

minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ON THE AIR DURING HURRICANES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my congressional district in southeast Texas is right in Hurricane Alley. When Katrina, Rita, Humberto, Gustav, and Ike struck with all their fury, people were left in the dark with no Internet or cell service, but local TV and radio reporters were still on the air telling folks what they needed to know.

Hurricane Rita was the fourth most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the most intense hurricane ever observed in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm was devastating to our communities, but many folks were able to stay safe because they were tuned in to the news. Our broadcasters provide communities with vital lifesaving information before and after storms. They are the most reliable resource we have when disaster strikes.

Today, on the first day of hurricane season, we should thank all of our local first responders, police, and firefighters. But we should also thank all the broadcasters who do their part to keep us safe in southeast Texas when the storms come crashing ashore.

And that's just the way it is.

PERPETUAL WAR FOR PERPETUAL PEACE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Gore Vidal called it "Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace."

The administration's unrestricted use of drones has taken us into undeclared wars in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, and who knows where else, destroying not only alleged militants, but making a direct hit on international law and the U.S. Constitution.

Drone strikes are killing militants now identified as males of fighting age. What are the rules? Trust us. What are the legal justifications? Trust us. Haven't 350 civilians been killed, innocents? Trust us, we're told.

No transparency, no accountability—until now, no Congress.

The Constitution requires Congress to weigh in and demand information and legal justification for drone strikes. That's in my letter to the administration. Drone strikes, absent a constitutional basis, sanctions the wholesale slaughter of innocents. One nation's drones over another nation's airspace is an act of war. With 50 nations exploring the development of drones—a \$100 billion business—we cannot permit this Nation to further incite perpetual war for perpetual peace.

□ 1210

THANKING RADIO BROADCASTERS

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

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the important work of our broadcast radio stations in emergency situations.

Back in March, a violent tornado ripped through a 49-mile stretch of my southern Indiana district. It leveled entire towns, did millions of dollars in damage, and took numerous lives. The death toll probably would have been higher were it not for the early warnings to seek shelter so many received by radio. In the aftermath of the storm, with no power or TV or Internet and virtually no cell service, radio instructed Hoosiers where to find first aid, food, and shelter.

So I'd like to thank our broadcasters today for the valuable service they provide. In the midst of chaotic situations, it is our Nation's radio broadcasters who provide needed direction.

PROTECT MEDICARE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, after a lifetime of service to our Nation, America's seniors deserve a secure retirement, a strong Medicare and Social Security safety net. Sadly, The House Republicans are choosing to give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires over paying for Medicare.

The GOP budget will give those already making over \$1 million a year an average tax cut of \$394,000. All told, the Republican budget gives away \$3 trillion in tax breaks to big oil companies that ship jobs overseas and the ultra-rich, and it does not reduce the deficit. That is wrong.

We should be giving tax breaks to hardworking middle class families, small businesses, and not the wealthiest few. We must end the Bush tax cuts for the rich. No new taxes, no new jobs. No new taxes, no new jobs. Let's work together on a bipartisan budget plan that protects Medicare and makes all Americans pay their fair share.

KEEPING SOUTH CAROLINA SAFE DURING HURRICANE SEASON

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the official first day of hurricane season. Each year, South Carolinians remain alert from June through the summer, hoping another Hurricane Gracie, Hugo or Andrew does not reach our beaches, bringing massive destruction.

During times of emergency, radio and television stations have proven themselves as the most reliable source by

being the first to promote important life-saving and time-sensitive information. When disaster strikes, these broadcast networks are still available.

I am grateful for each of these services and look forward to working with our National Guard led by Adjutant General Bob Livingston and Emergency Management Director George McKinney, II.

In addition, I would like to welcome the group of foster young adults who are visiting today, including Jasmine Thompson of Washington. I appreciate each of you sharing your challenges with us, and we look forward to hearing of your success in the future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the women who are part of the fabric of our Nation's workforce.

Nationally, women working full time are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. These disparities are even worse for women of color. In Ohio, my home State, African American women are paid only 62 cents, and Hispanic American women only 54 cents for every dollar paid to white males.

The gender wage gap not only hurts women; unfair wages hurt entire families. In nearly two out of three American families, a woman is either the bread winner or co-bread winner of their household. That means if women are not paid fairly, many families will not get fed.

I cosponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act because I cannot and will not stand by as pay disparities persist. Gender discrimination is shameless and intolerable, and it must be stopped.

SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS

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

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, when a weather emergency strikes, local radio and television stations play an instrumental role in keeping families informed on vital warnings and emergency response efforts.

A little over 1 year ago, the city of Joplin, Missouri, was changed forever when an EF-5 tornado struck. Local radio stations like KZRG, the Zimmer Radio Group, Community Radio Group, and KDMO provided Joplin residents with critical information as it was happening. After the tornado, they helped families locate their loved ones and provided information on where they could seek shelter and food.

