

will have to pay the difference plus a penalty of up to 40 percent directly to the federal government, according to Mr. Madigan.

The depressed housing market continues to pose a drag on the halting economic recovery. RealtyTrac, which analyzes housing data, predicts two million more foreclosures over the next two years. Some 11 million families owe more on their houses than they are worth.

The settlement, if all states participate, will also include \$3 billion to lower the rates of mortgage holders who are current. Banks will get more credit for reducing principal owed and helping families keep their homes, and less for short sales or taking losses on loans that were likely to go bad, like those that were severely delinquent.

□ 1020

#### STREETCAR SUMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this week, people from dozens of cities around America are gathering for the annual Streetcar Summit.

For the last 25 years, I've been working to reintroduce the modern streetcar to American communities. We started with a project in Portland, Oregon, over 20 years ago. It was a great pleasure for me to see this open in 2001 and watch how this streetcar investment anchored revitalization in the downtown, led to over \$3 billion of private and public investment along the right-of-way, encouraged over 22 million people to ride the streetcar, and developed into a signature project for our community.

More recently, when the new administration was sworn into office, I worked with the White House to implement legislation that I had in the last reauthorization that we called "Small Starts," which somehow had stalled. Within 4 months, the new administration was able to help us figure out how to move it forward. In October of 2009, we were able to sign an agreement with the Obama administration and start the project.

I'm pleased to report that this project—which has provided over 1,800 jobs, that is extending a 3½-mile line—will be open. In fact, we've invited President Obama to ride on the first official trip. He can ride this year on a project that started in the first year of his administration, now a completed project. As an added bonus, he would be able to ride the first American-built streetcar in 58 years.

While it's manufactured in Portland, Oregon—I say with some modest pride—it makes a difference for people around the country because it's going to be provided to other communities like Tucson, Arizona, in the project I worked on with our former colleague, Gabby Giffords. And subcontracting is occurring throughout the upper Midwest, where smaller manufacturers are helping construct this product made in America.

As a result of the administration's investment of \$419 million since October of 2009, we're watching projects take place in 10 cities across America—in Detroit, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Salt Lake—that are moving forward with this vision. Indeed, the people in the conference that will be here this week represent operating systems that are now in Seattle, San Francisco, Galveston, Little Rock, Memphis, New Orleans, Lowell, Massachusetts, Kenosha, Wisconsin. There are communities all across America that have seized this vision and are moving forward. They are coming together to deal with how communities, large and small, can seize on this proven technology that was, after all, the cornerstone of urban development long about 1900. This was the technology that was driving American community development. Well, it still can drive community development, provide tens of thousands of jobs, be able to help focus the revitalization of, what in some areas, are troubled neighborhoods. It's an opportunity to bring people together on the streetscape, to be able to give a different environment for shopping, recreating, and, frankly, preventing pollution, congestion—in many cases a trip not taken.

I strongly urge my colleagues, when the opportunity arises this week, to meet some of the people in the vanguard of America's new streetcar renaissance. A simple, commonsense, proven technology that's cost-effective, that provides an anchor for development, giving people an opportunity to give another choice to the residents—empowering them, making their neighborhoods more livable, their families safer, healthier, and more economically secured.

This is what this Congress should be working on, coming together to take projects like this, a constructive Federal partnership, stretching dollars and making a success that we can all be proud of.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at noon.

#### PRAYER

Rabbi Jeffrey Astrachan, Temple Beth Israel, York, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Almighty source of strength, peace and compassion, I stand humbly before

You to ask Your blessing upon those who serve our great Nation, to all who dedicate themselves to its prosperity and security.

Grant to each Member of this House the wisdom and vision to look steadfastly toward our future, to labor earnestly for the welfare of all, and to consider wholeheartedly the passion and sacrifice of those who came before us, who helped to preserve and foster the noblest ideals for which our Nation stands.

Today, especially, we consider the valor of those four Army chaplains whose selfless acts of heroism 69 years ago not only saved the lives of others, but inspire us to serve in our own day to continue our partnership in Your ever-unfolding acts of creation on Earth.

May the memories of the four chaplains and the ideals for which they lived ever remain a blessing.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TURNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TURNER of New York 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 RABBI JEFFREY ASTRACHAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

IN MEMORY OF THE "FOUR CHAPLAINS"

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to host our guest chaplain, Rabbi Jeffrey Astrachan, to give today's opening prayer. Rabbi Astrachan is here today to help honor the sacrifice of the four chaplains who gave their lives during the sinking of the troop ship *Dorchester* during World War II. This is especially significant because one of the four chaplains, Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode, was once a rabbi with the same congregation in York, Pennsylvania, my hometown that Rabbi Astrachan now serves.

