

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,

he seems to consider to be slackers. No, I'm talking about 47 as in the number of days left before the election, in the context of the fact that we have 1 more day that we will be in session. The most basic and fundamental responsibilities our constituents sent us to Washington to address are being left totally unresolved. Never have I seen a House of Representatives so unproductive and so dysfunctional, and I served during the so-called "Gingrich Revolution."

The fact is that today the House Republican leadership and too many of its rank-and-file Members seem to think that economic stimulus, which is vitally needed in this economy, is a dirty word, and that the Federal Government is some kind of alien enterprise. Their approach is to do nothing, and that's what we've done for the last 2 years—nothing.

RECOGNIZING LYNNE YOSHIKO NAKASONE

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone of Honolulu, Hawaii.

The National Endowment for the Arts has named Sensei Nakasone a 2012 National Heritage Fellow for her contributions to the folk and traditional arts. This prestigious lifetime achievement award honors Sensei Nakasone's lifetime commitment to Okinawan classical dance—which is also referred to as Ryukyu dance—and embodies her accomplishments by identifying her as one of our country's living treasures.

It was at the young age of 6 that Sensei Nakasone began to master this technique of dance. Sensei Nakasone is originally from Naha, Okinawa, but has resided in Hawaii since her marriage to her loving husband, Clarence, in 1955. In 1956, Sensei Nakasone founded the Hoge Ryu Hana Nizi no Kai Nakasone Dance Academy in Honolulu, and for over five decades has been teaching, performing, and choreographing creative dances. Her performing skills are legendary, but it is her aloha spirit that endures the test of time and her passion, knowledge, and kindness that have touched countless individuals over the years.

There is no doubt in my mind that Sensei Nakasone is deserving of this award, for she has dedicated her life towards preserving the Okinawan culture while positively impacting others and contributing to the diversity and uniqueness of our culture in the United States of America.

FISCAL CLIFF

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week the San Diego Chamber of Commerce sent its largest ever delega-

tion of community and business leaders to Washington. They came because they know Washington can help them spur the economy, innovate, and employ local workers if we can all get on the same page.

What grand request did they have for this Congress to help make progress happen? Well, just that we do our job: that we roll up our sleeves, work together across party lines, and find a sensible, not an arbitrary, balance of cuts and spending.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this country is facing some hard choices, and, yes, there is division in this Chamber, but we do not need to add to the serious challenges facing American businesses and families by sitting on the sidelines watching a completely manmade disaster explode upon our economy.

Let's work together to come to decisions now. The American economy should not be facing a fiscal cliff; it should be receiving a fiscal roadmap. By actually doing our jobs, we can make the jobs of our hardworking constituents a little easier.

Our job is not done, Mr. Speaker. Cancel the congressional recess.

CELEBRATING NEW MEXICO'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in celebrating New Mexico's centennial. We are proud to introduce a resolution honoring the 100 years since New Mexico became a State on January 6, 1912.

Home to some of the earliest human settlements in North America, New Mexicans have spent this year celebrating our State's remarkable history, our tremendous cultural diversity, and our meaningful contributions to the Nation and the world. From the fertile Rio Grande Valley, to the vast Chihuahuan Desert, to the peaks of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, New Mexico's natural beauty is unsurpassed. From Pope to Geronimo, from Conrad Hilton to Jeff Bezos, from Nancy Lopez to Brian Urlacher, from Georgia O'Keefe to Rudolfo Anaya, from Dennis Chavez to Dolores Huerta, and from countless other New Mexicans, our impact on America's past, present, and future cannot be overstated.

As we continue to celebrate our centennial year, I join with all New Mexicans in honoring our unique heritage and our bright future.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from across the aisle like to talk a lot about personal responsibility, but their decision to adjourn Congress for nearly 2 months shows how little they actually understand the concept.

Congress is facing serious deadlines right now, and we should be dealing with the problems the American people sent us here to solve. Instead, Republican leadership has decided that we should go home without doing any of it and taking with us one of the worst report cards in American history.

For more than a year now, Republicans have ignored a plan to create 2.6 million new jobs and protect another 1.6 million existing jobs. They won't even bring it to the floor for a vote. Right now we could bring to the floor and send to the President's desk a bill that would protect tax cuts for 98 percent of the American people and 97 percent of small businesses, but instead we're going home.

Republicans seem content to take our country off the fiscal cliff, which will hobble our economy, raise taxes on millions of working families, and once again shift the responsibility of our deficit to those who can least afford it.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans can't preach personal responsibility if they're not willing to accept it themselves.

□ 1230

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, from September 15 to October 15, we honor the heritage and many contributions of the Latino community nationwide.

The story of Hispanic Americans is truly an American story. In America, if you work hard, play by the rules and dream big, there is no limit to what you can achieve. From the hard work of immigrants and their children, to the arts and education, to nearly 1 million Latino veterans who have proudly served in uniform, Hispanics have played a vital role in shaping our Nation.

While we have made great contributions, there is still more work to be done to address issues that affect the communities, such as health care disparities and improving high school graduation rates.

We all do not share the same roots, but we all share the same goals, in giving the next generation of Americans the opportunities to achieve the American Dream. That American Dream is part and parcel of what we celebrate and honor during the Hispanic Heritage Month.

REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVE MCNERNEY AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5864

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove Representative MCNERNEY of California as a cosponsor of H.R. 5864, the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act.