

gone on to hold positions, including the first vice chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas, an appointee to the Governor's Appointments Committee, and a member of the National Committee's Women's Leadership Forum.

She served as a national committee-woman for the Republican Party of Arkansas since 2004; and as a member of the national rules committee, she is able to influence party nominations and messages.

Ms. Hamilton has been a delegate to every Republican national convention since 1992. She is also a 2012 RNC convention committee member.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Reta Hamilton for her commitment to our commonsense, conservative ideals and thank her for her service.

VETERANS TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN LIFE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, exactly 2 months ago, I was in Afghanistan breaking bread with our troops, and I asked them, What is your biggest worry? What keeps you awake at night? I thought it had to be the Taliban lurking in the nearby mountains. Well, it wasn't. Their biggest fear—and I heard this over and over—was the fear of coming back to this country and not finding a job.

At this point in our country, over 30 percent is the rate of unemployment for recently returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. That is absolutely unacceptable. We've taken some steps in Congress. The tax credit for employers is a good start, and I introduced the VETS bill, which will help veterans receive professional certification for the training and skills they've already acquired abroad.

I also want to recognize that the VA and DOD are recognizing that we need to do much more to help these individuals transition into civilian society. In fact, tomorrow we are having a joint hearing with the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees to address these matters.

As I told many veterans groups, we didn't get it right after Vietnam. We have to do so much more to help them reintegrate into society and help them heal their wounds. I say instead of just giving them a thank-you, let's give our veterans a job.

RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT HELPS CREATE JOBS

(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, since the President took office, his administration has enacted over 400 new government regulations limiting small business owners from

creating new jobs. This year alone, the Federal Register has published over 41,000 pages of regulations that would cost \$56.6 billion and result in paperwork that would take over 114 million wasted hours to complete.

With record unemployment, it is sadly clear that the President's new taxes and policies are failing American families and destroying jobs. House Republicans are focused on putting Americans back to work. As a result, we have passed over 30 job-creation bills in the past year. Sadly, these bills remain stalled by the liberal-controlled Senate.

This week, the House, led by KEVIN BRADY, will vote on the Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act and, once again, attempt to remove government red tape prohibiting America's job creators from achieving economic success in creating jobs. I hope we can work together to support this legislation.

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

□ 1210

THINK BEFORE WE CUT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the whole country was struck with the tragedy in Aurora, Colorado. A deranged individual murdered 12 citizens and wounded 58 others.

My mind went back to the day that Gabrielle Giffords was shot—another deranged individual. What it says to me is we need to spend more money, not less money, on mental health issues. There are a lot of mentally disturbed people out there who need mental health treatment, and this Congress has been cutting funds for mental health and for clinics and for health care. And we need more law enforcement and more protection.

There are cuts that can be made to protect our country's fiscal health, but to protect our Nation's physical health, some funds need to be maintained. Let's think before we cut.

CONGRATULATING DR. VIRGILIO I. BEATO NUNEZ

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride, admiration, and affection that I rise to recognize Dr. Virgilio Beato Nunez, an outstanding member of the south Florida medical community, on his very well-deserved retirement.

In his 69 years of medical practice, he has improved the lives of countless individuals and has enjoyed a career of many achievements. Dr. Beato is a

great example of the patriotism and dedication that we see throughout our Nation, and also to his profession.

Forced to flee from the oppressive Communist regime of Fidel Castro, Dr. Beato began his new life and his career in Miami. He then moved to San Antonio, Texas, where in 1974 he was elected vice president of the American Heart Association. In 1977, Dr. Beato moved back to Miami, where he helped many struggling young doctors who had moved to freedom in the United States.

He has received many awards, including a proclamation by the city of Miami naming "Dr. Virgilio Beato Day," and a congressional recognition in 2006 for his many contributions to the medical field.

Congratulations to Dr. Beato on his retirement, and I wish him all the best in this new, exciting chapter in his life.

MARKETPLACE EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, retailing is an important part of the American economy. The Main Street retailers—brick-and-mortar retailers—play an essential function of providing access to stores in communities. They're the engine of downtown revitalization. E-commerce retailers are emerging as a very strong retailing force, providing convenience and low cost to consumers.

The challenge we face is having a level playing field between these two retailers. The way things stand right now, if a State assesses a sales tax, Main Street retailers have to collect it; e-retailers, more often than not, don't. That's not a level playing field for them to compete on a fair basis.

There are two bills in the House to resolve this: the Main Street Fairness Act and the Marketplace Equity Act. Both I am a cosponsor of, with bipartisan support.

Fair is fair. We're making progress on this. Just recently, the Governors from both parties attending the National Governors Association spoke in favor of the importance of updating Federal law so there will be this level playing field. And just this morning, in Chairman SMITH's House Judiciary Committee, there was a hearing on the Marketplace Equity Act.

Let's bring this to the floor for a vote. Let's pass it. Let's return fairness.

STOP THE TAX HIKE

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those calling attention to the harmful tax hikes that could soon come our way.

