

the National Youth Sports Week we celebrate and to recognize 50 million children who participate in youth sports.

It is fitting this year that National Youth Sports Week falls on the eve of the Summer Olympic Games, because many Olympians, like Andy Roddick, Misty May-Treanor, Ryan Lochte, and Sanya Richards Ross, all began their careers as young athletes. Sports can make a difference in a child's life. Student athletes make better grades, they get in less trouble, and they are less likely to be obese. Sports can build character and teach values like sportsmanship, teamwork, civility, respect, and discipline.

We cannot recognize the players without thanking the coaches and volunteers who mentor these kids, folks like my chief of staff, Dean Mitchell; my pastor, who is here today, Matt Rich, with whom my son Stephen has coached; and all the many others who give their time and their efforts to help our young people.

Not all youth athletes grow up to be Olympians, but youth sports can shape the lives of all of us and make us better citizens, whatever our callings in life. May God grant that none of us are ever too busy to help a child.

And I leave you with a final thought: Go Team USA!

THE DARK SPECTER OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. WEST. I spent 22 years of Active Duty service in the United States Army. One of the things that seriously concerns me is this dark specter that hangs over our country right now that is called "sequestration."

It would mean that we will hollow out our military force: that we would have the smallest ground force since 1940, the smallest Navy since 1915, the smallest number of fighter aircraft that we've ever had since the creation of the modern United States Air Force.

This morning, at the Army Aviation Caucus breakfast, I sat between two distinguished fliers. One was the commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Another was Chief Warrant Officer Ford. Between the two of them, they had almost 40 deployments into combat zones. Also at that breakfast this morning was a former cadet of mine, now Lieutenant Colonel Dave Almquist, a distinguished master aviator in the United States military.

Our men and women are watching us—the men and women who are the best and the brightest that this country can produce. But as well, our enemies are watching us to see what we will do to our United States military. Let us learn the lessons from post-World War I, post-World War II, and post-Korean War. Let's not gut our United States military. Let's own up to our responsibilities in article I, section 8.

WE NEED A FARM BILL NOW

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

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to request the House of Representatives be allowed to vote on the 2012 farm bill. With many of the provisions of the previous farm bill set to expire on September 30 and with only 13 legislative days scheduled between now and then, we cannot afford delay.

Whether it's from Mother Nature or market prices, our farmers face an incredible amount of uncertainty. We cannot allow this Congress to be another cause for concern. Farmers in Indiana and throughout our country don't have time for political games. They have a Nation and a world to feed and an economy that relies on them to be all-star performers and to increase productivity every single year.

Mr. Speaker, bring the farm bill to the floor now. If not, let's stay here through all of August, all of September, all of October, all of November, and all of December until we get this work done. There is no excuse for not having a vote on the farm bill. We need a farm bill now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that they are to address remarks to the Chair.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT AIDS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. This is an important week for the United States as we host the International AIDS Conference for the first time in 22 years.

Decades ago, our country made the shameful decision that no one who is HIV positive could enter our borders. With the President's lifting of that ban and a greater attention to the AIDS crisis, along with the advent of drugs that help those with HIV live longer, we are approaching what we should have always been—a global leader in the fight against AIDS.

Countless Oregonians have been affected by AIDS. I've personally lost friends to AIDS, and as of June 30, more than 5,600 people in Oregon were living with HIV. It's time to eliminate the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and to focus on prevention, treatment, and care.

The participants of the conference this week show immense dedication to the fight against HIV and AIDS, both in the U.S. and abroad. Congress should have the same dedication. Funding for prevention and treatment programs is crucial, as is funding for medical research and drug development.

We've come a long way, but there is still a lot of work to do. I urge my colleagues to join me. Speak out. Help to end the stigma. Let's work together to fight AIDS.

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY, SPAM

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I rise today to honor southern Minnesota's own Hormel Foods for its 75 years of producing its world-renowned, iconic product—SPAM.

Entrepreneur George Hormel opened up his meat processing plant in 1891 in Austin, Minnesota, but it was his son Jay who came up with the idea of canned spice ham. Thus, in 1937, SPAM was born. SPAM served an essential role in World War II. Over 100 million pounds of SPAM were sent to the European front to aid the war efforts. After the war, SPAM's popularity soared globally. Over 7 billion cans have been sold.

Since the inception of SPAM, Hormel has always kept its company's roots in southern Minnesota, providing thousands of good-paying jobs and economic stability for middle class folks in Austin. Hormel also has a rich history of giving back. They've partnered with organizations to provide food for malnourished children around the world. In partnership with the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic, they opened the world-renowned Hormel Institute, which gave us Omega-3 and -6 fatty acids in cancer reduction.

SPAM is an important part of our history. It played an essential role in feeding our troops, in creating jobs, and it has become an iconic American product. So, today, I honor Hormel's past, and I look forward to their future. Happy 75th birthday, SPAM.

□ 1230

EVERYONE GETS A TAX CUT

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, there seems to be some misunderstanding on the other side of the aisle on the tax cuts that the Democrats are now proposing.

