

accomplishments today. His professionalism and work ethic are a great example of the extraordinary men and women of Rhode Island's First Congressional District.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOE LANDERS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the service of Joe Landers, chief of police in Lowell, Arkansas, who died Friday morning, May 4, as a result of injuries suffered in a hit-and-run, drunk driver accident while on vacation in Florida on April 27.

Chief Landers was a dedicated public servant—everything you could want in a leader. He loved his job, his community, those under his command, and the people he served. It was evident in the way he carried out his duties.

He began his law enforcement career with the Benton County Sheriff's Office before joining the Lowell Police Department in 1995. In 1997, he was promoted to chief, and in the last 15 years, led his organization during a period of unprecedented growth. He was responsible for the development of the Lowell motorcycle patrol, dispatch center, K-9 unit, and the Special Response Team. In 2005, Chief Landers performed international duty as a law enforcement adviser in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, our State and Nation has lost a valued member of the law enforcement community. Tomorrow will be a sad day when we say our final good-byes. I speak for Arkansas' Third Congressional District in expressing our deepest sympathy to his family, to the city of Lowell, and to the great State of Arkansas.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, we honor American teachers nationwide this week, who, day in and day out, work to make a future brighter for America.

We all have had at least one or more teachers who has shaped our lives and who have believed in us. Mine was Mrs. Myrna Collins, who taught me in both the fourth and seventh grades back at Kearney Elementary School. This nonsense woman with a Texas drawl was determined that, despite the fact that I could be a handful, I was going to behave and learn—and learn I did.

A few years back, I made an effort to have lunch with Mrs. Collins, and she made the comment that she knew that I could be successful if I only applied myself, and she was right. Her guidance back then showed me how much could be accomplished with hard work and focus.

In the San Joaquin Valley and nationwide, teachers of America meet the

challenges in the classroom with grace and grit every day. As we recognize these teachers throughout our country, we thank you for what you do every week of the school year.

God bless you, Mrs. Collins, for all the students whose lives you've touched. Thank you.

SAVING THE GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOTS OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and personal privilege to represent Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the home of the 107th Fighter Squadron, also known as the Michigan Red Devils.

The 107th flies the A-10, and they just recently returned from a redeployment to Afghanistan, where they performed so magnificently, so bravely, and made us all proud.

The 107th was one of the units scheduled to be eliminated under the President's proposed budget; but, fortunately, the House Armed Services Committee will present a Defense reauthorization bill, scheduled for a floor vote here next week, which reverses that and saves the 107th along with protecting the Air National Guard across the entire country.

Instead, the Air Force will be required to do a cost analysis of the National Guard cuts, which is very good because the Air National Guard performs 35 percent of the flying missions for just 6 percent of the budget. That is the best bang for the taxpayers' buck in these very restrained budgetary times.

This House, Mr. Speaker, is going to do the right thing for the great American patriots of the Air National Guard, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

□ 0910

PROTECT THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, in Congress, it's our job to help protect the American Dream. We have to remain the land of opportunity where anyone willing to work hard and stay focused can secure a brighter future. If Congress fails to act, 7 million college students across the country will see their student loan interest rates double to 6.8 percent.

I met some of these students last week at Palm Beach State College. Whether it's the young man who works 85 hours a week while carrying 12 credit hours—the first in his family to go to college—or the young man who described in passion the 14-year path he has embarked upon to serve out his

dream by becoming a surgeon, their pursuing higher education is a path of opportunity.

If we want to protect the American Dream here in Congress, then we should give legislation that keeps interest rates low a fair shot. After all, that's all America's students are asking for—a fair shot at the American Dream.

WORKING FOR 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, for almost 40 months, unemployment has been at or above 8 percent. That's too high for too long.

Right now, over 88 million people are not even considered in the workforce. These are people who have given up on searching for a job. It's time to restore economic freedom to America and put Americans back to work. This will happen when Washington stops being an obstacle to job creation through its overtaxing, overspending, overregulating practices, and starts promoting an economic environment where our job creators can do what they do best: create jobs.

Americans are ready to go to work. Just this past week, I sponsored a job fair in East Liverpool, Ohio, where hundreds of Ohioans showed up for a chance to enter the workforce. In fact, many job seekers actually left the job fair with renewed self-confidence, hope in the fact that they had a job to go to the next day, and a belief that the American Dream still might exist for them. We need to see more of this, Mr. Speaker.

BARBARISM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I have watched saddened as this House led by the Republican majority has fought to gut those things that made and that will make this country great.

I'm reading a history of the U.S. House of Representatives right now, and early in that history, this body—when this Nation was barely yet born—pulled together the resources to build the Erie Canal, coming together to do great things that benefited the Nation. The list of those things goes on and on: the Louisiana Purchase, public education, land grant colleges, the GI Bill. I could go on for a very long time.

