

in restoring the honor and valor of our military heroes by cosponsoring my bill, H.R. 1775, the Stolen Valor Act of 2011.

While yesterday our attention was focused on the Supreme Court health care ruling, lost in the media frenzy was the story of how the Court also struck down the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, concluding that the broad nature of the law infringed upon the guaranteed protection of free speech provided by the First Amendment of our Constitution.

The Court determined that the act "sought to control and suppress all false statements on this one subject, without regard as to whether the lie was made for the purpose of material gain." The Stolen Valor Act of 2011 resolves these constitutional issues by clearly defining that the objective of the law is to target and punish those who misrepresent their service with the intent of profiting personally or financially. Defining the intent helps ensure that this law will pass constitutional scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, the need to protect the honor, service, and sacrifice of our veterans and military personnel is just as strong today as it was in 2005. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1775 so that we can restore the honor and protect the valor of our military heroes.

SRI LANKA

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I rise today to mark the third anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka and to urge the U.S. Government to continue to press for full accountability for all human rights abuses committed during the conflict.

Over 70,000 Sri Lankans were killed in the course of the 26-year civil war. The United Nations found claims that both sides committed war crimes to be credible, and although the war ended 3 years ago, human rights violations are reportedly continuing. Reports suggest that over 50 people—mostly critics of the government—have been abducted in the last 6 months. Human rights activists have been targeted for harassment and labeled as traitors in the national media. Gender-based violence is on the rise in the country's north.

Mr. Speaker, the international community must continue to call for accountability for the crimes during the conflict, and we must urge the Colombo government to uphold its international commitments and fully respect the human rights of all Sri Lankans.

□ 0910

SEQUESTRATION OF DEFENSE DOLLARS

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share my frustration with the Congress' inaction on looming cuts coming to the Nation's defense budget.

In America's First District, we have a deep military history. Many of my constituents have or continue to bravely serve their Nation in a military uniform. Set to take effect in January 2013, sequestration will cut billions of defense dollars at a time when we see so much unrest across the world and American troops still deployed in harm's way in Afghanistan.

I am adamantly opposed to these catastrophic cuts and believe Congress must act now. Sequestration threatens the capability of our military to adequately protect this Nation. The Bipartisan Policy Center estimated that sequestration would result in a loss of about 1 million jobs in 2013 and 2014. This is not simply American job loss; it is a loss of critical national security capability.

Congress must not choose failure over making tough choices for the greater good of this country. Failure is an outcome we must not and cannot accept.

INVESTING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will take up a bill that is key for jobs now and for opportunity for the future.

First, we cannot have a big league economy with little league infrastructure. The transportation bill will do more to create jobs through public investment than any other piece of legislation that this House has passed in the last 18 months. It puts thousands to work repairing roads, bridges and highways, and maintaining our transit systems.

Second, this bill creates opportunity for the future by stopping a devastating interest rate hike on loans students take to pay for college. College affordability is a necessary step for creating opportunity for the future. The bill sends a clear message to college students everywhere that America will invest in you.

WHAT TEXANS THINK OF THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON OBAMACARE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here's what the people of Texas think of the Supreme Court's ruling on ObamaCare.

Jason from Kingwood, Texas says this:

Now that the Supreme Court has deemed every action of Congress that it does is acceptable so long as it's con-

sidered a tax, you can kiss it all goodbye. Tax on gun ownership, boxes of ammunition, worship fees, mission trip tax, Bible fee.

But don't worry. They won't take away your right to vote directly. They'll just dilute it with multiple voting, illegal voting and fuzzy counting. But it won't be through taxation.

Stacie from Texas also wrote me and says this:

This ruling sets up so much more of nanny taxes and government telling us what we can do and cannot do. Don't buy the right car? It's a tax. Don't buy the right vegetables? Tax. Don't buy the right newspaper? Tax. Don't buy the right music? Another tax.

Mr. Speaker, the power to tax is the power to destroy. So what's the next tax from Big Government?

Congress and the Supreme Court have both had their chance to voice their opinion. Now it's time for the American people to voice theirs.

And that's just the way it is.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I stood here 2 days ago addressing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and reviewing its benefits. I stand here today after the landmark Supreme Court decision to make people aware of the Republicans' efforts to repeal this historic piece of legislation.

The stakeholders must remember: seniors, the benefits with the prescription drugs already benefiting with \$3.7 billion in savings; young adults who stay on their parents' plan until the age of 26, 6.6 million of you; small businesses who will experience tax credits of up to 50 percent by the year 2014; and women, women who suffered discrimination in premiums and on preexisting conditions like pregnancy. Imagine being defined a preexisting condition. 2014 they will stop.

These are just highlights, and this is why we need to, again, focus behind the Affordable Care Act and remember, it's the largest part of our GDP that keeps growing; and we need to have it under control in order to have our great economy.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BONNER FOR HIS 2011 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHING

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate David Bonner on earning the 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mr. Bonner is a physics

teacher at Hinsdale South High School in Illinois.

As a former school board member for Hinsdale District 86, as well as a member of the Education and Science Committee, I have seen how important STEM education is in preparing our students to succeed in the 21st century. And I also know how special it is to have a great teacher who can inspire our students to get excited about a future in science, physics, math, and engineering.

Mr. Bonner should be very proud to join the ranks of only 97 teachers from across the country who have been selected for this award by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators. He is a very important asset to our community, our children, and our future; and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

READ THE LAW

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, during the debate on the health care reform act, the Affordable Care Act, we continued to hear cries of “read the bill, read the bill,” as if those of us who had supported the bill had not read it. As a matter of fact, I, among many, had read it; and we were astounded at the misrepresentations that were out in the public, foisted by our Republican opponents.

Well, I’m going to be generous today and assume that they just hadn’t read that bill. But now that bill is unquestionably the law of the land. So I implore my Republican colleagues, before they continue to mislead and confuse their constituents, read the law. Read the law. Read the law.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5856, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6020, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4348, MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 717 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 717

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All

points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except for section 8121. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6020) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: beginning with “: Provided” on page 95, line 9, through “level” on page 95, line 11. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, 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.

SEC. 4. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of June 29, 2012, for the

Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV, relating to the following: (a) measures addressing expiring provisions of law; and (b) a concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of H.R. 4348.

SEC. 5. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of June 29, 2012, providing for consideration or disposition of the following: (a) measures addressing expiring provisions of law; and (b) a concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of H.R. 4348.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHOCK). The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 0920

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative 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 bills.

House Resolution 717 provides for a standard conference report rule for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4348, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, Part II, also known simply as the “highway bill.” The conference report for the highway bill represents a bipartisan and bicameral effort to address our aging national infrastructure and chronic unemployment with a 2-year authorization.

This long-term transportation bill, agreed to by both Houses and by both parties in this conference report, provides much-needed certainty. It provides certainty not only to States and to State governments but also to the transportation and construction industries and to those Americans whose livelihoods depend on them. Rather than another short-term extension measuring mere weeks or months, this bill authorizes transportation funding for 2 full years and allows businesses to plan ahead, hire workers, and grow.

The conference report ensures taxpayer dollars are spent on high-priority infrastructure projects that support jobs and economic activity. The conference report also contains significant reforms: it streamlines the lengthy bureaucratic approval process with reforms aimed at cutting the permitting process in half; it consolidates and eliminates duplicative Federal programs; and it embraces increased private sector involvement by leveraging