

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the Obama Administration has said that they have created 4.5 million new jobs in the last 4 years. But, my colleagues, CNN, along with another group of individuals, in fact, a host of other organizations, have really fact-checked this claim. They found that, despite a surge in temporary hiring for the 2010 census, there were actually 400,000 fewer—fewer—nonfarm payroll jobs today than when the President took office in January 2009.

But our job crisis is actually much, much worse because a large chunk of Americans have simply given up looking for work, and the jobs have not come back, and aren't the same ones that we lost.

Also, according to a study released by the National Employment Law Project, low-wage fields such as retail sales and food service are adding jobs nearly three times as fast as higher-paid occupations. But we need to add these higher-paying jobs.

The sad truth is that there are fewer people working now than when President Obama took office. And Madam Speaker, these are simply the facts.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF 9/11

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

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001. As we honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost that day, my thoughts remain with the loved ones of those who did not return to their families.

We also remember with pride the national unity that our country showed that horrible day and in the days that followed. In tragedy, we laid our differences aside and found common purpose. The legacy of 9/11 is our ability to say with certainty that no enemy or threat can change the values of our country and that which it stands for. I remain awed by the bravery and valor shown each day by our first responders and their brothers and sisters in uniform and by ordinary Americans.

In Tucson, we have a special connection to 9/11. Christina Taylor Green was a 9/11 baby. Today would have been her 11th birthday. She died in the tragic shooting on January 8, 2011, when she came to speak with her Congresswoman.

Just as on 9/11, we saw the spirit of the American people who came together in prayer, compassion, and unity on January 8, 2011, and in the days and weeks that followed. This is who we are as a people and who we always will be.

God bless all of us and this great country in which we are privileged to live.

FREE DR. AFRIDI

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the monstrous crime committed against America on 9/11, let us remember the plight of a heroic figure who helped us bring justice to those who murdered our fellow citizens on this day 11 years ago. I speak of Dr. Afridi, the man who risked his life to provide the intel our forces needed to locate and eliminate Osama Bin Laden, who now languishes in a jail in Pakistan.

There has been no resolution through this Congress nor public effort by the United States government to support Dr. Afridi in this, his hour of need. He has been tortured. His family has been attacked, and he is still in a desperate situation.

It behooves us as Americans to state in a unified and loud voice to his Pakistani captors, "Dr. Afridi should be freed." The continued incarceration of Dr. Afridi affirms to all Americans that Pakistan is not our friend but instead is a partner in terrorism of especially those terrorists who are murdering our fellow Americans. Our motto today must be "Free Dr. Afridi." Dr. Afridi was asked why he risked his life to help in the efforts to bring Bin Laden to justice. His answer was that he respects and loves us, the American people.

On this 9-11 commemoration we need to express our outrage that Pakistan has incarcerated and tortured this hero in the war against terrorists.

Certainly, not one cent should ever be given to Pakistan in American aid, now that they're exposed for their evil terrorist deeds.

Free Dr. Afridi should be our cry on this commemoration of 9-11.

THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACKS OF 9/11

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

Ms. CHU. It's been 11 years since blue skies over New York were blackened with soot, 11 years since the Pentagon sustained its only attack in history, and 11 years since the heroism of our countrymen over a quiet field in Pennsylvania. Today, we remember and honor all of the lives lost on this day 11 years ago.

In the aftermath of 9/11, we mourned those who lost their lives. What had seemed so far from possible just 1 day before was ever present from that moment on, and we will never forget.

From the ashes came stories of heartbreak, like twins born on September 15 who never knew their father. For them and so many others, it's not 11 years; it's every single day.

As we reflect on this anniversary of 9/11, let us remember those 3,000 people, the fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and brave first responders, and the values of this country for which they lost their lives, our tolerance, our democracy, and our freedom.

HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

(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. Madam Speaker, as we reflect as a Nation on that tragic day 11 years ago, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who lost loved ones. Out of the horror of the murders of thousands of innocent souls rose the selfless heroic spirit of America.

Thousands of first responders rushed into danger to help their fellow citizens, total strangers. Thousands of warriors have paid the ultimate price to defend us.

The sense of national unity that spontaneously arose was something none of us will ever forget. We, the living, must pledge not just in words but in deeds to never forget.

We in this body, as representatives of the American people, must work to see our colleagues first and foremost as Americans and as members of a political party a distant second. To truly honor the principles that this Nation stands for, we must see this other side of the aisle for what it truly is: a 3-foot space that's not so hard to reach across.

Let's honor the memories of those who gave so much on and after that fateful day by working together to truly create a more perfect Union.

□ 1220

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today we mark the 11th anniversary of 9/11. The tragedy that day still burns in our hearts, and once again, we renew our pledge to "never forget." The thousands who died and the thousands who rushed to rescue them truly deserve this moment of honor and remembrance; but today, there is also good news for those who became sick as a direct result of being exposed to the deadly toxins.

As part of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which Speaker PELOSI and my colleagues in the House and especially the New York delegation fought so hard to pass, the World Trade Center Health Program ruled yesterday that 50 kinds of cancer will now be included under the Zadroga Act. This important step means that those who have developed cancer, often years after their exposure, will have the opportunity to receive the needed care and compensation that they justly deserve.

