

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.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as I always do, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people here in the United States of America.

And I ask God to bless President Obama, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people in America, today and tomorrow.

And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

RECENT U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL DEATHS
FROM DoD

Staff Sgt. Israel P. Nuanes; Sgt. Brian L. Walker; Pfc. Richard L. McNulty III; Spc. Alex Hernandez III; Sgt. Wade D. Wilson; 1st Lt. Alejo R. Thompson; Petty Officer Second Class Jorge Luis Velasquez; Sgt. Jacob M. Schwallie; Spc. Chase S. Marta; Pfc. Dustin D. Gross; Spc. Junot M. L. Cochilus; 2nd Lt. David E. Rylander; Staff Sgt. Thomas K. Fogarty; Sgt. John P. Huling; Master Sgt. Gregory L. Childs; Staff Sgt. Zachary H. Hargrove; Capt. Bruce K. Clark; Sgt. Nicholas M. Dickhut; Pfc. Christian R. Sannicolas; Master Sgt. Scott E. Pruitt; Staff Sgt. Andrew T. Brittonmihalo; Spc. Manuel J. Vasquez; Staff Sgt. Brandon F. Eggleston; Sgt. Dick A. Lee Jr.; Lt. Christopher E. Mosko; Spc. Moises J. Gonzalez; Spc. Jason K. Edens; Spc. Benjamin H. Neal.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY PRENDA

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the falsely named Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, or PRENDA. This might be one of the most disingenuous bills to ever come to the floor of the House. The authors of this bill are talking out of both sides of their mouth. Today, I want to set the record straight.

In one breath, the proponents of this bill say they are protecting female fetuses by preventing abortions based on sex and that we must pass this bill to protect women everywhere and show that girls are as valid as boys. Yet, just last week, these same Members obstructed the passage of an expanded Violence Against Women Act that would have protected all victims of violence.

The same Members who today espouse equality for women voted against the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which will help combat the discrimination against women that keeps them earning 77 cents for every dollar that men earn.

The same Members who today talk about protecting female babies continue to vote to gut the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which will be used to provide lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings to millions of the very women PRENDA's proponents claim to care so much about.

Here's the truth: this is not about women's equality. PRENDA is simply

another attempt by choice opponents to obstruct women's access to reproductive health care.

I agree with the bill's proponents that abortions based on sex are a problem around the world, and I agree that we must take action to stop these abusive practices both at home and around the world. But let me be clear that this bill will not prevent sex-selective abortions.

Here's why:

First, criminalizing such practices simply will not work. Banning sex-selective abortions has already been tried in various countries around the world, and what expert agencies such as the World Health Organization—which operate in these countries—have found is that these bans don't prevent abortions. Rather, they simply result “in a greater demand for clandestine procedures which fall outside regulations, protocols, and monitoring and basic safety.” These restrictions serve only to drive these procedures underground, making them less safe. Our own history proves this point;

Second, criminalization of sex-selective abortions would force physicians to question women about their reasons for seeking abortion. It would likely compel physicians to target certain groups of women from cultures where sex-selection abortion is more prevalent. To avoid liability, physicians may even cease providing such care to entire groups of women simply because of their race. This bill would promote racial profiling and discrimination;

Additionally, targeting such motivations in practice would be nearly impossible. According to an analysis by the World Health Organization and four other U.N. agencies, “prosecuting offenders is practically impossible.” And, further, “proving that a particular abortion was sex selective is equally difficult.”

These expert international organizations do offer a viable solution to address this issue, a solution unmentioned in H.R. 3541. Address the root causes which drive individuals to prefer sons over daughters. The United Nations, through its work in nations where sex selection is prevalent, has stated that the most effective way to address this son preference is by fighting the root economic, social, and cultural causes of sex inequality.

South Korea successfully lowered its male-to-female ratio from 116 boys for every 100 girls in the nineties to 107 boys per 100 girls in 2007. They did this by passing laws to improve the legal status of women and by implementing a public education campaign emphasizing the importance of women.

If we're going to consider this bill, let's be honest about it. Its supporters are not promoting women's equality, and they are not serious about preventing sex-selective abortions. If they were, they would be promoting programs to empower women and girls to combat son preference. Instead, they are criminalizing physicians, profiling

cultural groups, and driving abortion services underground. The truth is that this bill is another attempt to restrict women's reproductive health care wrapped in the rhetoric of women's rights.

Don't be fooled by PRENDA. Vote “no.”

□ 1030

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MONTGOMERY GI BILL

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

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of the 25th anniversary of the Montgomery GI Bill on June 1, and to share with my colleagues that this landmark legislation continues to pay dividends in strengthening our all-volunteer military and providing far-reaching educational opportunities for so many Americans.

I'm also proud to note that the author of this GI Bill was G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery of Mississippi. He served the Third Congressional District from 1967–1997, the same congressional district that I'm so honored to represent today. Sonny was chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for 14 years and a senior Member of the House Armed Services Committee. He understood military and veterans issues and worked tirelessly in support of a strong national defense and the men and women who served our great Nation.

All across central Mississippi, one can find many tributes to Sonny. The VA Medical Center in Jackson bears his name, as does the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery National Guard Complex in his hometown of Meridian, Mississippi.

Another facility that deserves mention is the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America's Veterans at his alma mater, Mississippi State University. The professionals at the center have won national praise for their work in helping veterans, dependents, and family members transition from military life to the classroom, including administering benefits for the GI Bill. Their efforts enhanced Sonny's legacy as the champion for military and veterans causes. His 35-year background as a World War II veteran and Korean war veteran, and as a retired major general in the Mississippi National Guard, gave Sonny a unique perspective for the leadership role he played in Congress on national security and veterans issues.

The United States abolished the military draft in 1973, and by the late 1970s, the success of the all-volunteer force was in peril because the service branches had difficulty recruiting quality individuals. One high-ranking U.S. Army official referred to it as a “hollow army” and decried the need for help in crafting a plan to boost enlistments.