

GRATITUDE FOR THE WELL-WISHERS

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last month I was a sick pup. This month, I am a recovering pup. During my sick pup days, I became the beneficiary of cards and letters from well-wishers, personal visits, telephone calls, and emails. Many of these expressions originated here in the people's House. And the purpose of my 1-minute today is to convey my expression of appreciation to my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, for their generous support during that period.

LET'S INVEST IN AMERICA

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, it's 2012; and this is the year we need to create jobs and get our economy moving again. Without a growing economy, our budget deficit will only get worse. It's time that we boldly invest in America.

My friends on the Democratic side want to invest in education and infrastructure, creating jobs now and building our future. My Republican friends, on the other hand, want to cut spending on Social Security and Medicare. The Democrats want the wealthiest of Americans to pay their fair share, and my friends on the Republican side oppose even asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.

We need to make the right choices this year. Let's invest in America.

□ 1210

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER PATTERSON

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Specialist Christopher Patterson.

Christopher, a 2009 graduate of West Aurora High School in Illinois, came from a military family. He joined the National Guard while studying music education at Valparaiso University, but in his own words, he didn't join the Guard just for money for school. He joined to serve his country. His conviction to serve was so strong that he chose to join his Guard unit overseas when they were sent to Afghanistan, even though he could have stayed behind to continue his studies.

Just 3 weeks ago, Christopher and three other soldiers were working in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan to clear combat routes for convoys to pass through when an IED detonated and took his life.

Today we honor Christopher and the ultimate sacrifice he paid for our country and give our thoughts and prayers

to his family and friends during this difficult time. We are, and will remain, eternally grateful for Christopher's service and sacrifice to our country.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM IN WEST NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the West New York, New Jersey, School District for their efforts to promote nutrition and physical education at school as part of the Healthy Schools Program.

Last week, President Clinton visited PS #2 in West New York to praise the Board of Education for its efforts in transforming the school system's nutritional program. This was part of the Alliance for a Healthy Schools Program to reduce childhood obesity. During his visit, President Clinton was able to see firsthand how the school has embraced nutrition and wellness.

West New York has a history of being recognized by the Alliance for nutritional achievement. PS #2 received a Bronx National Recognition Award in 2009 and a Silver National Recognition Award in 2010 for their efforts to provide students with a fresher, more nutritional meal plan.

In 2010, my high school alma mater, Memorial High School, received the first and only Gold National Recognition Award given by the Alliance. And last October, the Alliance awarded Sal Valenza, the food service director of West New York, the distinction of the Healthy Schools Program Champion.

I am honored to represent a school district that emphasizes healthy lifestyles, and I am pleased that West New York has been recognized for their efforts.

FEATHER CREEK FLOODING

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to light a problem that's facing my constituents in Clinton, Indiana. Feather Creek floods over 100 times per year, damaging the same homes year after year. In 2008, many of the homes filled completely with water, leaving only their roofs to be recognizable.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been working on the project for many years, including numerous environmental studies and surveys of the land, but the flooding does continue. The Army Corps, to their credit, held a town hall last week in Clinton, where they heard from over 300 residents about the damage this flooding has been causing them for decades. The estimated cost of the project is \$900,000.

I do appreciate the willingness of the Army Corps of Engineers, specifically, Colonel Leonard, to meet with my staff and constituents, and I urge the Corps

to remember what they heard in Clinton, Indiana, last week and complete the Feather Creek project as quickly as possible. My constituents deserve no less than a safe environment, free from the threats of yearly floods.

BUFFALO BILLS BLACKOUTS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue of great importance to western New York, the Buffalo Bills.

The Bills have one of the most dedicated fan bases of any football franchise in the entire country. Since 1960, Bills fans have embraced and supported the team, both emotionally and financially. Today, the Buffalo Bills franchise is an integral part of the New York State economy. But harsh blackout provisions threaten New Yorkers' ability to watch their team on television.

The blackout rule requires that a stadium be sold out 72 hours in advance in order to broadcast a football game locally. In Buffalo, this means that, in order to avoid a blackout, the Bills must sell more tickets than the league average in one of the league's smallest markets. Last year, almost half of the Bills' home games were blacked out. This is unacceptable.

This morning I sent a letter to the FCC Chairman asking that he eliminate this unfair rule, which does not provide for individual solutions to different local markets. The FCC has opened a public comment period on this matter, and I urge fans who feel similarly to do the same. In the meantime, I will continue this fight.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago the White House announced that it was going to reject the Keystone XL pipeline. The White House did this among a backdrop with record high gas prices in January. A major factor in these high gas prices is the continued political upheaval in the Middle East and the impact that it's having on economic uncertainty around the world.

Keystone would bring nearly a million barrels of oil from our friendly neighbor, Canada, to the north and also up to 100,000 barrels of oil from the Bakken discoveries in Montana and North Dakota. It would also put more Americans to work while improving our energy security.

The Department of Energy has stated that "gasoline prices in all markets served by the gulf coast and east coast refiners would decrease" as a result of the pipeline's construction.