Along with the rabbi, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the courageous sacrifice made 69 years ago by the four chaplains. The *Dorchester* was torpedoed off the coast of Greenland. Only 230 of the over-900 men on

board survived. The survivors recounted the story of the heroic actions of the four chaplains of different faiths: Lieutenant Goode; Lieutenant John Washington, a Catholic priest; and Lieutenants George Fox and Clark Poling, two protestant ministers.

These four servants of God spent their last 18 minutes in this life helping their fellow passengers to safety. When there were no more life jackets to hand out, the chaplains removed their own and gave them to shipmates. They were last seen on the hull of the ship, arm-in-arm in prayer as the ship sank into the icy waters.

Chaplain Hill at Arlington National Cemetery is home to several memorials to chaplains. Last year, the United States House of Representatives adopted legislation to include a memorial to the 14 Jewish chaplains who gave their lives in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Today, we honor not just the four chaplains of the *Dorchester*, but the sacrifices and selflessness made by military chaplains of all faiths.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 7, 2012 at 10:40 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 347.

That the Senate passed S. 1794.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### NLRB APPOINTMENTS ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

(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, on January 4, the President abused executive authority and appointed three new members to the National Labor Relations Board claiming a recess appointment, but the Senate was not in recess. By making this decision, the President ignored the Sen-

ate's confirmation and vetting practice which is outlined in article I, section 5 of the United States Constitution. Earlier today, the House Education and Workforce Committee, ably led by Chairman JOHN KLINE, held a hearing on this unconstitutional conduct.

The President has used the National Labor Relations Board as a big labor bully to advance his political agenda and threaten the jobs of America's small businesses. Due to the legal uncertainty of the President's appointments, each decision reached by the board could allow for legal challenges, costing job creators and taxpayers more money. House Republicans will work to protect hardworking taxpayers from the administration's failed policies which are destroying jobs.

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

#### THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON THE PAYROLL TAX CUT AND EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking on extending the payroll tax cut and unemployment benefits for millions of Americans. In just three short weeks, people barely surviving on unemployment benefits will be out on the streets. In three short weeks, 160 million people who get paychecks would have to pay the government nearly \$1,000 more.

Unfortunately, House Republican leadership insists on unrelated ideological legislation freezing the pay of middle class public servants for a third time in 3 years, slashing unemployment benefits by 40 weeks, and drug testing Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

I don't think my Republican colleagues understand the plight of Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. So I'm asking my constituents and people from around the country to go to my Web site, karenbass.house.gov, and send in stories about their efforts to look for work. I will share these stories with my Republican colleagues to help them understand in hopes they will do the right thing.

#### PAYING OUR RESPECTS TO CHAPLAINS FOX, POLING, WASHINGTON, AND RABBI GOODE

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this year's tribute to our lost four chaplains, last seen on the decks of the USAT *Dorchester* offering comfort and their only chance for survival to others, is particularly poignant. For it was

this past year that these men were reunited at this country's most hallowed grounds, Arlington National Cemetery.

With the recognition long overdue of Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and all the Jewish war chaplains who have served this Nation in faith, the four chaplains stand watch once again over their flock from Chaplains Hill. Providence most definitely brought them together after history attempted to break their bond.

And so 69 years later, we reinforce the bonds of faith that no man can break and pay our respects to Chaplains Fox, Poling, Washington, and Rabbi Goode and honor their sacrifice to our great Nation.

□ 1210

#### THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CRASH OF FLIGHT 3407

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Three years ago this week, an unspeakable tragedy occurred when a plane full of people, those who were dearly loved by their families, crashed through a home in Clarence Center, in my district. The cause was pilot fatigue and inexperience, and the cruel irony that it occurred over Valentine's Day weekend was lost on no one.

Yet, out of those ashes arose an indomitable spirit among these families that united them in their grief and brought their quest right here to the Halls in Washington. They wanted to ensure that no other family had to endure having their hearts ripped out the way they all had. They never took "no" for an answer. They never gave up, and they inspired Congress to work in a bipartisan way to pass historic flight safety reform rules.

That's why I am joined by my colleagues from western New York to introduce a resolution to honor them, the victims of the crash, to thank the surviving families of Flight 3407, and to call on the administration to finish the work they started to implement these necessary FAA rules.

Until the will of Congress and of the families we serve is translated into new rules, we will not give up the fight, because the families are counting on us, and they've never given up the fight.

#### THE CLOSING OF THE SOUTH TEMPLE POST OFFICE

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, over the past month, I've heard from many of my constituents about the closing of the contract post office in my district, the South Temple Post Office.

My constituents enjoy going to the South Temple Post Office because it is fast, efficient and the service is outstanding. However, the United States