

O'Brien; Pfc Harlon Feltner; Pfc Brook T. Powell.

Pvt Richard T. Finnigan; Pvt Bruce A. Reams; Pvt Kenneth G. Fletke; Cpl Ernest Regney, Jr.; Pvt Arthur S. Garcia; Pfc Walter Schuman; Pvt Charles Hastings; Pvt George Semosky, Jr.; Pfc Antonio Hernandez; Pfc John W. Simmons.

Pvt Joseph M. Herndon; Cpl Glen L. Tangman; Pvt John J. Hilgersen, Jr.; Pfc Tony Tavares; Pvt Billy R. Hogan; Pvt William D. Trammel; Pvt Glenn E. Huffman; Cpl William M. Williams; Sgt Robert A. Humes; Cpl Siegfried S. Zimniuch.

Thirty-seven thousand Americans died in Korea. When the war was over, it just ended. There was no peace treaty. It just stopped. It's a cease-fire. We still have Americans at the 38th Parallel guarding that border.

When those troops came home 60 years ago, they were ignored. Unlike Vietnam—those veterans were abused. Those troops that came home from Korea were just basically ignored. America was more interested in Marilyn Monroe marrying the great baseball player, Joe DiMaggio, and this new rock star, Elvis Presley, than it was in honoring our Korean veterans and our war dead.

It's important that America always honor those that served and did not return, and those that served and returned, those that served and returned with the wounds of war. For, Mr. Speaker, the worst casualty of war is to be forgotten.

And that's just the way it is.

TAXATION IS SERIOUS BUSINESS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, taxation is serious business. How to pay for what America needs should be at the core of a thoughtful policy and political discussion. Unfortunately, going into a campaign "silly season," it will be hard to have any thoughtful conversation.

Here on Capitol Hill, we've been trapped in a twilight zone for years, making a reasonable discussion for revenue extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible.

The simple fact is that we are an aging and growing Nation. Our tax collections in recent years have fallen due to a combination of the near economic collapse and the maddening slow economic recovery, which, together, with the series of tax cuts since 2001, have reduced total collections to levels not seen since Harry Truman was President. And they continue to lag.

As important as it is to do business differently, to rein in and reform defense spending, our bloated agricultural programs, and health care, the tax system itself must be addressed. More revenues are required to meet our needs, service the debt, and avoid more borrowing.

Most Americans understand this. While no one wants to pay higher

taxes, the public understands and will support them, if done right: balanced, simple, and fair.

The worst tax is a tax on our future, the result of unsustainable spending and debt, coupled with tax cuts for people who don't need or deserve them.

The second worst tax is the complex mess we inflict on the public right now. The tax system has a compliance cost to taxpayers of over \$160 billion a year for a system that is unfair and inefficient.

Now, there are only a few tax choices we should examine and discuss before we start arguing about the ultimate solution. We can only tax work, wealth, consumption, user fees, investment.

We can also tax what we don't like, the so-called sin taxes, like pollution or tobacco.

And finally, there are royalties for what, if anything, we get back when we give away public wealth like oil, gas, gold, and other valuable minerals. This is not an insignificant source of revenue, going not to some faceless government, but for the public. This is too seldom discussed in the context of paying for services or reducing the debt.

All seven have advantages and disadvantages, but we should be clear-eyed about them, especially this year, when we will be considering before December 31, what the CBO says will cost \$5.4 trillion to extend all the expiring tax provisions for the next 10 years. This would be a good place to start in reforming the tax system and collecting badly needed revenue.

This should be done only after careful examination. Changes that we may want have to be done very carefully. They don't have to be done all at once or suddenly, because that can have unintended consequences.

□ 1010

There are some areas where we need to continue current policy. Something that should happen as soon as possible is to extend the production tax credit, which is one of those provisions due to expire at the end of the year. This modest subsidy has helped jump-start alternative energy, particularly for wind; and it could be a model on how to do it right for energy and economic growth. It doesn't have to be a permanent entitlement, but merely help the industry come to scale. But the threat that it won't be extended has already shut down new project development and has curtailed manufacturing in the United States. Bipartisan legislation could be passed next week overwhelmingly, and I hope it's something that we would consider.

