

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN THIS CONGRESS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the great Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi once said that “Winners never quit, and quitters never win.”

I was reminded of that quote when the House Republican leadership announced last Friday that they are canceling all session days for the month of October, despite the fact that we have an unfinished farm bill, postal reform bill, Violence Against Women Act, the Cybersecurity Act, we have a fiscal cliff looming for middle class families on January 1, and a sequestration on January 2.

It is true there are passionate differences between the two sides about how we resolve these problems, but you don't resolve it by going home for 7 weeks. As Coach Lombardi said: “Winners never quit, and quitters never win.”

The American people deserve better than a 7-week recess with these challenges facing the American people. It's time for this leadership of this House to cancel their order and get back to work and solve the problems of our Nation.

## GOODLETTSVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. BLACK. From a small town in middle Tennessee, 13 young men recently became the 2012 Little League World Series U.S. Champions. These All-Stars from Goodlettsville, Tennessee, played with sportsmanship and talent beyond their years. In the U.S. championship game, Goodlettsville racked up 21 runs to become the first Tennessee team in history to clinch a U.S. title. This achievement is a testimony to their dedication and perseverance—qualities that will serve them well throughout their life.

They have made their hometown, their parents, their coaches, and their Congressman very proud. I am confident that this achievement is just the beginning of more great things to come from each of them.

Congratulations, boys.

## CONSTITUTION WEEK/VOTER SUPPRESSION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that my team came in second to Tennessee. Tennessee was the only team that beat them—but beat them twice. They did a stand-up job. So did our kids in Petaluma.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, I took part in a moving naturalization ceremony as 50 new people from 20 different countries took the oath that made them Americans—225 years to the day that the Founders signed the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, there's no constitutional right more precious than the right of self-governance. These new Americans were excited for the very opportunity to vote in this upcoming election. That's why we should do everything possible to ensure that every eligible American can do just that. Unfortunately, several States are throwing up barriers to voter participation, restricting ballot access to silence people's voices.

Mr. Speaker, guess who is disenfranchised by strict photo ID requirements and the like? It's not Republicans. It's communities of color and low-income families.

□ 1210

## WSU SALUTES

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, Weber State University is honoring people, and I wish to mention four individuals who are being honored by the university.

State Representative Gage Froerer and State Senator Scott Jenkins will be receiving the Shurtliff Award for contributions to education. Both of them have done much for their particular communities, as well as Weber State and their outreach campus in Davis County.

Receiving the prestigious President's Award will be Nolan Karras, a cum laude graduate from Weber State who also served as speaker of the house in Utah and was instrumental in Weber State attaining the status of university level.

In addition to that, he has benefited the community as well as the education system in Utah ever since by being on the board of regents in Utah.

The second nominee will also be one who has been called one of the brightest minds in Utah politics, Spencer Stokes, a 1995 graduate from Weber State who has done much in his community as the commissioner as well as an advocate, and who's also, I have to admit, gone over to the dark side and is a staffer for the Senate right now as the chief of staff for a Utah Senator, but we will forgive him for that.

These four individuals have done much for the community, done much for their common county, Weber County, and the State of Utah, and are really deserving, very deserving of these honors they are being given by Weber State University today, and I wish to honor them as well.

## DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, at the end of what Republicans consider to be a grueling work week consisting of 2½ whole days, Republicans are heading home once again to take the next 2 months off.

The Republican-led “Do-Nothing Congress” was in session for a grand total of 8 days this month, and it took 5 weeks off before that.

During their time here in Washington, Republicans made sure to vote to end Medicare as we know it, increase costs for seniors, and give tax breaks to millionaires and companies that ship jobs overseas.

But on addressing the ongoing jobs crisis in this country, they did nothing. On providing tax cuts for the middle class and small business, they did nothing. On working towards a bipartisan solution to the looming fiscal cliff, they left the American people hanging by continuing to do nothing.

The hardworking men and women who call this country home deserve so much better. They certainly deserve better than nothing.

## STEM JOBS ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6429, the STEM Jobs Act of 2012. This pro-growth, pro-jobs legislation will create a smarter and more focused immigration system for our country by prioritizing new immigrant visas for the best and brightest foreign students of American universities in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

These fields are the fastest-growing segments of our economy, and retention of these highly skilled American-trained innovators is critical to future economic growth in our country.

Rather than giving the boot to students who are American-educated at our best universities, like the University of Kansas, in these advanced fields of study, we should work together to ensure these bright minds can stay here and continue helping to boost our goal of competitiveness rather than returning to their home nation to work against us.

Mr. Speaker, by working together in bipartisan fashion to prioritize these students in our national immigration policy, we can boost job creation and improve our economy by allowing the U.S. to retain some of the best and brightest minds.

## PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week, The Washington Post reported that unless America doubles its spending on port infrastructure, we are on track for export losses of \$270 billion by 2020 because our ports do not have sufficient capacity. That translates into a \$697 billion drop in the American economy and a loss of 738,000 jobs.

But ports are not the only area where our anemic infrastructure investment has become a drag on the American economy. We will lose hundreds of billions of dollars of growth over the next 5 years because of our inability to move goods and people efficiently.

