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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 17, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN SHIMKUS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THE PEACE OFFICER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one muggy summer night in July 2011 in Beaumont, Texas, John Wesley Nero got into an argument with his mother and his grandmother. Being the worthless man that he was, he beat them both up and then fled in the darkness of the night. Local police officers confronted the outlaw, but he fled away in his truck and led the officers on a high-speed chase down a dark country road. Meanwhile, down that road, Officer

Bryan Hebert intentionally positioned his vehicle ahead of the chase and was attempting to retrieve road spikes out of the trunk to stop Nero and his vehicle. But when Nero saw Hebert's patrol car, he purposely crashed into the vehicle, barreling over Officer Hebert and killing him. Officer Bryan Hebert was 36 years of age and was a 10-year veteran of the Beaumont, Texas, Police Department.

On an early Sunday morning last May, one of Houston's finest, Officer Kevin Will, was investigating a hit-and-run accident in Houston. Suddenly, a different vehicle was speeding by and blazed past the police barriers at the accident where Officer Will was investigating. Immediately, before being struck, Officer Will yelled at a witness to jump out of the way, thus saving that citizen's life just before the officer's life was stolen from him. Officer Will was 38 years of age and had been with the Houston Police Department for only 2 years. He left behind a pregnant wife and two stepchildren.

The driver of that speeding vehicle ignored all the safety lights of police cruisers at that accident scene. He was drunk, charged with intoxication, manslaughter of a police officer, evading arrest, and possession of cocaine. The accused killer also had been in the United States illegally, having been deported once, but came back to commit crime.

Police officers dedicate their lives to protecting the rest of us from the anarchy of the lawless. Some of them, like Officer Hebert and Officer Will, never get to go back home to their families.

This week, during Police Week, we honor those law enforcement officers who have given their lives. We also honor their families. Thousands of peace officers and their families have traveled to Washington, D.C., this week to respect and remember the fallen. No matter if they're from New York City or Beaumont, Texas, they're

all here for the same reason: to respect the memory of those amazing souls who have died in the line of duty somewhere across America's plains.

On May 17, 1792, New York City's Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith became the first recorded peace officer to be killed in the line of duty. Since his death, nearly 21,000 peace officers have been killed somewhere in America. Although crime is on the decline in the United States, crimes against police officers are on the rise. There's been an alarming 75 percent increase in police officer deaths since 2008.

During my 20 years as a judge in Texas, I had the privilege of working alongside some of America's finest—the peace officers. Unfortunately, some of those peace officers that I had known were killed in the line of duty.

Peace officers often become victims of the crimes they seek to prevent. When a peace officer puts on a uniform in the morning, they represent everything that is good and right about our country. They're the last strand of wire in the fence between the law and the lawless. They protect us from those who lurk in the shadows of crime and create havoc in our society. Peace officers willingly fight the forces of anarchy and bring order to the rule of law. They do this, in some cases, with little or no appreciation from the citizens that they protect.

This yearly tribute here in Washington, D.C., provides each of us with an opportunity to honor fallen peace officers like Officer Bryan Hebert of the Beaumont, TX Police Department and Officer Kevin Will of the Houston Police Department and all the others who have given their lives in the name of keeping peace in America.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H2815

Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Today, the House will debate the Defense Authorization Act for the next fiscal year. While nothing is more important than protecting America while keeping our men and women in uniform safe, the authorization before us today wastes too much of our Nation's precious wealth and represents yet another missed opportunity for badly-needed reform.

H.R. 4310, unfortunately, highlights Congress's inability to make hard choices on defense spending. It opts for an all-of-the-above strategy and puts the funding of an already bloated military budget ahead of any semblance of fiscal responsibilities. If passed, the authorization would represent 57 percent of our total discretionary budget.

It's clear to most people outside Congress that we can no longer separate national security from fiscal responsibility. Congress needs to get that message. Our constituents certainly understand.

Last week, a Stimson Center poll showed that, on average, Americans feel that the defense budget should be reduced by 18 percent next year. Instead, this bill will decrease spending by less than one-half of 1 percent after 13 consecutive years of increase.

While budget hawks and military experts agree we need to cut defense spending, this year's defense authorization provides \$8 billion more than the cap for the defense budget set by the Budget Control Act, which both parties supported and enacted into law to solve last summer's manufactured debt ceiling crisis.

Many supporting the bill will raise a false choice between defending America or rebuilding and renewing America, its infrastructure, and our economy. We can and we must do both. Spending too much for the wrong people to do the wrong things will undermine the very security at home we seek to buy through more military spending. Crumbling bridges and roads, failing schools, and a massive national debt all pose a greater national threat to America's power abroad than right-sized defense spending.

