

on the credit card; nation-building in Afghanistan on the credit card; the prescription drug program unpaid for on the credit card. Those policies played a very big role in getting us into the debt that we have.

Then the Ryan budget, which is supposedly the blueprint to reduce the debt, increases it by \$6 trillion in 10 years. Why? Because it increases those Bush tax cuts that were never paid for and would lower their Republican Presidential candidate's effective tax rate to 1 percent. Secondly, it vastly increases Pentagon spending beyond what even the Pentagon is asking for. Even though it then imposes savage cuts on domestic discretionary spending—making it really difficult to do scientific research, to help our kids go to college—the net result is a \$6 trillion increase in the debt.

On foreign policy, no responsibility is so vested in one person—the President of the United States—when guiding American foreign policy. It needs a firm hand, a calm voice, a person who thinks before he speaks, who aims before he fires. The recent tragedy of losing our ambassador and three other brave civil servants from the State Department is an indication that the Republican Presidential candidate lacks the temperament to do that job.

Why is it that in the first statement that he made after the loss of four American lives he descended into what essentially was tactical politics—arguing about the wording of a communique from the American Embassy in Egypt? Is it really the case that we in America cannot defend the right of free speech and promote religious tolerance?

We need a President—and have a President—who is thoughtful, who is firm, who can act with conviction and clarity, and does it in a sober way that is going to defend and promote American political and foreign policy interests.

#### NO MORE SOLYNDRAS ACT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, later today, we will begin debate on the rule for H.R. 6213, the No More Solyndras Act, which, along with my chairman, FRED UPTON of Michigan, I am proud to sponsor. This legislation is a culmination of an intensive and thorough 18-month investigation by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which I chair, and will fix the problems we have uncovered.

Specifically, the No More Solyndras Act will phase out the Department of Energy's grossly mismanaged loan guarantee program by prohibiting DOE from issuing any loan guarantees for applications submitted after December 31, 2011, and it will provide taxpayers strong, new protection for any pending participants in this program.

□ 1050

The bill provides greater loan guarantee transparency by requiring the DOE to report to Congress on the decisionmaking process, and, of course, the details of the loan. The bill also prohibits DOE from restructuring the terms of any guarantee and forbids the subordination of United States taxpayers' dollars at any time to private investors and holds the Department of Energy officials accountable for their actions by imposing penalties by failing to follow this law.

As many of you know, Solyndra was the first recipient of a DOE loan guarantee from title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and, frankly, was the poster child for President Obama's stimulus-driven green economy. It was also the first stimulus-backed recipient of a DOE loan guarantee to file for bankruptcy just 2 years after the loan closed, and 6 months after DOE restructured the loan and subordinated taxpayers' interest to two wealthy and well-connected investors, all but ensuring taxpayers won't see a dime.

Other DOE loan recipients have also struggled. Three of the first five companies which received loan guarantees issued by the DOE Loan Guarantee program—Solyndra, Beacon, and Abound Solar—have all filed for bankruptcy, losing hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money that will never, ever be recovered. The other two companies are struggling, also. Nevada Geothermal has substantial debts and no positive cash flow, and First Wind had to withdraw their planned IPO and also has substantial debt to boot.

On behalf of the American taxpayers, we had a duty to figure out what went wrong with Solyndra, the loan guarantee, and whether the loan guarantee program was properly managed. The Solyndra investigation has been thorough and methodical. The Energy and Commerce Committee requested and received and reviewed documents from every executive branch agency connected to Solyndra, and interviewed more than a dozen administration officials who played key roles in the loan guarantee program. The committee has also reviewed documents produced by the Solyndra investors, as well as DOE's independent consultant and their legal advisers.

As the committee's investigation revealed, the Obama administration put Solyndra's loan on the fast track for political reasons, despite repeated red flags and warnings in 2009 from the Office of Management and Budget and DOE officials about the company's financial condition in the market for Solyndra's product. Were they viable? It is clear that DOE failed to adequately monitor the loan guarantee, blindly writing checks to Solyndra as the company hemorrhaged cash throughout the year 2010.

When the warnings came to fruition and Solyndra was out of cash in the autumn of 2010, the Obama administration doubled down on its bad debt and

bad bet, restructuring Solyndra's loan in early 2011 and putting wealthy investors at the front of the line in front of taxpayers, which is a clear violation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Right up to the bankruptcy filing, the administration was willing to take extraordinary measures to keep Solyndra afloat for political reasons and ensure that the first loan guarantee was not going to be a failure.

The investigation also showed that the DOE failed to consult with the Treasury Department as simply required by the Energy Policy Act prior to issuing a conditional commitment to Solyndra and that Treasury didn't even play a role in simply reviewing the restructuring. The No More Solyndras Act will correct this by ensuring that Treasury is actively involved in the loan process to protect our taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the Solyndra investigation and the No More Solyndras Act are a great example of how congressional oversight should work. We asked the tough questions, collected all the facts, identified the problem, and now we're offering good legislation.