Congress just passed a bill to spend \$52 billion on roads and bridges in this country, all we can afford according to some Members of Congress. But somehow we found money to spend \$150 billion rebuilding the roads and bridges of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I have introduced a bill, a 5-year, \$1.2 trillion investment in roads and bridges, ports, and transit airports because it's time to do nation-building right here at home.

#### NEW MEXICO

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, New Mexico is celebrating its centennial this year, 100 years as a State. It's not one of the oldest States, but it's one of the richest in diversity, history, and cooperation, home to 19 individual pueblos, two Apache Indian tribes, numerous Navajo chapters.

The Spanish came north out of Mexico in the 16th century looking for the seven cities of gold. We're still looking for those today. We did find black gold under the east side of the State and in the northwest corner.

New Mexico is home to an agriculture industry that is second to none. It shows the earliest existence of humans there. Clovis Man is named for a town in the east side of New Mexico where they were discovered.

Santa Fe is the oldest capital in America, formed in 1610.

But that's not where the richness of New Mexico is. It is in our traditions, traditions of hard work, traditions of faith, family, freedom, and service to others. Those are the values I learned when my parents came to New Mexico. They went broke in Texas, came to New Mexico, and built a family there. That's the richness of New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I commend New Mexico on its 100 years.

#### CAMP ASHRAF AND CAMP LIBERTY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, last month I joined 78 bipartisan Members of Congress in asking Secretary of State Clinton to ensure that Iraq meets its obli-

gations and protects the 3,400 Iranian dissidents living in Camp Ashraf and Camp Liberty.

Residents of Camp Liberty are members of the MEK.

In recent days, another 680 Ashraf residents have been relocated to Camp Liberty under a resettlement plan backed by the United States. It is important that we support these residents as they seek to liquidate tens of millions of dollars of their assets left behind at Camp Ashraf.

A major problem of the relocation plan is that as long as the MEK remains on the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations, its members at Liberty will not be able to find countries which accept them.

The Department of State is currently under court order to make its decision on the MEK case by October 1, 2012. It is my hope that the Department of State removes the MEK from the foreign terrorist organization list immediately, as it is the legal, moral, and humane thing to do.

#### SWIPE FEES

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, Congress took action finally to reform out-of-control debit card swipe fees charged to our small businesses and customers every time they swipe a debit card. For years, the card companies and big banks have essentially been ripping folks off, overcharging them on swipe fees. With no one watching just because they could, they were charging the highest fees in the world, running up billions of dollars in profits but all at the expense of small businesses and consumers. That's just too much. There is no justification for this.

A year ago, Congress finally took action on the debit cards. That's good for our economy and fair to our small merchants. But we need to do more.

Abuses continue in credit card swipe fees. The credit card companies and the big banks should step back and have a business model where they charge a fair price for an important service but not rip off their customers.

□ 1220

#### GUN CONTROL

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the tragic passing of Neil Godleski, nephew of my friend and constituent, Suzanne Murphy of Southampton, New York.

Neil was a rising senior at Catholic University. He was fatally shot on August 22, 2010, while riding his bicycle home from a restaurant where he worked as a waiter. He was 31 years old and had returned to college with plans

to pursue a career in science. His assailant was a 16-year-old boy who shot him six times with a .38 caliber handgun and then robbed him.

Suzanne's family has been wrenched with grief over the sudden end of this young man's life. While no vigil or memorial could ever begin to take away the pain of this loss, Suzanne has found a way to channel her grief and focus her energy. She has become an advocate for gun control.

When roughly 100,000 Americans are killed or wounded each year, reasonable people can agree that we can achieve evenhanded policies that protect Americans from senseless gun violence that do not infringe on any American's right to possess a firearm.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Suzanne's efforts to reach out and bring awareness to the problem of gun safety. We must not let her nephew become just another chilling statistic in the battle to make our community safer, leaving another family struggling to get past the pain and the loss.

#### DO-NOTHING HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, President Harry Truman of Missouri famously labeled the Republican Congress of 1948 the "Do-Nothing Congress." But to call this Congress the do-nothing Congress would be an insult to the 1948 Congress that was 10 times more productive than this Congress.

With the House recessing on the 21st, this is the earliest Congress has left to campaign in an election year in 52 years. The GOP-led 112th Congress has achieved the lowest approval rating ever—nearly 9 out of 10 Americans say they disapprove of this Congress.

Maybe we should feel lucky that Congress hasn't been here, because when they have been here, they voted to end Medicare as we know it and give tax breaks to millionaires over the middle class. They have left town without passing middle class tax cuts, the farm bill, the Violence Against Women Act, and responsible debt reduction. And they have voted for corporations that ship jobs overseas instead of passing the American Jobs Act.

Let's stop calling this the do-nothing Congress. This is worse than the "Do-Nothing Congress."

#### DYSFUNCTIONAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the number 47, not as in the percentage of Americans, the soldiers and students and elderly and working poor, many of whom are paying more in total taxes than Mr. Romney is paying on his tens of millions of dollars in annual income but who, nevertheless,