

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WOOLSEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. STAN BALLARD

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to introduce our guest pastor this morning, Dr. Stan Ballard.

For the past 30 years, Brother Stan has pastored numerous congregations, and today he serves as a pastor of my family's church, Nettleton Baptist in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Brother Stan is a native Mississippian and earned his undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University. After graduating from Mississippi State, he earned a bachelor's degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans and a doctorate degree from Luther Rice Theological Seminary in Atlanta. During his career in ministry, Brother Stan has pastored churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and Arkansas.

The pride and joy of Brother Stan's life are his wife, Beth, and their children and grandchildren. During their 42 years of marriage, Stan and Beth have been blessed with three sons and, more recently, four grandchildren.

On a personal level, I can say that Brother Stan has been a constant source of support and guidance for the entire Nettleton Baptist congregation. Any time a member of our congregation is in need, we can rely on Brother Stan.

It's an honor to introduce Pastor Stan Ballard and welcome him to the U.S. House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to call on the administration to inform the American people how they intend to implement the sequester cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act. With the failure of the supercommittee, we now face defense

cuts that everyone agrees are far too steep. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has said that cutting military spending by an additional \$500 billion "would do real damage to our security, our troops and their families, and our military's ability to protect the Nation."

Cuts of this nature would result in us having the smallest ground force since World War II, the smallest Navy since World War I, and the smallest tactical Air Force since the Air Force was created in 1948.

Independent economists have testified before the House Armed Services Committee that these cuts will cause massive job losses, including as many as 4,000 in my State of Nevada, which already suffers from the highest unemployment rate in the Nation.

The House has passed a plan to replace these devastating cuts, maintain national security, and prevent job losses. Today, I urge the administration to outline its plan for addressing this situation.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International AIDS Conference that will bring 25,000 men and women to Washington, D.C., next week.

As a country, we've made incredible strides in the three decades since the first cases of HIV/AIDS were identified in the United States.

In the 1980s, after Ryan White, a teenager living in Indiana, acquired the disease through a blood transfusion, his family had to fight their local school board that feared he might infect his classmates simply by showing up for school.

Today, men, women, and children with HIV are living longer, more fulfilling lives due to advances in treatment and a better understanding of the disease. And just this week, the FDA approved the first pill designed to help prevent healthy people from acquiring the virus.

But even today, HIV/AIDS is still an epidemic that primarily afflicts our poorest and most vulnerable citizens across the world and even here in the United States. We must continue to work with advocates like those attending next week's conference so that one day we can finally eradicate HIV/AIDS.

In Rhode Island, EpiVax, under the leadership of Dr. Annie DeGroot, is working to develop a globally accessible vaccine, and I wish them great success in their important work.

THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF DEFENSE CUTS

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I come before you today not just as a Congressman from Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, but also as a Marine veteran of the Persian Gulf War and the only Member of this body that is currently serving as a noncommissioned officer in the National Guard, simply to say that one of the biggest threats to our national security that we face as a nation is the crippling defense cuts that would put our men and women in uniform at physical risk and more than 1 million Americans out of work.

It will harm folks like the 857th that I had the privilege to send off this weekend as they are about to deploy to Afghanistan, or the more than 170,000 warfighters from all across the United States who have come through the gates of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center as part of the global war on terrorism.

Today, once more, I join my colleagues in asking the President and the Senate Democrats to come to the table, consider the solutions we've already brought forth, or propose your own. The American people deserve answers on how these defense cuts will affect them, and American soldiers deserve leadership from their Commander in Chief.

AMERICAN COMPASSION FOR HIV/AIDS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Next week, more than 20,000 delegates from around the world will convene in Washington for the International AIDS Conference.

I find it ironic and a little bit sad that, as so many mobilize to fight this deadly epidemic, the majority in this body want to cut \$150 million from USAID's global health initiative, which funds AIDS prevention efforts.

When will we learn? Fighting diseases in the developing world is more than a matter of humanitarian decency. It's also critical to our national security.

This week, as we debate how much money to appropriate to the Defense Department, I hope we will remember that defending America and our values isn't just about how many weapons we build, but how many lives we save around the world. This is the core truth behind my SMART Security proposal, that fighting terrorism and keeping our country safe depends less on American military force and more on American compassion.

□ 1210

TAX HIKES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Just when I thought the administration's economic policies couldn't get worse, the President is now calling for a tax increase that will hit 53 percent of small business income.

At a time when small businesses aren't able to hire because of the constant threat of higher taxes, that just doesn't make sense.

The President's tax plan does nothing to reduce the ever-increasing national debt. Instead of threatening job creators with more job-destroying taxes, we need to cut spending, get our fiscal house in order, and ensure that American families and businesses will not have to fork over more of their hard-earned money to Uncle Sam.