On 9/11, thousands lost their lives, and thousands more lost their health because of their exposure to the deadly toxins. Many are sick and dying. I am proud that the Zadroga Act can now include their needs, and I hope that they

accept, once again, the thanks of a grateful Nation.

IN HONOR OF NEIL ARMSTRONG

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true American hero, the first human being to walk on the Moon—Neil Alden Armstrong.

I had the privilege of meeting Neil Armstrong and introducing him to my son, Eli, at an event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing. It has been said “we are all dreamers,” but Neil Armstrong inspired generations of Americans to dream big and to reach for the stars both figuratively and literally. He believed that the yearning to explore is part of what makes us human, and his singular achievement on July 20, 1969, still inspires.

A reluctant hero, Mr. Armstrong never used his Apollo 11 achievement for personal gain. On more than one occasion he questioned his own notoriety, protesting that his walk on the Moon was the result of the dedication of more than 400,000 people—from engineers who designed the Lunar Module, to ground controllers who monitored every aspect of the mission, to seamstresses who stitched by hand the suit that kept him alive on the Moon.

The late 1960s was a time of tumult in America, when our Nation was riven by Vietnam, the struggle for civil rights and the emerging women’s movement. In the midst of this, Armstrong’s climb down the Lunar Module’s ladder and his “giant leap for mankind” united not just Americans but people of all nations as they watched. That night, countless children looked up at the Moon and dared to dream.

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. HAHN. As we mark yet another anniversary of a September morning that dawned just as any other, we are first and foremost called to remember; but as we remember the fear and the grief of a day born of unfathomable hate, we remember, too, the impossible heroism of so many of our fellow Americans.

We remember the firefighters and the police officers who ran into the burning buildings to get others out. We remember the brave men and women of Flight 93, who, in learning of the attacks throughout the country, decided they would give their lives that others might live.

We remember those early days when we came out of our homes and joined together with our neighbors, with flags and candles, united as one American

family and when bitter political adversaries stood on the steps of this Capitol and put their arms around each other and sang “God Bless America.”

But we shouldn’t have to look back to feel that again. For the sake of those who died, for the sake of all those living and for all those yet to be born, let’s come together in this House. Let’s not be the do-nothing Congress. In honor of all Americans, let’s come together and work for the good of this country.

WEAKENED FROM WITHIN

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, our governments and our people have successfully prevented the tragedy of 11 years ago from being repeated, but we need to be mindful of the fact that it does little good to protect ourselves from without if we allow ourselves to become weakened from within.

When our families aren’t adequately employed, when our government isn’t adequately funded, when our economic potential is so unfulfilled, we do a disservice to the people we were elected to serve and to protect. When the majority in this House refuses to take action on a real jobs bill or on any of the other important issues that we should be legislating, we have no business being out of business for 49 out of the next 56 days before the upcoming election.

AN AMERICAN JOBS ACT FOR OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Today, our hearts turn to the heroes and loved ones who lost their lives on 9/11.

We will never forget the sacrifices of the first responders who are appropriately receiving special honor today. Yet firefighters and police officers are being laid off around the country. Why? Because the Republicans have sabotaged all efforts to avoid those layoffs and to create jobs. It will be 1 year ago tomorrow that the President sent to Congress the American Jobs Act, which would put people to work in areas critical to our communities and our economy—cops and firefighters and teachers—and would prevent those layoffs.

Independent experts estimate that his bill would create up to 2.6 million jobs; but has the Republican do-nothing Congress even allowed a vote on the American Jobs Act? No. Instead, they’ve found time to vote repeatedly to end the Medicare guarantee, and next week, Republicans will leave town and leave America without a jobs bill. Our first responders deserve better.

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 11th anniversary of the vicious attack on America. I appreciate the leadership scheduling a memorial service on the steps of the Capitol this morning, but more needs to be said as I fear time and events have dulled our memory. It was 11 years ago that our Nation changed forever as violent international extremists struck in the streets of Lower Manhattan and in the fields of Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon.

When that day was over and as we learned more about that tragedy and, yes, of the murderous attacks and the loss of nearly 3,000 Americans, including 700 New Jerseyans, who are from my home State, we witnessed neighbors and friends consoling one another, and we watched as Americans from all walks of life stood united—side by side—waving the Stars and Stripes and lighting candles to honor those lost or missing.

Today, this afternoon, I must remind our fellow Americans that we are still a Nation at war, largely because of those events. We remember those who lost their lives on that fateful day, but we also remember the sacrifices of those who serve in Iraq and Afghanistan to make sure that those responsible for those attacks pay that ultimate sacrifice.

IN MEMORY OF 9/11

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

Ms. HANABUSA. We all probably remember where we were when we learned about 9/11. We all probably had someone who came to mind immediately when we watched the horrific attacks on this Nation. For me, I thought of my friend General Eikenberry, who was at the Pentagon, on the side that the plane crashed into.

Though Hawaii is the State farthest away from the east coast, we were also touched. We knew of at least nine who had ties to our State who died on 9/11, and I want to honor them by reading their names: Georgine Corrigan, Richard Keane, Maile Hale, Ric Yee, Patti Colodner, David Laychak, Christine Snyder, Heather Ho. Heather is someone special to me. Her grandfather actually built the town that I grew up in.

We must also honor the brave men and women in uniform who gave their lives to this country in the wars following 9/11. Madam Speaker, we must never forget, and this country must never forget.

□ 1230

AMERICA NEEDS A FARM BILL

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1