Some areas need bold action, like the alternative minimum tax. This has been perverted into a grossly unfair tax on millions of American families and threatens tens of millions more. It will never be imposed. We will do everything we can to blunt its full effects. It should just be eliminated outright as part of this end-of-the-year process. Other provisions, like carried interest,

where billionaire hedge fund managers get wildly favorable tax treatment on unbelievable wealth, cry out for reform.

Using the looming deadline to deal with the basics, we can phase in adjustments over the full 10-year period to be fair in transition, avoid dislocation and continue to nurture the still-fragile recovery; and if we start now, we will be able to make commitments, hopefully, that will be honored by both parties over the course of the next decade.

Done right, we can meet the revenue requirements for what America needs, simplify the system, reduce unfairness and complexity, and reduce cheating so that it is fair and more efficient.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACT

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

Mr. WALBERG. This past Monday, we gathered together to honor America's fallen soldiers—the men and women who gave their lives sacrificially in exchange for our freedoms. Amid the Memorial Day parades and picnics, we reflected on their courage and their bravery to fight for these freedoms at any cost, including the ultimate cost.

We must never take for granted the privileges we enjoy because of their sacrifice, such as being able to worship where and how we want; that our media can share information without fear of censorship; and that we can freely vote for public officials without fear of punishment. Let us also remember the young men and women spread across the world who continue to fight for that freedom. To them, we also say thank you and pray for a safe and soon return.

But our commitment to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces should not end when they return. Each year, thousands of new veterans return home, many to Michigan's Seventh District, still wearing the physical, mental, and emotional scars from their time in combat. I am fighting in Congress to make sure that veterans receive the highest-quality medical care that they have earned and deserve.

I also want to provide our Nation's heroes with the resources they need to settle back into civilian life, which is why I cosponsored the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act. Specifically, this legislative package, which became law last November, will smooth the transition for veterans from military service back into the job market through job counseling, training, and placement.

Too often, our troops return home, expecting to trade their fatigues and weapons for a suit or a hard hat, only to find out that the employment situation is a battlefield, to say the least, of a different kind. Millions of Americans are without work under the current administration's failed economic policies, with the unemployment numbers being considerably higher for veterans.

To me, there is no greater way to honor our Nation's servicemen and -women than by making sure they can get a job when they return. I've held a number of job fairs back in my district that have been tailored specifically to assisting veterans. At each and every event, experts are on hand to offer advice for how to effectively search for a job, write a resume and impress during an interview. Up to 50 vendors and local businesses, which would be honored to hire our Nation's heroes, attend these events.

Republicans have also put forth a plan for America's job creators built around small businesses, not Big Government. It includes reining in Federal regulations and out-of-control spending, which hold back small businesses; repealing the costly health care law; and tapping into the abundance of natural resources right in our own backyard. We are focused on long-term growth and not a short-term stimulus. Our veterans need jobs now and in the future.

Those who answer the call of duty from their country should not be overlooked when they return home. I remain committed to providing the best care and a strong economy for our Nation's heroes. It is the least we can do for those who have already given so much.

As always, may God bless and protect our troops and their families.

BROADCAST EMERGENCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Tomorrow is June 1, and it marks the very start of the hurricane season in the United States.

First, I want to take a moment to thank our first responders—those police officers, those firefighters, those EMS personnel, and all of our emergency personnel—who risk their lives to save Americans' lives.

I also want to stand and thank and recognize another group of first responders, those who are our brave and talented—and at many times courageous—local broadcasters of television and radio and the journalists, many of whom are the first right after the first responders, sometimes before the first responders, bringing to the American people vital, life-saving information. So it is very important that as we begin this hurricane season that we take a moment and say a word for our local broadcasters of television and radio.