Today, the Republican majority says to transportation and infrastructure, which are key to our businesses, they say kill it; to medical research, kill it; to education, kill it. Mr. Speaker, that instinct is utterly inconsistent with who we have always been as a country and why we are great and powerful and ultimately economically prosperous. It

is not stewardship. It is not governance. It is barbarism.

NATO SUMMIT

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call attention to the NATO summit that will take place next week in Chicago.

NATO was founded with the signing of the Washington Treaty in 1949 to safeguard the freedom and security of all of its members. Since then, the alliance has been the mainstay of the transatlantic cooperation that has been an important part of this Nation's security.

All 27 of our NATO allies, along with 22 non-NATO partners, have served shoulder to shoulder with our brave men and women in Afghanistan, working to ensure that that country never again becomes a safe haven for terrorists.

In Chicago, we will continue important discussions on the transition of security responsibility from ISAF to the Afghans. Particularly in today's global economic environment, Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we recognize the value of NATO as a proven force multiplier. The alliance is working to ensure that NATO is well prepared for future challenges.

As we welcome our friends to Chicago on May 20 and 21, we affirm the vitality of this transatlantic bond and of our continued commitment to our common defense.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5652, SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2012

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 648 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 648

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5652) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112-21 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you coming in early to be with us early this morning. This is a big day. This is the reconciliation bill.

I serve on both the Rules Committee and the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker. As you know, we've had some tremendous successes in the appropriations process. This week, we've been working through the Commerce-Justice-Science bill. It's a bill that's reduced spending to those levels that we had in 2008, doing those things that the voters sent us here to do.

We're going to vote on that bill today in final passage. But that appropriations process that we have control over here in the House, that process where we reduced spending from 2010 levels down to 2011 levels, down to 2012 levels, and are going to go down again to 2013 levels to be responsible stewards of taxpayers' dollars, those are only one-third of the taxpayer dollars.

Two-thirds of the taxpayer dollars that are spent in this town—and by spent I really mean borrowed and then spent—come on what they call mandatory spending programs. Mr. Speaker, as you know, mandatory spending programs are dollars that go out the door whether Congress acts or not. Appropriation bills require Congress to act affirmatively, but mandatory spending goes right out the door without any oversight from this body until you get to reconciliation.

Reconciliation is that process that Democrats put in place wisely years and years ago to allow the House and the Senate to come together and begin to reduce, restrain, do oversight on those mandatory spending dollars. This is a rule that brings that bill to the floor.

That bill is going to be coming under a closed rule, Mr. Speaker. We're talking about a bill that has been put together by almost every committee of jurisdiction here in this House and then assembled by the Budget Committee and brought here to the floor. It's been the subject of countless hearings already. We looked at whether we'd be able to bring a Democratic substitute to the floor. None was submitted that complied with the rules of the House.

So we have one bill on the floor today, an up-and-down vote, on whether or not we're willing to engage in the

first serious reconciliation process on this floor—I would argue—since 1997. Some folks might say 2003. I say 1997. Why, Mr. Speaker?

□ 0920

I'll tell you, it's the right thing to do anyway. It's the right thing to do anyway as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. But in this case, these aren't reductions for the sake of reductions. These are reductions for the sake of complying with what I would argue is a very good deficit-reduction agreement between the President and the Senate and the House last August. And as a part of that agreement, we put in some blanket cuts to national security, some blanket cuts to national defense. And some commentators have described these cuts, Mr. Speaker, as being intentionally so crazy that they would never happen but would be used only as a tool to get the Joint Select Committee to act.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Joint Select Committee did not succeed last fall. It's a source of great frustration for me and is also a source of great frustration for the Members who served on that committee. They had an opportunity to bring an up-or-down vote to both the House and the Senate floor on anything they came up with, Mr. Speaker. They didn't have to get the whole \$1.2 trillion. They didn't have to get \$1.5 trillion. They could have gotten \$1 trillion. They could have gotten \$500 billion. They could have gotten \$250 billion, and we would have brought that to the floor for an up-or-down vote. But they got nothing.

So where are we? Well, in the words of Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, he says:

We are at a place where, if these cuts were allowed to go, the impact of these cuts would be devastating to the Defense Department.

I happen to share his concerns. Again, these were across-the-board cuts put in place to be so intentionally crazy that Congress would never allow them to occur, and it would spur the Joint Committee to action.

I happen to have supported an amendment offered by CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland, the ranking member on the Budget Committee. When we were going through the Budget Committee process last year, he offered an amendment that said, dadgummit, everything's got to be on the table, and that includes the Defense Department. I agree with him. The Defense Department does need to be on the table. And in fact, the Defense Department is undergoing \$300 billion worth of reductions today.

This bill does nothing to change that. There is \$300 billion being reduced from the Defense Department, as well it should. It's not easy, but it should happen, and it is happening. This isn't dealing with that. This is dealing with even additional cuts. Again, in the words of Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, a former Democratic Member of this House: