 million fellow citizens without making Americans wait until judgment day.

FEDERAL PAY FREEZE

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, the numbers are in. Once again, the Federal Government is going to achieve an annual deficit of more than \$1 trillion.

Now, how much is \$1 trillion? Because we throw around that number far too often. If you spend \$1 million a day every day, it would take you almost 3,000 years to get to \$1 trillion, and our Federal Government is approaching \$16 trillion in debt. We're spending more than \$733 million a day as just interest on the debt.

We have to change the trajectory. We can no longer borrow and spend the kind of money that we are. Please, ladies and gentlemen, we have to have systemic changes; and one of those things that we're going to talk about today is putting a freeze on pay.

We have to understand that there are a lot of good Federal employees out there doing great, great work, but your Federal Government has more than 450,000 people earning a base pay of at least \$100,000. These are going to have to change.

THE STOCK ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Republican leadership of the House to bring the STOCK Act to the floor. This commonsense legislation would ensure that Members of Congress and their staffs are not able to profit from nonpublic information obtained through their official duties. President Obama has called on Congress to pass this bill, and it has even advanced in the Senate this week with 93 "yes" votes. Meanwhile, the House has not acted on the bill, and a markup on it in December was quashed by the Republican leadership.

Madam Speaker, Members of Congress need to play by the same rules as everyone else, and our constituents need to have confidence that is the case. Right now, they don't have a lot

of confidence in Congress on anything. Congressional approval ratings are at record lows, and reports that Members could possibly profit from nonpublic information is no doubt one more reason for that. Now we can take a step to address this gap by enacting the STOCK Act.

Madam Speaker, this is the people's House, and the American people deserve to know that the men and women they send here are working for them.

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Every February, Americans across the country open their hearts to the country's hospitalized veterans by sending valentine cards to VA medical centers in conjunction with the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

For several years, students in our Third District of Texas have participated in the annual Valentines for Veterans program as a creative way to thank our brave men and women in uniform for something we love so much—our freedom. Last year, 19 area schools in our district participated, and this year, I encourage all our schools, families, and businesses to take part in making this day special for our Nation's veterans.

Every year, I look forward to delivering these cards to the veterans at the Dallas VA Medical Center, showing them a Texas-size thank you from our schoolkids. You should see the look in their eyes when they read, our veterans, words of appreciation. After all, they are the true reason we remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEWPORT ART MUSEUM

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Newport Art Museum and Art Association.

Founded in 1912 for the purpose of promoting and exhibiting fine arts and fostering art education within the community, the Newport Art Museum continues to enhance community life as a shared place for the arts and culture.

One hundred years after its founding, the Newport Art Museum is, without question, one of our great museums. The museum has received full accreditation from the American Association of Museums, the highest national recognition of a museum's commitment to accountability, public service, professional museum standards, and excellence in education and stewardship.

This valuable community resource inspires passion for the arts in diverse

audiences in Rhode Island and other localities through exhibitions and collections, arts education, historic preservation, and arts and cultural programming.

It's a true honor to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Newport Art Museum.

MORE PROOF WE CAN'T TAX OUR WAY TO PROSPERITY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, a recent report from a respected Illinois think tank found that within 5 years the State of Illinois will have amassed an incredible \$34.8 billion in unpaid bills. This, of course, comes only 1 year after an allegedly temporary tax hike that they were told would help restore the State to fiscal health, but instead has made the State's economy much worse.

Yesterday, the CBO reported that, for the 4th consecutive year, the Federal budget deficit will once again exceed \$1 trillion. This is a mind-boggling number, and it underlines the need for serious fiscal reforms such as the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act that we passed last year.

But, Madam Speaker, I'd like everyone in this Chamber to learn a lesson from my home State of Illinois. We need to learn from the mistakes that they've made. Despite what some people here believe, we can never tax our way to prosperity. Let's heed the warning of the Land of Lincoln and make the tough decisions to break Washington's spending addiction.