With tax cuts set to expire at midnight on December 31 of this year, the

Obama administration wants some of those taxes to increase. I think that that would inflict a body blow to our economy and prolong this recovery.

A recent study by the accounting firm Ernst & Young finds raising these taxes would cause the estimated loss of 700,000 jobs, wages would be reduced by 1.8 percent, and our economy would shrink by 1.3 percent.

My State of New Hampshire relies heavily on small businesses; they are the backbone of our economy. This tax hike would hit small businesses especially hard because at least 75 percent pay their taxes as individuals.

I think of the many job creators in my district, such as Hampshire Fire Protection in Londonderry. They face enough challenges without Washington imposing higher taxes and that burden on their small business. With the Nation's unemployment at 8.2 percent, we simply cannot afford to lose an additional 700,000 jobs. That is why I say we must stop this tax hike, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICA LOST A TRUE HERO

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we lost a true hero in Sally Ride. Dr. Ride was a constituent, and I recall my excitement in first meeting her years ago.

At the age of 32, Sally K. Ride broke her first barrier when she flew on the space shuttle Challenger in 1983. She was the first American woman ever to fly in space. But her journey didn't end there. She went back to space in 1984, and later on became director of the California Space Institute at UCSC, as well as a professor of physics.

She was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She cracked open the door for women to enter the fields of science and engineering and helped inspire countless young girls to follow in her footsteps. I think of what it will mean to my granddaughter Jane to see her in our history books.

Dr. Ride will be missed by all those who knew her and all those whom she touched and will continue to reach with her courage, her determination, and fearless spirit.

FARM BILL

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

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring up a subject today that's on the minds of people all across this country, and this is the drought that is hitting so many people and our economy.

I was recently in the northwest corner of South Dakota and had the chance to drive all the way across the State and visit with producers and communities that have been hit so hard. I'll tell you the facts are clear. We have feed shortages, stock dams are

going dry, and there are escalating feed costs that are hitting our producers every single day.

Our livestock producers undeniably take a great risk. They don't have the crop insurance programs that many of our commodity producers do have and that protects them and gives them a safety net. That's why our livestock disaster programs are so important.

I was proud of the fact that I introduced legislation that reauthorized this bill's programs earlier this year and that they were included in the committee version of the farm bill that came through the House Ag Committee earlier. That's why it's so important that we get our farm bill work done and that we bring it to the House floor and have a vote so that our livestock producers truly can have a safety net that our commodity producers already enjoy.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, this week, Washington plays host to the International AIDS Conference, a conference that brings together activists, scientists, and people living with HIV to mourn those millions who have been lost to that disease around this world but also to celebrate some very real progress made against that disease.

HIV is no longer a death sentence for those who are diagnosed. That's a very large accomplishment that the U.S. Government can claim some credit for through research at NIH, CDC, small things like the fact that the city of Washington can be host because the President's administration lifted the travel ban on people with HIV.

Mr. Speaker, there is also something for us to learn. The Bush administration—which I didn't always agree with—also can take enormous credit for PEPFAR, a program which saved millions of lives in Africa and Asia and which earned us the respect and the love of people around this planet. We should learn from that, to work together to end this disease, to make sure that those with it are treated and that we prevent it and ultimately end it. That should be our goal.

FEDERAL RESERVE TRANSPARENCY ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2011, authored by my colleague from Texas, RON PAUL. I commend Congressman PAUL for his years of diligence in pursuing this issue. It has long since been time for the Federal Reserve to commit to an audit.

This legislation requires the Comptroller General to complete an audit of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and of the Federal Reserve Bank. Many of my constituents have been calling and writing and asking me for this significant new transparency of the Federal Reserve. I agree with them on the urgent need for accountability. This legislation is an important step forward in achieving that goal.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Federal Reserve Transparency Act.

□ 1220

LOOK AT WHAT'S REALLY IN THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Now that it's the law of the land, it's time for everyone in the country to take a deep breath and look at what really is in the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare.

If you're a senior citizen, you're now receiving a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs if you fall into what is called the doughnut hole, the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap.

If you're a woman, you now have free coverage of lifesaving preventive services such as mammograms; and beginning on August 1, free coverage is going to include many additional preventive care services, so take a good look at that.

If you're a parent, if you have children under age 19, they cannot be denied coverage by an insurance company because they have a preexisting condition.

And if you're a young adult, you can now stay on your parents' health care plan until your 26th birthday, which is really important if you don't have a job that has health insurance coverage.

And if you're a small business owner, like my son is, there are millions now of eligible small business owners that are receiving tax credits if you choose to offer coverage to your employees.

So take a look. It's really good for most Americans.

MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER THE BEST IN THE WORLD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with Dr. Loretta Williams, an oncology nurse from MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. For 30 years, Dr. Williams has provided care to cancer patients, whether they have battled the disease for years or they are just beginning that fight. I was impressed by her compassion and her dedication.

People like Dr. Williams are why MD Anderson is the greatest cancer center in the world, named the top hospital