

present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Votes 36, 37, 40, and 41 and "no" on rollcall Votes 38, 39, and 42.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3521, EXPEDITED LEGISLATIVE LINE-ITEM VETO AND RE-SCISSIONS ACT OF 2012

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-389) on the resolution (H. Res. 540) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3521) to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3630, TEMPORARY PAYROLL TAX CUT CONTINUATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 3630, the conference report to extend the payroll tax, unemployment insurance, and SGR payments for doctors.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Bishop of New York moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3630 be instructed to file a conference report not later than February 17, 2012.

NEW YORK CITY NATURAL GAS SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2606) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the construction and operation of natural gas pipeline facilities in the Gateway National Recreation Area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE GOVERNMENT IS THE VIL-LAIN AGAINST RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

(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, religious civil liberty is the bedrock of a free people, but today we face an unprecedented and unconstitutional act of aggression against our religious liberty sponsored by the U.S. Government. The President's health care edict forces Catholic organizations to choose between either violating their religious faith or not furnishing their employees with health care coverage.

No government has the legal or moral right to harass any religion and make them violate their religious convictions, especially ours. After all, the Constitution prevents this type of government oppression against religion. That's why Catholics, Protestants, and Jews are united in their effort to stand up against this government act of tyranny.

People came to this country to flee religious persecution. Now our own government is a villain to religion. But people of faith will not submit to a government war against religion. The holy line has been drawn by a coalition of all religions.

The head of the Catholic League, Bill Donahue, said it best: "This is going to be fought out with lawsuits, with court decisions, and, dare I say it, maybe even in the streets."

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LOUIS MOORE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Louis Moore for his long and distinguished career in the field of agriculture. After more than half a century of service, Lew will be retiring this year from Penn State, where most recently he served as a professor of agricultural economics.

Lew has been at the forefront of promoting Pennsylvania agriculture. Most notably, Lew was instrumental in the implementation and expansion of the PSU Agriculture Cooperative Extension, which helps citizens learn and connect with the various agriculture research and services that Penn State's Department of Agriculture provides Commonwealth farmers.

In 1955, Lew began work as a marketing agent for Cooperative Extension in northwestern Pennsylvania and later for the entire Commonwealth. In 1973, he joined Penn State as a professor of agricultural economics, where he also helped expand the Extension beyond Pennsylvania, working with foreign ministries of agriculture, farmers, universities, agribusinesses in countries across the world.

From his research and writings to his marketing and advocacy, Lew's contributions to the field of agriculture stand as a beacon to our State and our Nation.

Congratulations, Professor Moore, and we thank you for your service.

□ 1650

ACADEMY NOMINEES

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nine students from Arkansas' First District whom I have the privilege to nominate to a U.S. service academy. All of these students have demonstrated exceptional skills in the classroom. Not only are these young men brilliant students, but they have also given much to their communities and deserve recognition.

Jordan Reed from Cabot is active in scouting, Future Farmers of America and Quiz Bowl.

Weston White from Blytheville was elected lieutenant governor at Boys State and is active in Future Business Leaders of America.

Sully Bigger from Walnut Ridge is on the track team and participates in cross-country racing.

Clayton Carpenter from West Memphis lettered in baseball and football where he was an academic All-Conference player.

Robert Raper from Colt is a cadet in the Naval Junior ROTC where he holds the position of cadet company commander.

Andrew Morgan from Mountain Home is a two-time All-Conference Academic selection in football.

Sean Gavan from Cabot is a member of the Air Force Junior ROTC where he is a lieutenant colonel and a logistics commander.

Jack Baltz from Pocahontas is class president and is an active church member.

Daniel Kyle Payne from Violet Hill was selected for the American Christian Honor Society and serves on the student council.

These young men are proof that America's Greatest Generation is not just a story of our Nation's past. With each new generation of Americans, our national spirit is renewed. It is an honor to represent young men like these who embody the hope and purpose that define America.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting thing: there are programs around here that are completely out of control, and one is the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program that our Energy and Commerce Committee has been investigating for the past year. I'll tell you, I was thinking about an old country song when we were talking about this program today, which is: when you're in a hole, stop digging. That is certainly what applies to the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program, and that is what DOE needs to do.

We are seeking information to figure out exactly what has happened with taxpayer money. Now, everybody has heard about Solyndra. We all know how that has run off the rails. It went bankrupt; it wasted taxpayer money. Now we have Fisker, which is a company that received Federal loan guarantees. Right now, it's trying to renegotiate the terms of its initial loan. Guess what, now we find out that they're laying off employees—20 employees and 40 contractors.

Yet, again, another Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program, under the watch of Secretary Chu, is having difficulty, and Federal taxpayer money is being wasted.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALF LARSON

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alf Larson, a Minnesota World War II veteran who survived the infamous Bataan Death March. Alf passed away just last week, on January 30, at the age of 93.