We know how to do this. We have had a cascade of plans, ranging from the Cato Institute to the Bowles-Simpson to progressive think-tanks. All would meet our 21st century need for national defense while keeping promises to future generations here at home.

In addition to ending the war in Afghanistan more quickly, there are many ways to decrease defense spending. Increased efficiency in naval deployment can reduce the need for battleships. We don't need a growing supercarrier fleet. The United States' 11 aircraft carriers add up to more than the rest of the world combined, and many of the countries that have aircraft carriers are our allies.

The current level of investment in our nuclear arsenal with capabilities

that correspond to no real military challenge makes no sense and wastes hundreds of billions of dollars.

□ 1010

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership either can't or doesn't want to work towards a balanced approach to reduce defense spending. This was illustrated by the response to an amendment I offered in the Budget Committee last week. Instead of making tough choices on defense spending, our Republican colleagues decided to give the Pentagon even more than they asked for and provide them this funding in part by eliminating food stamp benefits for 2 million people, reducing benefits for 44 million more, curtailing Meals on Wheels, and eliminating school lunches for 280,000 children.

The level of spending in today's defense authorization is absurd. But more shocking is what Americans are being forced to give up to continue funding the Pentagon at this level.

Congress needs to show some leadership and ability to make difficult choices. That's why I'm leading, along with Representatives LEE and FRANK, an amendment to cut defense spending for the next fiscal year by the \$8 billion that would align the bill with the level already authorized and written into law last fall.

We can and should go further, but at the very least most should be able to agree that Congress ought to play by the rules we created, not sidestepping them at the expense of struggling families, disadvantaged school children, and our seniors. Unless we are able to fix this bill, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no."

EOD TECHNICIANS KILLED IN ACTION

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of two brave men who died serving their Nation. Explosive ordnance disposal technicians serve the important role of disarming explosive devices (IEDs) in war zones and here at home. As a former EOD tech myself, I know the dangers these soldiers face, and today I honor their ultimate sacrifice.

Naval Lieutenant Christopher Mosko trained for more than a year to become an EOD technician. He was assigned to EOD Mobile Unit 3 for the past 3 years, and during that time, among other missions, he supported humanitarian operations following the earthquake in Haiti. He was killed in an IED blast in Afghanistan on April 26 of this year, directly supporting Navy and Army special operations forces.

Lieutenant Mosko and his wife, Amanda, called San Diego home. Lieutenant Mosko was described by his command as a personable and outstanding leader who went out of his

way to support his men. They also said he was a kind and gentle person who will be greatly missed by the EOD family.

Twenty-five-year-old Marine Sergeant John Huling was killed by gunshot wounds inflicted by a person wearing an Afghan National Army uniform in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. Sergeant Huling enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2006. He deployed to Iraq in 2007 and was on his second combat deployment. As an EOD tech, he was assigned to the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group at Camp Pendleton in California.

Sergeant Huling's mother said: "He was brave and selfless and gave his life for his country so everybody could enjoy the freedom that we live now."

Sergeant Huling is survived by his wife of 2 years, Priscilla; a brother, who is also a marine; and a sister.

Mr. Speaker, Navy Lieutenant Christopher Mosko and Marine Sergeant John Huling are American heroes. Each brave man died in action defending the freedoms so many Americans take for granted.

I did not know these two men, but to many, these men were sons, husbands, brothers and friends. Because they served, America and the world are safer and more free. Their families are in my thoughts and prayers, and I ask that all Americans remember the sacrifice they made.

Explosive ordnance disposal technicians are the first line of defense in the war on terror, protecting our servicemembers from IED threats overseas and in homeland missions. The EOD community deserves the respect and full resources of the Department of Defense to continue their lifesaving mission.

God bless the memory of Lieutenant Mosko and Sergeant Huling, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO IRAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. This week, Congress is considering two pieces of legislation relating to Iran. The first undermines a diplomatic solution with Iran and lowers the bar for war. The second authorizes a war of choice against Iran and begins military preparations for it.

With respect to H. Res. 568, which eliminates the most viable alternative to war, the House is expected to vote on this. I would urge Members to read the resolution because section 6 rejects any U.S. policy that would rely on efforts to contain a nuclear weapons capable Iran. Section 7 urges the President to reaffirm the unacceptability of an Iran with a nuclear weapons capability, and opposition to any policy that would rely on containment as an option in response to Iranian enrichment.