I encourage all my colleagues to support H.R. 6213, the No More Solyndras Act, to ensure that the mistakes and misguided decisions that occurred never, ever happen again.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF BILL KLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a beloved member of our south Florida veterans community, William "Bill" Kling, who passed away on August 6 at the age of 84.

Bill was a devoted husband and father; and he is survived by his two children, Marsha Mittentag and Steven Kling. My thoughts and prayers go out to them, to Bill's extended family, and to all of his friends and colleagues who share in mourning this loss.

Bill was a member of our Greatest Generation of Americans who served our Nation as a radar technician for the Navy during World War II. But Bill's service to our Nation was far from over when he returned from war. In fact, it was just beginning.

Bill Kling became a national leader and one of the strongest advocates for our Nation's veterans. He was dedicated to helping generations of veterans as they returned to civilian life. He worked tirelessly to make sure our veterans were getting the benefits they deserved—from education under the GI Bill to quality health care through our VA system.

I'm sure my Florida colleagues will agree that Bill was a force to be reckoned with, ever brightening our congressional doorways, pushing the urgency of the issue at hand. I know we are grateful for the remarkable legacy

he leaves behind, and he will be sorely missed.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Bill for the last 23 years and have witnessed firsthand the many ways he helped thousands of veterans in Florida. I'm also proud to have called Bill my friend. For the past 7 years, Bill served as the chairman of my Military Academy Nominations Board where he helped the next generation of military leaders realize the dream of serving the country they love.

For 8 years, he served on the Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs, and for the past 27 years he was the president of the Broward County Veterans Council. He also led the Jewish War Veterans and was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

The list of superlatives for Bill shows him as the great American that he was. Bill was inducted into the Broward Senior Hall of Fame, received the Humanitarian of the Year award from the Dolphin Democrats, and changed the shape of veterans services in south Florida. In particular, he helped bring the Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Veterans' Nursing Home to Pembroke Pines in 2001 and worked with other veterans to create the South Florida National Cemetery in Palm Beach in 2007.

One of Bill's greatest accomplishments and lasting legacies was ensuring that veterans would have easy access to quality medical care. Bill noticed that too often veterans in Broward County had to travel too far to go to a VA facility to get the care that they needed. With that in mind, he helped open the Oakland Park VA Outpatient Clinic more than two decades ago.

When the building the clinic occupied began deteriorating, Bill worked to open a brand-new facility. Even though this effort took years, Bill kept a smile on his face and kept working to overcome every obstacle, because that's just how Bill operated.

So in 2008, a new 98,000-square-foot clinic opened in Sunrise, and fittingly on Bill's birthday. I think it's fair to say that without Bill Kling, this wonderful center that serves thousands of our veterans each year might not ever exist.

With that in mind, I'm honored to announce that next week my good friend, Congressman TED DEUTCH, also of Florida, and I will file legislation, along with many other members of the Florida delegation, that will rename the Broward Outpatient Clinic as the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic.

This is such a fitting way to memorialize and thank Bill Kling. With passage of this bill, every veteran who walks through the doors of the Broward VA Clinic will know the name of the man who did so much for so many.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the passage of this legislation so we may

pay fitting tribute to a great American, William "Bill" Kling.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6336. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol.

#### 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 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Kris Holzmeyer, Second Baptist Church, Clinton, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You this day with praise upon our lips. You are worthy of all glory and honor. You are faithful, and You hear us when we call.

We come to You this day to say thank you. You have given to us a free and prosperous Nation in which to live. We know that You and You alone are the provider of that freedom and prosperity.

We also come before You acknowledging our great sins as a Nation. We ask Your forgiveness as we seek Your will for the future of our country.

As our leaders gather in this room to discuss the business of this day, bless them with wisdom and knowledge to make the best possible decisions for our citizens. And may their actions, their words, and their motives bring You honor and glory.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHILLING) come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHILLING 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 REVEREND KRIS HOLZMEYER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. It is my pleasure to welcome Kris Holzmeyer in joining me here on the House floor to give the opening prayer.

Pastor Holzmeyer recently served as an associate pastor at the Second Baptist Church in Clinton, Tennessee, a town in my district. With a desire to serve the Lord in both word and deed, Kris has authored two devotionals: "The First Responder Field Manual" and "Lessons from the Locker Room." A passionate advocate for international adoption, Kris advocated for adoption awareness and established the Kyle Reagan Foundation, which raises money to help adopt children from abroad.

In Tennessee, Kris has been active as well in coordinating the 2012 Anderson County National Day of Prayer, in running the Summer Skills Basketball Camp at Second Baptist Church, and in ministering to local officials.

In addition to his strong ties to Tennessee, Kris also has a Washington connection. He served as assistant communications director for the D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship on Capitol Hill from 2004 to 2006. While on Capitol Hill, he performed outreach to Members and staff.

A native of Indiana, Kris received his BA from the University of Southern Indiana and his master's degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Along with his wife, Missy, and his children, Kyle and Sammi, I would like to thank Kris, and I am pleased that he could join us in prayer.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### WE NEED A FARM BILL NOW

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. During the month of August, I traveled throughout my Arkansas district, listening to the challenges family farmers are facing with record drought conditions. Even though the House did pass an important drought relief package, we need to