The President should recognize that job creators put their own blood, sweat, and tears into building their own businesses and that the government shouldn't be destroying small business owners with any tax hike.

JOBS AND TAXES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the American people need Congress to take bold action to create jobs. While our economy is slowly improving, unemployment remains at 11.9 percent in my hometown of San Bernardino County.

In the last 500 days since the Republicans took control of the House, they have refused to move forward a real plan to put more Americans back to work. Instead of working to create jobs, Republicans have passed a budget that gives away \$3 trillion in tax breaks to big corporations and the ultra rich. It ends Medicare as we know it by turning the program into a private voucher system.

Just last week, the Republicans again voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which benefits millions of Americans.

It's time to stop the political games and get to work on finding real solutions to the problems we face. We must end the Bush tax cuts for the rich, protect Medicare, and work to create new jobs for all Americans—and assure that we don't outsource those jobs as well.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

JOB CREATORS IN AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, you know, last week the President said to American job cre-

ators that if you've got a business, you didn't build that; somebody else made that happen.

Well, let me tell you, Mr. President, that prior to coming to Congress I ran my own business for 16 years. Where was the President or this phantom person that he claims that created my business? Where were they when I was driving 60,000 miles a year chasing business or putting in 16-hour days or signing the loan paperwork at the bank so that I could make payroll or keep the wheels turning on my vehicles? The only other person that was there when I started my business was my wife, Melody, who supported me in so many ways.

This asinine comment by the President of the United States clearly shows that neither he nor anyone in the administration know anything about creating jobs or running a business here in America.

May God bless the real job creators in America, and may God continue to bless this great Nation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, next week marks the launch of the 19th International AIDS Conference. It brings together advocates and leaders from all over the world.

The conference's presence in the United States for the first time in 20 years is a testament to the hard work that members of the HIV/AIDS community, including many in my district and my colleagues in Congress, like my dear friend, BARBARA LEE, have done.

In the 20 intervening years, we have for the first time in a generation seen infection rates go down within the United States and stabilize abroad. Despite these steps, however, it is clear that we are still losing the war in key minority communities. Rising infection rates in the African American, Latino, Asian, and gay and lesbian communities are a stark reminder that our work is not done.

It is fitting that our Nation's Capital is hosting this critical event as it is in the epicenter of this rising problem. Washington, D.C., has a higher HIV/AIDS infection rate than most places in Africa, primarily in these minority communities.

From legislative action to grassroots efforts, now is the time for more commitment to HIV/AIDS, not less; more advocacy, not less; more investment, not less; more research, not less.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST SERGIO EDUARDO PEREZ AND ARMY SPECIALIST NICHOLAS ANDREW TAYLOR OF THE INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to remember two Hoosier National Guardsmen who fell in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, on 16 July, this week. Army Specialist Sergio Eduardo Perez of Crown Point, Indiana, and Specialist Nicholas Andrew Taylor of Berne, Indiana, both lost their lives in the same attack while courageously supporting combat operations.

Specialist Perez and Specialist Taylor both served with the 713th Engineer Company of the Indiana National Guard based out of Valparaiso, Indiana.

Specialist Perez was born in Crown Point, Indiana. He enlisted after graduating from nearby Lake Central High School in 2010. By all accounts, he was a young man who could get along with everyone. He was the pride of his family and would do anything for anybody.

Army Specialist Nick Taylor was from a town in my district, Berne, Indiana. Despite receiving several offers to play college football after graduating from South Adams High School in 2010, Taylor signed up to serve his country in the Indiana National Guard. He was a hard worker, a man of integrity. He excelled in everything he tried and was active in the First Missionary Church.

Our hearts in Indiana are heavy as we remember those who lost their lives wearing the uniform of the United States on our behalf and those they left behind.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I extend our deepest sympathies to their families, including Specialist Nick Taylor's father, Police Chef Timothy Taylor; his mother, Stephanie Taylor; his brother, Drew; and sisters, Holly and Sophia; and Specialist Sergio Eduardo Perez's father, Sergio E. Perez, Sr., and mother, Veronica Orozko.

The Bible tells us the Lord is close to the broken-hearted, and that shall be our prayer.

CONTINENTAL FLIGHT 3407

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the tragic crash of Continental Flight 3407 in my western New York community, Congress successfully passed comprehensive airline safety reforms. While final rules have begun to be released for these reforms, there are still many regulations yet to be finalized and implemented.

Yesterday, Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT and I, along with 44 of our colleagues, sent a letter asking the Federal Aviation Administration to take