

Postal Service recently announced it would be closing this office, along with 19 other contract postal units.

Why?

Because these contract post offices are not hiring enough union workers or are, allegedly, taking union jobs away from the main branches. In other words, even though the United States Postal Service was \$8.5 billion in the hole in 2010 and even though the owner of the South Temple Post Office sends a check of \$1 million every year to the postal service under their contract, they have decided to close it because of union dispute.

This is just plain wrong. My constituents should have a choice of what post office they want to use and to use the one that serves them the best. If the privately owned contract office is performing better, they should be able to use that privately owned contract office.

Rest assured, I will fight this nonsense and try to get this post office kept open.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CRASH OF FLIGHT 3407

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Congresswoman KATHY HOCHUL, to recognize the upcoming third anniversary of the tragic crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 in my western New York community.

This tragedy, unfortunately, was preventable. The National Transportation Safety Board found that the chief cause of the crash was pilot error. In August of 2010, President Obama signed into law aviation safety legislation, which, among other things, required the Federal Aviation Administration to update flight and duty time rules and to set minimum rest requirements for pilots.

As the families know too well, the passage of time never really heals the tragic memory of that day, but they persevered. They became a true citizen army for aviation safety and achieved the most comprehensive aviation reform in 50 years. In their efforts, they were guided by their faith and by the light of those they loved and lost.

We recognize their extraordinary efforts on behalf of the western New York community, of the flying public, and of a grateful Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE WORLD CHAMPION NEW YORK GIANTS

(Mr. TURNER of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, it is a distinct pleasure to stand before you right now, not only as a Representative but as a fan. I would like to take a few moments and acknowledge the New

York Giants for defeating the New England Patriots on Sunday night, 21-17, in Super Bowl XLVI.

Some believed them to be underdogs, but our beloved G-Men didn't let people's lack of faith or doubt distract them from their end goal. Instead, they showed New York's resilience by fighting back to regain the lead in the fourth quarter, earning their second Super Bowl title in the last 5 years and their fourth Super Bowl title overall. The Giants have won eight world championships and rank as one of the most successful football franchises of all time.

As Giants' head coach Tom Coughlin said after the game: All things are possible for those who believe, and these guys believed, and they came together and trusted each other and believed in one another.

I think this is a terrific message for everyone to think about, especially those of us holding the distinct honor of being Members of the House of Representatives. There is still a great deal of work to be done on behalf of the American people. We must come together for a joint purpose. We must give our constituents a reason to believe we can work together on their behalf. Just as the members of the Giants team played hard for the people of New York, we must work hard for our constituents.

Again, I would like to congratulate the New York Giants, Head Coach Tom Coughlin, Super Bowl XLVI MVP Eli Manning, and all the great fans in New York.

FOUR-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMPERIAL SUGAR PLANT EXPLOSION

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, this day marks a sad anniversary for many of the folks I represent. Four years ago today, a combustible dust explosion destroyed the Imperial Sugar plant in Port Wentworth, Georgia, killing 14 people and injuring more than 40 others.

The sad truth is that this explosion didn't have to happen. Experts have known about the dangers of combustible dust for decades, and experts have developed industry standards that can prevent combustible dust explosions and fires. Unfortunately, these commonsense practices have not become the national standard despite preventable explosions and fires in Georgia and throughout America before and since.

Today, on the fourth anniversary of this tragedy, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 522, the Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act of 2011, introduced by Mr. MILLER of California. This law would require the Secretary of Labor to promulgate standards for regulating combustible dust.

We shouldn't wait until another disaster strikes. We owe it to the dead and the wounded to take action today so that disasters like the Imperial Sugar Plant explosion will never happen again.

OBAMACARE STRIKES AT THE CORE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue that's deeply important to me, not as a Republican or Democrat, but as a Catholic American.

President Obama's Department of Health and Human Services announced it will require religious institutions like Catholic schools, Catholic hospitals, and Catholic charities to cover services that violate their core beliefs, like contraception, sterilization, and the morning-after pill. Catholic schools like Notre Dame will be forced to pay millions in penalties if they don't comply with the Federal Government mandate.

Now, this is about much more than just contraception. This is about Catholic schools and Catholic hospitals having to sacrifice conscience to comply with ObamaCare.

I believe that this is a clear violation of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution. What's worse, I believe that this is a move by the Obama administration to establish secularism over religion. That would strike at the core of religious liberty of the Constitution and who we are as Americans. It's just one more reason why ObamaCare is bad law and needs to be repealed.

AN ILLUSORY PLAN TO FUND TRANSIT AT CURRENT LEVELS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Ronald Reagan signed legislation that funded transit out of the highway trust fund. The new Republican majority is going to end transit's eligibility for highway trust fund dollars—but they've created an alternative transportation account that will be paid for out of the general fund. The only problem is that paying for transit at current levels under an alternative scenario would blow another \$40 billion hole in the budget.

But they have a plan.

They're going to require Federal employees to pay 6 percent of their salaries into a trust fund. That's about \$40 billion over 5 years. But they're not taxing Federal employees to pay for transit—don't worry about that—because that money can't be spent on transit. It will make it look like they're not spending more money. In reality, they will borrow \$40 billion to

pay for transit instead of paying for it with your fees out of the highway trust fund, but they're going to pretend that they didn't add more money to the deficit. At the same time, they're going to make Federal employees put 6 percent of their salaries into a trust fund for this illusory offset.