Local stations are a tremendous asset to their communities, especially during weather emergencies. These stations keep their communities informed

on the latest weather conditions and provide support after the storms pass.

I want to thank all of the local radio and TV stations across the country, especially those in the Joplin area, for the great public service they provide their communities before, during, and after these weather emergencies.

GETTING THINGS DONE

(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, like so many of us, I am back from 10 days in my district and the constant question of: Why can't Congress come together to get some things done?

I was thinking about that because the Republican majority says we passed the Violence Against Women Act. We passed an extension of the lower student interest rate bill. But when you look at those bills, you really have to scratch your head. The Violence Against Women Act that they passed was opposed by not dozens but by hundreds of women's organizations. Let me say that again: the Violence Against Women Act was opposed by women's organizations from one coast to the other.

I say all of this not to strike partisan points, but because on July 1, student loan interest rates double, putting \$1,000 of additional cost on each and every student in this country. The Republicans said let's pay for that by removing preventive health care. To my mind, health care and education are what create jobs. It is time for this institution to act intelligently and help the true job creators in this country.

HONORING PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, just a few days after Memorial Day, I rise in support of a new resolution introduced by Mr. GINGREY to honor America's Patriot Guard Riders. The Patriot Guard started in August of 2005 in Mulvane, Kansas, the southern part of the district which I represent, with a group of folks from VFW Post 136; and it now numbers over 220,000 patriotic Americans.

These great Patriotic Guard Riders attend funerals and protect the families from unwanted intrusion during this important time after the service-members have fallen. They visit veterans at hospitals and meet with the family members of the soldiers, and they contribute their time and their dollars to scholarships for the families of America's fallen soldiers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring Mr. GINGREY's resolution, H. Res. 669, and in honoring this group of patriotic Americans known as our Patriot Guard Riders.

CHALLENGES FACING AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, faced with a number of challenges, I have lived through hurricanes Rita, Katrina, Ike, Storm Allison; and I realize the importance of emergency radio and television giving us the information as a lifeline, and I rise to thank Charity Productions going on in my district right now, the Sixth Annual Ecumenical Hurricane Forum. Thank you so very much for educating our public.

I also wanted to rise today to congratulate CNBC and the Congressional Black Caucus Faith Forum that has been going on for the last 2 days. We realize that America's faith institutions, and in this instance African American denominations, are crucial, coming together to reach out for empowerment, for social justice, and certainly freedom. We thank them so much for the work that they do.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that in this particular body, and in the Judiciary Committee, we are facing the question of FISA and the impact of the FISA amendments, as it has reversible impact on spying on Americans. We must look to get the data and insist that we are securing the homeland, but we must also ensure that Americans are not in essence spied upon, are not surveilled by the impact of international needs.

□ 1220

HONORING SERGEANT JABRAUN S. KNOX

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 2012, Sergeant Jabraun Knox from Auburn, Indiana, died at the age of 23 of injuries sustained when his unit received indirect fire in Kunar Province in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Knox joined the Army in January 2009 and reported to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and was assigned to 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade in June 2009. Within a month, Sergeant Knox was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom until May 2010. His unit was then deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in November 2011.

Sergeant Knox's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge.

Sergeant Knox and his wife, Courtney, married on November 9, 2009 in the

middle of his deployment to Iraq. Their first child, Braylon, was born October 17, 2011, just 2 weeks before Sergeant Knox was deployed to Afghanistan.

Sergeant Knox selflessly gave his life as a service to defend our country's freedom in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. My heart goes out to his family, and I want to express my gratitude to them both for the service they have made for our Nation.

REVERSING PROGRESS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, during this Congress, we have seen numerous bills that would reverse decades of progress for women's health. Today we take our ninth such floor vote.

We have seen H.R. 358, which permits hospitals and hospital workers to choose to deny women care that would save their lives, putting ideology above all. We have seen H.R. 3, a bill that would cause insurers to start refusing to cover a legal and safe procedure. We have seen bills that would restrict women's access to preventive care, and efforts to eliminate all funding for the only Federal program dedicated to providing comprehensive family planning services.

At home, our constituents are pleading for us to focus on job creation, but here we are again today about to debate H.R. 3541, yet another ideologically driven bill that intrudes on the relationship between a woman and her doctor. In particular, this bill puts doctors in situations where they would be forced to report confidential conversations with women to law enforcement.

Let's reject H.R. 3541 and start looking at bills that can solve problems for women.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, June 1 marks the start of another Atlantic hurricane season. The time to prepare for hurricanes—or any natural disasters—is now.

The Federal Government, led by FEMA, is gearing up to respond to hurricanes that may impact the United States and is working with State and local emergency management officials, first responders, and nonprofit partners to make sure all are prepared.

The private sector also plays a vital role by preparing their businesses and often donating goods and services to response and relief efforts. Broadcasters and wireless providers work to ensure communication systems are up and running to provide vital information during an emergency.

We all play a role in preparedness, and I urge Americans to pledge to prepare—put together an emergency kit,