

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

immediate action on finalizing long overdue rules on crew training. This rule would mandate additional training and evaluation of requirements, ensuring that those working aboard an aircraft are best equipped to handle potential emergency situations.

Mr. Speaker, the National Transportation Safety Board found that between 1988 and 2009 inadequate training was found to be a leading factor in 178 accidents. The crash of Flight 3407 was preventable. Each day that these rules go unfinished carries a potential risk to the flying public.

#### CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON, PRESIDENT MILDRED GARCIA

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recently appointed President Mildred Garcia of the California State University system's Fullerton campus.

President Garcia currently serves on the Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, and she was appointed to that by President Obama.

Previously serving as the 11th female president for California State University, Dominguez Hills, President Garcia became the first Latina president within the California State University system in 2007.

She began her career as an educator. She's still an educator, still teaching at Cal State, Fullerton, while having the presidency, also. She is a scholar. President Garcia focuses much of her research on fairness for higher education policy and practice, and she has authored many books on this subject.

I wish her great success in her new position and, again, congratulations, Millie.

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#### CONTINUING COSTS OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. SCHRADER. I rise today to support our planning for a safe and responsible withdrawal from Afghanistan in the very, very near term. No one has forgotten why we went into Afghanistan: to rout out and bring justice to those who attacked us on September 11, 2001. With extraordinary bravery, our troops have accomplished the mission they were set out to do over 10 years ago. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice and al Qaeda has been largely crushed. Our troops have done their job. Many of them—over 2,000 of them, in fact—have given their lives not only to defend our freedoms but those of Afghans as well.

After 10 years of war and reconstruction, it's time for Afghans to stand up for Afghanistan, and it's time for us to do our job and bring our troops home. We can continue to defend ourselves from terrorists without tens of thousands of troops fighting a ground war in Afghanistan. The \$88 billion we're talking about putting into Afghanistan in this Defense appropriations bill this week could build our own infrastructure and create jobs and economic opportunity right here at home. It is ludicrous to be spending such large sums rebuilding other countries when our own economic problems are so large and persistent. Our greatest leaders say our greatest threat is not a military one, but an economic one.

#### SEQUESTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, this afternoon the House is going to take up the Sequestration Transparency Act. It's harmless enough, but it doesn't do anything. What is it? A year ago, Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. MCCONNELL took this country to the brink of debt default. They demanded that we cut spending by \$1.2 trillion to offset the increase in the debt limit. Now, their plan was to have the supercommittee get the job done any way they wanted to balance the cuts and revenues. But if that failed, they had a backup. The backup was automatic cuts that would be half Pentagon and half discretionary.

Now the day arrives. January 1, 2013, those cuts go into effect, but they don't want the cuts to go into effect. So this legislation tells the Congressional Budget Office to look at the law we passed and tell us what did we do, why did we do it, what will happen if what we order to be done is allowed to be done. This is a "Comedy Central" joke. We have to have a balanced approach to a serious problem, but that means making decisions today about a balanced approach that includes revenues, includes the Pentagon, and includes domestic discretionary.

#### INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Ms. PELOSI. I want to join my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, in acknowledging that this weekend we will begin the International AIDS Conference, which will come to America with a fitting theme: "Turning the Tide Together."

It has a long history. In 1990, expert scientists and political officials from across the globe gathered in San Francisco, in my district, for the International AIDS Conference to turn our promise of leadership into progress.

Since that time, however, the conference has never returned to an American venue for two decades. The organizers point to our longtime shameful travel ban on those with HIV/AIDS.

Next week, when the conference assembles right here in our Nation's Capital, the world will see how far we've come. Together, we will commit to turning the tide, as the theme indicates, toward the next stage in our fight: fewer infections and a cure and an end to HIV/AIDS.

Consider what this Congress has done: funding the Ryan White CARE Act, creating housing opportunities for people with HIV, and expanding access to Medicaid for people with HIV, but not full-blown AIDS. That's an early intervention. Also, increased investments in research, care, treatment, and intervention by more than half a billion dollars.

And in response to the global challenge and the leadership of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, we have supported global solutions by increasing funds for bilateral AIDS efforts during the Clinton administration; making the first American contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria in 2000; and working with Presidents Bush and Obama to establish PEPFAR. I know that it is a great source of pride to President George W. Bush for the leadership he provided, the support he gave, and the pride I think he takes in PEPFAR—and we salute him for that.

President Obama has continued that work, more than doubling the support for global health initiatives and doubling our investment in the Global Fund. These commitments and more have helped families in the United States and the villages of Africa and communities worldwide.

These actions have saved lives, but there's much more to do. With the International AIDS Conference coming to Washington, DC, we have an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the cause of a world without HIV/AIDS. That is the challenge. That is the goal. We can turn the tide together.

After 25 years in Congress, little surprises me anymore; but one thing that does is that after all this time we still do not have a cure. But we're hopeful. And when the AIDS conference opens its doors next week, we must stand united in our pledge to discover a cure and raise an AIDS-free generation. Science is making progress. We have a moral obligation to support that. It has been done in a bipartisan way under President Bush's leadership, under President Clinton, and under President Obama. Hopefully, we can continue to do that.

We can and we must work together to make HIV/AIDS a very, very sad memory and certainly not part of our future. I thank you, Congresswoman LEE, for your tremendous leadership locally and globally and in every way, and certainly in this Congress of the United States.