

As sons, husbands, fathers, and friends, we can do no less for the women we owe everything, for the women we love, for the women whose loss would empty our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage every American, Go Red.

HONORING 100 GREAT YEARS OF GIRL SCOUTS

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low organized the first Girl Scout troop in Savannah, Georgia. Daisy began with 18 girls in one troop in Savannah, but her movement has grown to include over 50 million American women over the past 100 years, including 3.2 million active members today.

The Girl Scouts build character by engaging girls in community service, developing leadership skills, and preparing girls to take their place in the world. I know what I'm talking about because I have a twin sister, and she was a Girl Scout.

I'm proud of the hard work of the girls and women who've been a part of the Girl Scouts movement, but I'm even more grateful for the positive influence this institution has had on millions of girls throughout America and the world.

So I congratulate the Girl Scouts on 100 great years, and I wish them every success for the next 100 years.

EMPLOYMENT AND DEBT

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Our newest national unemployment numbers are in, 8.3 percent. It's progress, but it's 37 months above 8 percent.

It makes me grateful again to be from Oklahoma. We have the 10th lowest unemployment rate in the country at around 6 percent. Forbes Magazine listed my district as one of the happiest places to work in the country.

Oklahoma is the number one place to start a small business and number one in technology job growth. In the last 8 years, Oklahoma City has created more than 80,000 new jobs. These jobs include a thriving energy, aviation, and biomedical center.

Oklahomans work with private businesses, nonprofits, churches and religious organizations to feed the hungry, help families get back on their feet after disasters, and offer job training and education.

On this mission, we don't see Washington as our enemy. Sometimes we don't see Washington as our ally. What so many people back home tell me they want from their Federal Government is a plan to reduce our debt, simplify our Tax Code, and get rid of the red tape

off their businesses. Then you'll really see our economy take off.

LILLY LEDBETTER AND PAYCHECK FAIRNESS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago this week, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law. Named after a true hero who was shortchanged by her employer for decades and who fought back all the way to the Supreme Court, the Lilly Ledbetter Act ensured that women who are discriminated against have the right to sue as long as their unequal pay continues.

This was a good first step, but we have to do more to achieve real pay equity in America. Today, women are still only paid 77 cents on the dollar as compared to men for the very same job. They lose out on between \$400,000 and \$2 million over a lifetime. This is an injustice.

It is time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act already passed twice by this body. It would give real teeth to the Equal Pay Act. It has been almost 50 years since Congress passed the Equal Pay Act. It is time to ensure that one-half of America's workforce is paid as fairly as the other half.

□ 0910

MAKING AMERICA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to go red today and to honor our Girl Scouts.

We have a wonderful woman in our beautiful Hudson Valley, Martha, who is from Wappingers Falls and who is a former computer programmer and a current substitute teacher. She wrote to me: It broke my heart to hear that Kodak filed for bankruptcy. What is being done to keep the companies that are producing made in the U.S.A. products here in the United States?

Martha, that's a great question. And here's what we can do and what we're doing in the House of Representatives. We're working to make our Tax Code flatter and fairer. We're working to remove burdensome and unnecessary regulations. And we're working to take less from hardworking Americans like you so that we can spend and save and invest right here in our communities and in our country. We've sent 30 bills to the Senate, 27 of which still sit unanswered.

So this week in the House of Representatives, we're working further to shrink the Federal Government and to make our budget process have common sense the way you do in your own homes. I urge the Senate to join us to work together to revive our economy

and make America open for business again.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in complete disgust of the Republican conferees' attempt to include an education requirement as a condition of receiving unemployment benefits.

To require people who would otherwise be eligible for benefits to now either have a high school diploma or be enrolled in a GED program is discriminatory. It is despicable.

Adding conditions to receiving compensation does nothing to create jobs or address the real causes of unemployment. It is a difficult time, Mr. Speaker, to be unemployed in America, but Republicans seem determined to make it even more difficult by kicking the unemployed while they're down.

With less than a month to craft a long-term tax measure, I urge Republican conferees to stop obstructing the process by insisting on distracting proposals that are only meant to score political points.

I am opposed to any education requirement to receive unemployment benefits. I implore my colleagues to do the same.

LET GULF COAST GET BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. CASSIDY. "The gulf oil spill has been terrible for the Gulf Coast. But as bad as it has been, the Federal Government's moratorium on deepwater drilling can be worse."

Mr. Speaker, 18 months ago I had the honor to speak these words while offering a motion to immediately end President Obama's moratorium on deepwater drilling.

Although the moratorium has officially ended, there is still a two-thirds cut in new permitting and an overall slowdown in production that has caused nearly one-half of the Gulf Coast's oil and gas-focused businesses to reduce wages or lay off workers.