I know firsthand how important this is, for I represent a district in Georgia that had a devastating, history-making flood and storm situation in 2009. I represent Cobb County and Douglas County, which were two of the hardest-hit counties, along with Fulton County. We lost 10 lives. Seven of those lives that we lost were from one county

alone, in Douglas County. Many of you might have seen the devastation at the Six Flags Over Georgia, which is an amusement park. It was completely under water. We lost over 500 businesses and homes in that area. Most importantly, we would have lost so much more if we had not had the timely, vital, life-saving information from our local radio and television broadcasters.

A broadcaster's commitment to public service is never more apparent than during a time of crisis. During an emergency, no other service can match the ability of broadcasters to deliver the comprehensive, up-to-date warnings and information affected by citizens. Just think, we have senior citizens, many of whom live alone, and their only contact with the outside world is that radio or that television letting them know what is coming and how to prepare for it. Television broadcasters reach millions of households across the country every day, and radio reaches more than 241 million Americans each week.

Yet, if we are to improve disaster preparedness in our Nation, we have got to make sure that local stations of television and radio have the necessary tools to continue to communicate with people and to communicate with each other in these times of crisis.

So as the 2012 hurricane season gets under way and as local communities continue to face erratic weather conditions, I know that every American feels safer in knowing that their local broadcasters are dedicated and committed to saving lives by providing critical news and information to our local communities. It is so important that we always remember that we must prepare for the storms before—before—the hurricanes are raging, and we thank our local broadcasters for helping us to prepare for the storms before the hurricanes are raging.

□ 1020

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor and say that I was very disappointed during the debate on the NDAA bill, the National Defense Authorization Act. We spent hours debating, and we only had 20 minutes to debate Afghanistan, with 10 minutes allotted to each side. Congresswoman LEE had her amendment, which I supported on the floor, but the amendment that Mr. MCGOVERN and I had worked together for weeks crafting, the McGovern-Jones amendment, basically said accountability on 2014, bringing our troops out.

We need to have these guidelines, and I was very disappointed that our leadership would not bring our amendment to the floor. I think it's tragic that our

young men and women are dying in Afghanistan and Iraq and we're not meeting our constitutional responsibility when it comes to debating war.

Last Saturday, like many of my colleagues, I was invited to speak at a Memorial event down in Beaufort, North Carolina. Primarily those in attendance were our veterans of yesterday and some of our Active Duty marines of today. It was amazing. I'm not a great speaker, but when I talked about bringing our troops out of Afghanistan before 2014, I got a strong applause in agreement.

We have a tremendous responsibility to take care of our wounded from Afghanistan and Iraq. In this financial crisis, I truthfully don't know how we're going to take care of them, to be honest about it. What I do know is that we will deal with it. Yet we continue to spend \$10 billion a month—it is borrowed money from the Chinese—to prop up Karzai in Afghanistan and to pay his bills, to fix his roads, to fix his water systems, but in America we can't fix our roads and our water systems. Somewhere along the way, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't make any sense to me at all.

Last Saturday, before I went down to Beaufort, North Carolina, to give the speech, the Raleigh News & Observer published 27 names of Americans who had been killed in Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, to honor those 27 who gave their life to this country, I will submit those 27 names for the record.

Mr. Speaker, 2014 is a long way from 2012. How many more names must appear in the paper? Congress needs to have more debates about our policy in Afghanistan. We've got those in this country right now that want to go in and bomb Syria, bomb Iran, and do all these things, and yet we in Congress just sit by and pass more and more bills to pay for all this funding overseas that we can't even account for.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, I bring this poster of this young woman who is in tears holding a little baby in her lap. The baby has no idea why this man in uniform is on his knees presenting a flag to this little girl's mother. How many more scenes like this must happen while Congress sits by and passes more and more spending bills to take care of Afghanistan while we deny the American people? Senior citizens can't get sandwiches at the senior citizen center, children can't get a pint of milk before school because we're going to cut those programs, but we're going to take care of a corrupt leader in Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense at all.

When we should have been debating Afghanistan a week ago, 72 percent of the American people in a poll that week said, Get out of Afghanistan now. We had 20 minutes, 10 to the Democratic side and 10 to the Republican side. That's no way to say thank you to those serving. That's no way to say thank you to the families who have given a loved one.