The White House would be well-advised to consider a poll that I took in

a recent tele-town hall of our constituents, where 87 percent of the constituents said that they strongly supported the Keystone XL pipeline.

We cannot wait for more jobs and for better economic certainty for all generations.

SUPPORT THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. I ask that the President reconsider his reported rejection of this project. This project will increase employment while reducing our dependence on overseas oil.

Canada has already made its decision. The pipeline is going to be built. The question is whether it lands on the gulf coast of the United States or the west coast of Canada. And make no mistake: If it ends up on Canada's coast, that oil will only continue westward to China and their markets. The jobs and the economic benefit of the pipeline would then be lost here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this pipeline is a foregone conclusion; who will benefit is not. This is a chance to employ Americans and help protect them in a volatile oil market.

I ask the President to reconsider his reported rejection of this project.

IT'S A "NO" TO KEYSTONE?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is disturbing news today regarding our national security and economic security. Politico reports that the administration will say "no" to the Keystone XL pipeline today. So "no" to thousands of union and nonunion jobs to build the pipeline, and "no" to refinery jobs in southeast Texas. "No" to obtaining oil from a reliable nation and ally like Canada.

But "yes" to more oil from dictators like Chavez from Venezuela; "yes" to being held hostage to Middle Eastern oil and dictators like Ahmadinejad, who now threatens to stop oil tankers from going through the Straits of Hormuz. And "yes" to insulting Canada.

The Prime Minister of Canada says that he will build a pipeline, but now it will go to his west coast, and that crude oil will be loaded on Chinese tankers—China, our national competitor regarding the economy. Isn't that lovely.

If the administration chooses to say "no" to Keystone XL, the administration chooses poorly.

And that's just the way it is.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BUDGET AND NATIONAL PLAN

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

Mr. MARKEY. As we debate our national budget, we must address one of the largest costs threatening our economy and bankrupting our families—the Alzheimer's pandemic. 5.4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's today, and as all the baby boomers retire, 15 million Americans will have Alzheimer's.

We already spend \$130 billion a year on Alzheimer's from Medicare and Medicaid. At this rate, in 2050, we will spend \$800 billion every year from Medicare and Medicaid on this one disease alone. That is more than the entire defense budget today.

Thankfully, right now, the Advisory Council for the National Alzheimer's Project Act is developing the first-ever comprehensive national plan to fight this disease. We cannot cut funding for medical research for Alzheimer's today if we want to balance the budget tomorrow.

We made a vow to care for our citizens as they age. NIH is the National Institutes of Hope. We must not cut that budget or else all of these families with Alzheimer's will have no hope.

□ 1220

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, it's not too often that a President of the United States has the opportunity with one swipe of his pen to increase private sector jobs by thousands of employees, while at the same time increasing our energy independence and our energy security. But that's exactly what's going to happen with the Keystone XL pipeline.

Unfortunately, the President, earlier this year, punted on that decision and punted it past 2013, even though his own State Department said that there would not be a significant impact on the environment. But we gave him another chance.

Unfortunately, there are reports that he will reject the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. The thing that's confusing, Mr. Speaker, is that he's been saying that we can't wait for job creation. But with this decision, he's saying that we can wait for thousands and thousands of private sector jobs here in the United States and that we can wait for energy security. Mr. Speaker, this is the wrong decision at the wrong time. We need better decisions from the administration.

EXTENSION OF PAYROLL TAX

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if I asked the average American, what should be the first vote in the House? For sure, she would say extend payroll tax, unemployment insurance, and the doc fix. What is our first bill? Disapproval of raising the debt ceiling. For what? To remind Americans that Tea Party Republicans brought us the loss of our triple A rating for the first time in American history? A new year demands a new start.

The payroll tax is the best way to eat into Congress' 84 percent disapproval rating. Do the inevitable. No poison pills. Any add-ons will be understood as just that by every American who draws a salary or who is unemployed or who is a senior.

Do it to get it over with and get on with a year of working on jobs. Come over to the side of the street with the 99 percent. You may grow to like it.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, according to the Canadian Government, over 143,000 jobs in Colorado depend on our trade relationship with Canada. Further, crude petroleum is Colorado's top import from our neighbor to the north. And Colorado's not unique. Many of the jobs and energy around the country come as a result of our relationship with Canada.

It's been 3 years since the application was filed to build the Keystone XL pipeline, which would create a pipeline that extends from the oil sands in Alberta to the gulf coast, bringing significant oil supplies into the United States.

The United States as a whole, both economically and from a national security standpoint, will benefit immensely from the approval of this pipeline.

In my mind, it's a very simple question: Why import oil from countries that seek to do us harm when we can get it from our neighbor to the north? I'm continuously awed at how much energy potential we have in North America and how simple it would be to advance policies that would make us more energy independent. Isn't that what we're trying to accomplish?

But apparently there is an asterisk when it comes to job creation for this administration. Not these jobs, not these 100,000 jobs. Perhaps some others. This administration has done everything it can to stand in the way of a project that can help 100,000 Americans get back to work.

Mr. President, don't put a cork in our economy. Let's get this pipeline built.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President or other Members in the second person.