These aren't the major oil and gas companies. These are small businesses that cannot move overseas. Forty-one percent are not turning a profit. Seventy percent have had to draw from their savings accounts to meet operating expenses. The gulf oil spill is a tragedy, but for workers, the moratorium has made it worse.

For the sake of job creation, affordable domestic energy, and a stronger economy for all Americans, I call on the President to reverse these policies and let the Gulf Coast get back to work.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS DOWN

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the reports have just come out a few minutes ago, and it's great news for America: 243,000 jobs were created in January, which is 150,000 more than were expected. The unemployment rate is down to 8.3 percent from 8.5 percent. So the programs are working. I congratulate President Obama, and urge my Republican colleagues to pass a jobs bill so we can continue to have a downslide on unemployment.

Now, I know Mitt Romney says he's not concerned about the very poor, but this is good news for all Americans, from the very poor to the middle class.

This Congress needs to work together with the President to pass a jobs bill and to make sure that unemployment keeps going down. This is great news for all America, great news for President Obama, and great news for all of us.

CBO REVEALS PRESIDENT'S
FAILED POLICIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, throughout his campaign for the White House, the President made an empty promise to cut our deficit in half by the end of his first term. Earlier this week, the Congressional Budget Office announced its projection that the President's failed policies, sadly, have more than doubled the annual debt. Our debt has increased by almost \$5 trillion over the last 3 years. This statistic shows that throughout the Presidency of the current President, the President has recklessly spent the tax dollars of hardworking American families.

The Wall Street Journal stated: "To sum it all up, the CBO's facts plainly show that Mr. Obama has the worst fiscal record of any President in modern times. No one else even comes close." At a time when Americans are searching for jobs, the President must follow through with this promise to the American people and work with both Houses of Congress to stop Washington's out-of-control borrowing and spending.

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

HONORING CENTENNIAL OF GIRL
SCOUTS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the cen-

tennial of our Nation's Girl Scouts. For 100 years, the Girl Scout experience has enriched the lives of millions of girls and their families through innovative and progressive programming that embraces the rich diversity of communities across our country. A cornerstone of the Girl Scout movement, community service, allows girls to exercise their leadership skills on a variety of levels and at any age.

Each year, thousands of service hours are provided to communities. Cleaning parks, organizing food and toy drives, planting trees and clearing forest trails, tutoring young students in migrant camp summer schools, collecting basic essentials and backpacks for children entering foster care, sending school supplies to Third World schools, visiting the elderly, and helping deliver food to homebound citizens are just a few of the important activities that Girl Scouts do every day to make the world, our world, a better place. That is something from which each of us can and should learn.

I would like to personally honor the Girl Scouts of northeastern New York, which serves 12,000 girls and their families in a 15-county region. I look forward to dozens of these girls coming to visit Washington, D.C., in early June, where they will join others in song along the National Mall.

From their individual efforts to hosting the Women of Distinction Award, thank you to our Girl Scouts and their leaders, and a very happy and healthy centennial celebration.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658,
FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE-
FORM ACT OF 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 533 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

□ 0920

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I

may consume. During the consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill. House Resolution 533 provides for a standard rule for consideration of the conference report for H.R. 658, the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the FAA, the United States aviation industry currently accounts for nearly 11 million jobs and contributes \$1.3 trillion to the Nation's gross domestic product.

Regrettably, since September 30, 2007, the FAA has operated under a series of short-term, stopgap extensions. In fact, there have been 23 extensions of the FAA programs since the last multiyear reauthorization was signed into law 8 years ago. I'm relieved that we have finally stopped playing politics with the safety of our airline passengers and appear to be on the verge of passing a necessary, meaningful, and long-term FAA reauthorization.

The FAA conference report provides responsible funding for FAA safety programs, air traffic control modernization efforts, known as NextGen, and operations through 2015. It holds spending at fiscal year 2011 levels while providing \$13.4 billion in projects that will create much needed construction jobs. The conference report contains no earmarks, and it does not raise taxes or passenger facility charges during this difficult economic time.

With the passage of the reauthorization, the deployment of NextGen technologies to replace our current, outdated, ground-based air traffic control system will begin. NextGen will bring an estimated net \$281 billion benefit to the overall U.S. economy through decreased flight delays, decreased fuel use, and job opportunities for new, high-tech companies.

The House-Senate agreement will also improve aviation safety for passengers, reform antiquated programs that have become overly reliant on government subsidies, and establish a process to address outdated and obsolete air traffic control facilities, thereby saving taxpayer dollars.

Because we are finally passing a 4-year authorization, the conference report will provide long-term certainty for the aviation industry and all who rely upon it. This certainty will produce an environment which allows for the creation of high-paying and sustainable jobs. Instead of wondering whether or not the next extension will squeeze by just before the expiration, employees and job creators can budget,