RESTORE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, with another deadline approaching, we're reminded again of the debacle that was the end of the last session when Members on the other side stood in the way of extending tax cuts for 160 million Americans and unemployment benefits for millions more. This is really unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, I want to share with you the sentiments of Mary Hill of Maryland. I received a letter from her this week. She's a single mother. She's a construction worker, and she's a member of Laborers' Local 657. She writes to me that she's been out of work for most of the last 3 years. In her first year here, she writes:

I went through all my savings as well as my children's savings. I went from visions of having my skills, education, vocation, certifications, and ethics embraced to receiving food stamps, a medical card, and watching my unemployment run out. I want to work. I need to

work. I work every day as a volunteer organizer. My passion is for myself and others to achieve and live the American Dream. Hard work should be rewarded, and it is rewarding. Nevertheless, my rent is due. I owe credit cards and a student loan. I thought I would own a house by now.

Madam Speaker, we have to restore unemployment benefits for millions of Americans like Mary Hill.

□ 1220

TIME FOR THE SENATE TO GET TO WORK

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the American people are rightfully fed up. The Obama Presidency has meant only more power for Washington and more debt for our children and grandchildren, while the Obama economy produces only less confidence for job creators and too few jobs for Americans.

When it comes to fostering job growth, the difference between House Republicans and Senate Democrats for more than a year now has been the difference between action and inaction. Following the House Republican Plan for America's Job Creators, the House has already passed more than 30 bipartisan jobs bills to restore the freedom and confidence of our Nation's job creators to do their job. Unfortunately, 27 of these bipartisan jobs bills are still being ignored or blocked in the do-nothing Democrat Senate.

It's time for Washington Democrats to join our fight to put Americans back to work and get to work enacting those jobs bills.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, we can see that Vietnam's communist government's escalation of crackdowns has targeted the voices of the conscience such as Paulus Le Son and many other Vietnamese patriots for exercising their rights of free speech and expression.

Recently, I received disturbing reports that another youth activist and Vietnamese songwriter, Viet Khang Tri Minh Vo, was detained and imprisoned by the Vietnamese police and government. Viet Khang's songs question the conscience of the Vietnam police, who have brutally assaulted and arrested demonstrators at peaceful gatherings. It is time for the Government of Vietnam to respect the freedom of expression through the arts and stop these arbitrary arrests and recognize the basic human rights of the individual.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor House Resolution 484, calling on the Vietnamese Government to cease the abuse of vague national security provisions in the Vietnamese penal code, which are used to justify the detention and the abuse of their own citizens.

MEDICAL AND CANCER RESEARCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, earlier this week I had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion in western New York on innovations in health care. Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Bill Corr was in attendance, as were many innovation leaders from my community. My community of Buffalo and western New York has been a real leader in embracing health care innovations to promote the efficient and cost-effective delivery of quality health care services.

Buffalo was the Nation's largest recipient of the Federal Government's Beacon Grant for comprehensive integration of electronic medical records. Buffalo's Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Nation's first comprehensive cancer center, was recently designated to conduct clinical trials for promising new therapies using vaccines to bolster the body's immune system to fight cancer. The successful result of this clinical trial could fundamentally change the science of cancer research and treatment.

Innovation in health care must be sustained by the Federal Government. Today, the National Institutes of Health rejects nine of 10 applications for promising research due to lack of funding. Ten years ago, 25 percent of the National Cancer Institute's research grants were funded; today, it's 8 percent. The only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of lack of funding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support fully cancer funding.

EXTEND THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I continue to wear a yellow ribbon to remind us of the wonderful troops who were able to come home finally from Iraq.

I want to congratulate the city of St. Louis that introduced and held the first Welcome Home the Troops from Iraq parade on January 28. I look forward to communities around this Nation raising up their voices to say thank you to those who worked and dedicated their lives and their commitment to the freedom of this country. That's why, Madam Speaker, it's so important that we do our work. Not a