Despite experiencing one of the worst aspects of war, Alf kept his faith in the Lord. During his 41 months in captivity as a prisoner, Alf would read the New Testament and the Book of Psalms, which he kept hidden.

After the war, Alf returned home, got married and then reenlisted in the Air Force in 1948. He left the Air Force 6 years later, and came back to Crystal, Minnesota, and raised a family—his three children. Like most heroes, Alf insisted that he was just a regular guy who was doing his duty, saying, I'm not a hero. I was just doing my job.

Mr. Speaker, last week Minnesota and our Nation lost one of our greatest heroes.

To Alf and all the other veterans who serve our country admirably, I want to say thank you for your incredible sacrifice.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS DAY AND THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN EGYPT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do want to acknowledge today the honoring, or the recognition, of National Black HIV/AIDS Day in acknowledging the work that many organizations have done to stop the devastation of HIV/AIDS in certain populations.

I will submit a statement into the record extensively acknowledging the work that has been accomplished; but I rise today to address a very important international issue that appears to be politicized by those running for President in the Republican primary.

First of all, we should all be concerned for Americans who are being

held by ally Egypt, and we should be concerned for the safe passage of those Americans as quickly as possible. Yet it is ridiculous to associate this incident with the taking of hostages in Iran some decades ago. But, of course, where there is foolery, there is opportunity.

I call upon Egyptian Americans to work with this administration to stop the holding of American citizens and to have them released immediately, and I will continue pressing for this as the weeks and days go on.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today begins the observation of National Marriage Week. It is a week that begins today, February 7, and will go through Valentine's Day, February 14, next week. Around the Nation, in fact, indeed around the world, there are those organizations and individuals who will be conducting events around National Marriage Week.

So I think it's all too fitting and proper that we take this hour on the floor of the House of Representatives to recognize the importance of marriage and the importance of homes. Tonight, we will be having a series of speeches that will reflect the importance of marriage and the home, and we will also recognize National Marriage Week.

Mr. Speaker, for the first of those speeches, I would like to recognize my friend, my colleague from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to speak on behalf of National Marriage Week. What a special time it is for us. I will also say what an inspiration you and your wife are to my wife and myself on the way that you live that marriage.

As we look and see how our society is today and as we see the prevalence of divorce and the breakdown of the family, I think it's very fitting that we talk for a moment about the importance of marriage and what it means in our lives. While it is not attainable for some family situations or some situations, it should always be our goal to keep that family unit together and to hold that bedrock of our society together.

My experience with marriage came from watching my mom and dad. My dad was a gunner in a B-17 in World War II. He came right after World War II to Columbus Air Force Base, which is in Congressman NUNNELEE's district, and met my mother at a dance when she came down from Lackey, Mississippi, outside Aberdeen. From that point forward, my dad decided he would move his allegiance from Oklahoma to the State of Mississippi.

I watched that marriage through my life. While no marriage is always easy or trouble free, they stuck together through thick and thin. I know, for us—my dad, my late father, being a petroleum engineer—we transferred quite often from kindergarten through the 12th grade. I was in 10 different schools in four different States—and we actually spent another summer in a fifth State—but Mississippi was always home. That bond that we had was very special because, as long as Mom and Dad and my brother and I were together, there was that protection, that safety that came from that; and how I watched them as they handled things that came up in their life inspired me.

Then in that last move that we had from the State of California back to Mississippi, I wound up in a high school in the 10th grade with a great friend of mine whose conduct and behavior indirectly led me to accept Jesus Christ as my savior at the end of my 10th grade year. He got me going to his church, and it was there that I spotted this beautiful young lady; but I had to wait until she broke up with this boyfriend, and then I moved in for the kill.

□ 1700

So I started dating my wife Sidney when she was 15 and I was 17. We dated 5½ years before we got married. We would have gotten married sooner but we were afraid to stay by ourselves, so we had to wait just a little while. But we've now been married 32 years. And I can tell you that I can't imagine not being married to Sidney.

As I look and we talk about National Marriage Week, and you look at the joys and the troubles that you go through in life—and for us, part of that was having a son with special needs. Our son Livingston has Fragile X Syndrome, and the difficulty of going through that with him is something I could have never done without that bond of marriage and that strength that came not only from the Lord but from my relationship with my wife. We've been blessed with our son Livingston, what a wonderful son, and our daughter Maggie. And having that family together and them having us together, I think, helps us as we build our society and we move forward.

I want to commend the gentleman from Mississippi for having this event today where we can come and speak on that. And I want you to know that I'm a very smart husband too because I'm giving this speech, wearing the tie that my wife gave me for Valentine's Day last year. So hopefully that will score points.

But I want to say, as we look at this, let's try to encourage people that are going through difficulties in their marriage to stay together, to keep that family together. And this is something that we can build on that will benefit our society.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Thank you, Mr. HARPER.

Now I would like to call on my friend Mr. LAMBORN, the gentleman from Colorado.