Good work, guys.

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ENERGY SECURITY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, we have within our grasp the opportunity to boldly address two of America's greatest challenges: energy security and unemployment. These two issues are inextricably linked. We can no longer tolerate a stagnant, slow-growth economy that's saddled with historic unemployment rates and a dangerous dependence on foreign oil. A key solution to these problems is energy, specifically, American energy.

The President said in this House that we must have an all-of-the-above strategy to energy independence. I agree. That includes harvesting the energy in every corner of America, including the 3.8 billion barrels of oil and gas off the coast of Virginia.

Last week, I introduced the Mid-Atlantic Energy and Jobs Act of 2012 to free up Virginia's abundant offshore energy. This legislation will help us achieve energy independence and could produce more than 18,000 local jobs, and it requires a significant amount of the royalties produced by the exploration to go toward improving our environment. The time to act is now. This Congress, this President, we're Americans. Let's do this.

AMERICAN JOBS

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the need for jobs in this country. On Wednesday, we will have reached 400 days since the Republicans took control of the House without a jobs bill, even though my colleagues and I have been calling for and demanding action.

The President has set forth a jobs plan that would allow Americans to get to work and for us to invest in this great country by focusing on improving our infrastructure, fixing our roads, schools, and bridges; by providing incentives to hire veterans by giving small businesses the support they need to grow and expand; and by cutting payroll taxes for 160 million workers, leaving more money in the pockets of consumers.

The members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority are on the Hill this

week to be a voice for the jobless, to ask Congress to do what is in the best interest of Americans still trying to find jobs.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting job growth and investment in this Nation now.

SCHOOL CHOICE

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

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of national school choice because we need to offer our children effective education opportunities. And in Michigan, despite spending just shy of \$10,000 annually to educate each child, we need to look at a couple of facts. One, only 31 percent of eighth-graders are actually considered proficient in math. The other element that is very disheartening to me is the fact that one child drops out of school in America every 26 seconds. We have an obligation to give parents the tools and resources to get their children out of bad educational environments and into better ones.

As a Member of Congress, I support school choice and allowing States to even opt out of the No Child Left Behind program and use educational resources in a way that will best meet their local needs, not the demands of Washington, D.C. It should be up to parents—not governments—to choose what's best for their children. Better traditional schools, public charter schools, private schools, virtual education, and homeschooling. I personally advocated for these opportunities when I sat on the board of a public charter school in Michigan. I served as the director of development at Zeeland Christian Schools, and most importantly, as a parent along with my wife, who homeschooled our children. Those of us in Congress must continue to encourage and champion school reform.

FOUR CHAPLAINS

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible story of the USAT *Dorchester's* four chaplains. The brave "immortal chaplains," a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and two Protestant ministers, selflessly provided comfort and guidance to their interfaith community aboard the transport ship as it sunk into icy waters on February 3, 1943. These leaders of different faiths gave up their lifejackets and stood strong, singing prayers and hymns, sharing words of healing and peace as the ship went down.

We are so fortunate to have Rabbi Astrachan here with us today to help honor their sacred memory. Rabbi Astrachan currently serves the same congregation in York, Pennsylvania,

where Rabbi Goode, one of the four chaplains, once served, continuing to honor his legacy.

The four chaplains, Reverend George Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Father John Washington, and Reverend Clark Poling, serve as inspirations in their military service and their sacrifice for our country. Their quintessentially American tale of faith and courage now has an ending we can proudly commemorate, as all four of these men are honored and memorialized together on Chaplain's Hill at Arlington National Cemetery.

For nearly 200 years, our Nation's breathtaking military cemetery has been a place to honor all of America's fallen soldiers, providing the sacred and majestic setting fitting to our Nation's heroes. Thanks to the dedication of many of my colleagues, we now have monuments at Chaplain's Hill to each of these faith groups, where we can honor their sacrifice together. This is a testament to the courage and commitment of all who have served our Nation in this way, and I am so honored to share in this observance with chaplains, members of the military, veterans, religious community advocates, family, and friends.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to talk about my bill, H.R. 3842, a bill that would prohibit the Obama administration from filing lawsuits against Arizona, South Carolina, Alabama, and other States over their immigration enforcement laws. In the last 3 years, eight States have adopted immigration enforcement measures to address the illegal alien populations in their States. And in response, the Department of Justice and Eric Holder have pursued unprecedented lawsuits against these States.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 10 million unauthorized aliens in this country. States must be able to enforce the law if the Federal Government refuses to, and States should not have to live in fear of Federal retribution for trying to keep their citizens safe.

My bill, H.R. 3842, would deny the Obama administration and Eric Holder the funding for these meritless lawsuits. Until the Supreme Court decides the case against Arizona's S.B. 1070, Congress must use our power of the purse to stop these political lawsuits and allow States to uphold the law.

HALFTIME IN AMERICA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, everybody is talking about Chrysler's Super Bowl commercial "Halftime in America." It featured Clint Eastwood, relating the recovery of the American automobile industry. That inspirational ad