Yes, we want to cut taxes for the middle class. We think that it is critical for our economic recovery. We also want to cut taxes for everyone else, including the most fortunate, but only on the first \$250,000 of their earnings. On that portion of their earnings, they will receive the exact same tax cut as the middle class. But if we hope to seriously address the issue of long-term deficits and debt, we can't do it by spending cuts alone.

According to the nonpartisan fact-checking organization FactCheck.org, in 2009 Federal tax rates were the lowest level in 30 years. Let's make one of those hard choices the other side of the aisle likes to talk about. Let's extend the middle class tax breaks, but let the tax cuts for the most fortunate expire and use every bit of that revenue to help pay down the deficit and get our economy moving in the right direction.

KEEP OUR NATION SAFE

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

Mr. ROONEY. Madam Speaker, keeping our Nation safe is our most important responsibility under the Constitution as Members of Congress.

When we talk about sequestration, we're really asking are we really going to shirk that responsibility, are we really going to cut national defense and force our country to grow weaker and weaker over the next 10 years. If we don't prevent these massive cuts, we'll be left with our smallest ground forces since 1940, fewest ships since 1915, and our smallest Air Force in our history.

Our Secretary of Defense says these cuts would be devastating and would seriously damage readiness. Does anything else we really do here matter if we knowingly let our defenses down, if we aren't ready to be able to defend ourselves?

If there's wasteful spending in the Pentagon budget that we could cut without impacting national security, then we should do so. I led the fight to kill the extra engine for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, saving taxpayers billions of dollars. The White House doesn't dispute the impact of these cuts, but won't put forward an alternative. The Majority Leader of the Senate won't schedule a vote on the House bill, but won't introduce a plan either. We have to do something to avoid these massive cuts to keep our country safe.

DISENFRANCHISING VOTERS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, State legislatures all across the country are passing photo ID laws that could strip millions of Americans of their right to vote. Students, communities of color, low-income individuals, and seniors are particularly at risk of being disenfranchised.

As just one example, in March this year, a World War II veteran in Tennessee was denied the right to vote because he did not have an ID that matched his assisted living address. In Minnesota, which is considering a misguided constitutional amendment on photo ID, 215,000 registered voters don't have a driver's license or ID card with a current address on it; and if it passes, it will disenfranchise all of them.

Why put these hundreds of thousands of voters at risk? Proponents claim fraud, but there's not any fraud. Voter fraud is already illegal, and the number of confirmed cases is insignificant statistically. There are only a tiny number of cases. For this, we're going to disenfranchise literally millions of people?

CANCER FREE LABEL ACT

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, we all know that wearing sunscreen, quitting smoking, or steering clear of asbestos can reduce our cancer risk. Yet, carcinogens are all around us, and exposure to these cancer-causing agents can be found in everyday products and in the food we eat.

For the most part, consumers are kept in the dark with no way to know for sure whether the makeup they use or the food they eat contains known carcinogens. It's time to help consumers choose safer products for themselves and for their loved ones. That's why today I'm introducing the Cancer Free Label Act. My bill will give companies the chance to market to consumers the fact that the products that they make are free of carcinogens.

Just as consumers refused to buy baby products laden with BPA and nearly wiped this chemical from the shelves, the Cancer Free Label Act will use market-driven forces to drive change. By passing the Cancer Free Label Act, we can give families across America the opportunity to avoid cancer-causing agents. And by promoting healthier choices, we will even be able to save lives.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the moment of silence that we extended the victims of the Aurora, Colorado, massacre yesterday. But the more telling silence is this body's refusal to address the issue of gun control. As a result, a comparable number of Americans will be killed by firearms every day. There are 10,000 homicides by firearms in America every year, 19 times the number of firearm deaths in all civilized countries combined.

Today is the anniversary of the shooting deaths of two of our Capitol policemen. We responded to those killings with remorse and even more heartfelt condolences after our colleague Gabby was shot, but 60 more multiple murders have been committed since then.

Thirty-two innocent students at Virginia Tech were massacred, and Virginia's legislative body actually weakened the State's gun control laws, suggesting that the fault was with the students because they weren't carrying firearms themselves. A similar comment was made by a Member of this body after the Aurora killings that there should have been a shootout in that darkened theater.

This is domestic terrorism, Madam Speaker. We ought to stop being so soft on such crime. If this shooting had

been committed by foreign terrorists, we'd send the marines out after them, but foreign terrorists don't buy their weapons from dealers who are members of the NRA.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any recorded vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROPOSED 2012-2017 OFFSHORE DRILLING LEASE SALE PLAN ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6168) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and other applicable law.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6168

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "President Obama's Proposed 2012-2017 Offshore Drilling Lease Sale Plan Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) OCS PLANNING AREA.—Any reference to an "OCS Planning Area" means such Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area as specified by the Department of the Interior as of January 1, 2012.

(2) PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM (2012-2017).—The term "Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017)" means such plan as transmitted to the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate on June 28, 2012.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM (2012-2017).

The Secretary of the Interior shall implement the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), other applicable law, and the schedule established by such proposed program for conducting oil and gas lease sales in OCS Planning Areas in specified years as set forth in the following table: