

this Act. In addition, the report must include a recommendation as to whether such amendments should be amended to include a sunset clause.

Section 12. Report to Congress. Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Government Accountability Office, in consultation with the Federal Housing Administration, must submit to Congress a report containing: (1) a comprehensive review of the effects of the Act's amendments on bankruptcy courts; (2) a survey of whether the types of homeowners eligible for the program should be limited; and (3) a recommendation on whether such amendments should remain in effect.

GUAM WORLD WAR II LOYALTY RECOGNITION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, a bill that would implement the findings of the Guam War Claims Review Commission. Since being elected to the House of Representatives ten years ago, I have introduced a version of this legislation in each Congress. Over the last several Congresses, H.R. 44 passed the House on five separate occasions.

This bill would implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, which was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and established by an Act of the 107th Congress (Public Law 107-333). The Review Commission, in a unanimous report to Congress in June 2004, found that there were significant disparities in the treatment of war claims for the people of Guam as compared with war claims for other Americans. The Review Commission also found that the occupation of Guam was especially brutal due to the unfailing loyalty of the people of Guam to the United States of America. The people of Guam were subjected to forced labor, forced marches, internment, beatings, rapes and executions, including public beatings. The Review Commission recommended that Congress remedy this injustice through the enactment of legislation to authorize payment of claims in amounts specified. Specifically, the bill would authorize discretionary spending to pay claims consistent with the recommendations of the commission.

It is important to note that the Review Commission found that the United States Government seized Japanese assets during the war and that the record shows that settlement of claims was meant to be paid from these forfeitures. Furthermore, the United States signed a Treaty of Peace with Japan on September 8, 1951, which precludes Americans from making claims against Japan for war reparations. The treaty closed any legal mechanism for seeking redress from the Government of Japan, and the United States Government has settled claims for U.S. citizens and other nationals through various claims programs authorized by Congress.

The text that I introduce in this Congress addresses concerns that have been raised about the legislation. First, the text reflects a compromise that was reached with the Senate when they considered the legislation as a pro-

vision of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. That compromise removes payment of claims to heirs of survivors who suffered personal injury during the enemy occupation. The bill continues to provide payment of claims to survivors of the occupation as well as to heirs of citizens of Guam who died during the occupation. The compromise continues to uphold the intent of recognizing the people of Guam for their loyalty to the United States during World War II.

Further, the bill that I introduce today contains an offset for the estimated cost of the bill. I understood the concerns express by some of my colleagues in a July 14, 2011 hearing on this legislation. My colleagues expressed concern that there was no offset to pay for the cost of the bill. Guam war claims has a very simple offset that will pay for the cost of the legislation over time. The bill would be paid by section 30 funding remitted to Guam through the U.S. Department of Interior at any level above section 30 funds that were remitted to Guam in fiscal year 2012. With the impending relocation of Marines from Okinawa to Guam as well as additional Navy and Air Force personnel relocating to Guam it is expected that Guam will receive additional section 30 funds. Claims would then be paid out over time based off the additional amounts that were made available in any given year. Not only does this offset address payment of claims but it only impacts my jurisdiction and is a credible source of funding that will ensure that claims will be paid.

Congressional passage of this bill has a direct impact on the future success of the military buildup. The need for Guam War Claims was brought about because of mishandling of war claims immediately following World War II by the Department of the Navy. The longstanding inequity with how Guam was treated for war reparations lingers today. If we do not bring this matter to a close I believe that support for the military build-up will erode and impact the readiness of our forces and the bilateral relationship with Japan.

Mr. Speaker, resolving this issue is a matter of justice. This carefully crafted compromise legislation addresses the concerns of the Senate and fiscal conservatives in the House of Representatives. This bill represents a unique opportunity to right a wrong because many of the survivors of the occupation are nearing the end of their lives. It is important that the Congress act on the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission to finally resolve this longstanding injustice for the people of Guam.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOE'S STONE CRAB

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe's Stone Crab on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Established in 1913 by Hungarian-born Joseph "Joe" Weiss, Joe's Stone Crab has since gone from being a small lunch counter in a quiet, backwater town to a beloved institution in the Miami Beach community.

The story of Joe's Stone Crab is truly an American one. Joe and his wife Jennie were

both Hungarian immigrants living in New York when their son Jesse was born in 1907. At the time, Joe was a waiter and Jennie cooked in small restaurants. Suffering from asthma, Joe's doctors told him that a change of climate was the only remedy.

According to Jesse, his father borrowed fifty dollars on his life insurance policy and left his family in New York to try his luck in Florida. After one night in Miami, Joe took the ferry boat to Miami Beach, where he was able to breathe. He stayed there and started running a lunch stand at Smith's bathing casino in 1913, serving top-notch fish sandwiches and fries. That was the beginning of the restaurant that would later grow to become Joe's.

Joe sent for his wife and son to join him in Florida. In 1918, Joe and Jennie bought a bungalow near the casino on Biscayne Street. They moved into the back, set up seven or eight tables on the front porch, and called it Joe's Restaurant. Jennie waited on tables, Joe cooked, and everything grew from there. For about eight years, Joe's was the only restaurant on the beach, serving snapper, pompano, mackerel, and meat dishes all day long.

Joe's Restaurant was a hit, but stone crabs were still yet to come. At the time, no one knew that the local crustacean was even edible. In 1921, James Allison, Fisher's partner in the Speedway, built an aquarium at the foot of the bay and Fifth Street. He invited a Harvard ichthyologist down to do research, who gave Joe the idea to serve stone crab. After much thought, Joe threw the stone crabs into boiling water and the rest was history. They served them cracked with hash brown potatoes, coleslaw, and mayonnaise, and they became an instant success.

Although his parents started Joe's, Jesse Weiss became its face and brought in the VIPs, from movie stars to journalists to politicians, athletes, and gangsters. He knew everyone, and everyone who came into Joe's wanted to see him. At the age of 75, Miami anchorwoman Ann Bishop spent many hours recording his memories, particularly the love and support of his family in keeping Joe's Stone Crab going through the years.

Anyone who is anyone, from anywhere in the world, would stop in at Joe's if they were in Miami Beach. Notable guests include Al Capone, Will Rogers, Amelia Earhart, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Gloria Swanson and Joseph Kennedy, J. Edgar Hoover, Walter Winchell, and Damon Runyon.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's Stone Crab is a monument to the people who built it and those who continue its legacy: Joe and Jennie Weiss, their son Jesse, granddaughter Jo Ann, and the entire Joe's family. I have frequented Joe's on numerous occasions and always enjoyed a marvelous meal. Please join me in congratulating the entire Joe's Stone Crab family on this momentous occasion. I wish them another 100 years of success and, of course, great food and company.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
REHAB AND AHMED AMER FOSTER
CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 2013

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Rehab and Ahmed Amer Foster Care Improvement Act of 2013, which is substantively identical to a bill I introduced in the 112th Congress. It will enhance the existing federal policy of encouraging state foster care programs to place children in the care of willing and able relatives.

This legislation accomplishes that goal by requiring States that receive federal funding for foster care programs to add certain procedural enhancements to their foster care programs so as to ensure a more fair placement decision-making process.

Specifically, my bill requires that, within 90 days after a State makes a foster care placement decision, the State must provide notice of such decision to the following affected parties: the child's parents; relatives who have informed the State of their interest in caring for the child; the guardian; the guardian ad litem of the child; the attorney for the child; the attorney for each parent of the child; the prosecutor involved; and the child if he or she is able to express an opinion regarding placement.

Additionally, States must establish procedures that: allow any of the parties who receive notice of the State's placement decision to request, within five days after receipt of the notice, documentation of the reasons for the State's decision; allow the child's attorney to petition the court involved to review the decision; and require the court to commence such review within seven days after receipt of the petition and conduct such review on the record.

The harrowing story of Rehab and Ahmed Amer of Dearborn, Michigan prompted me to craft this bill.

In 1985, the Amers lost two of their children to Michigan's foster care system after Rehab had been subject to criminal charges related to the death of her two-year-old son Samier, who died because of head injuries resulting from a fall in a bathtub.

Although Rehab had been acquitted in August 1986 of any criminal wrongdoing in connection with Samier's death, the State refused to return the Amers' other two children to them and, in fact, removed a third child from the Amers' custody four months after Rehab's acquittal.

As a temporary alternative, Rehab's brother petitioned to be a foster parent to the Amers' three children, but was denied his petition even though he had previously served as a foster parent for other children.

It is important to note that the Amers are Muslim. Nevertheless, the State, rather than placing the Amers' children with a foster family of the same faith and cultural background, sent them to live with an evangelical Christian family, which re-named the Amers' children—Mohamed Ali, Sueheir, and Zinabe—with Christian names and raised them as Christians.

Today, only the oldest of the Amers' three living children, Mohamed Ali, now known as Adam, communicates with them.

In reaction to the Amers' story, Michigan enacted what became known as the Amer Law. That law requires foster care placement agencies in Michigan to consider and give special preference for relatives when making a foster care placement decision.

The Amer Law is consistent with federal foster care policy, which also seeks to give preference to a child's relatives and, for Native American children, a family of the same cultural background as the child, when making placement decisions.

The Amer Law, however, has several provisions that go beyond current federal law to ensure due process. In sum, this law gives parents, relatives, guardians, and the child in certain cases additional procedural rights, including the right to written notice and an explanation of a placement decision. In addition, it authorizes judicial review of a placement decision by a foster care agency.

My legislation simply adds these enhanced due process features of the Amer Law to existing federal foster care law.

The best interests of the child should always be the overriding consideration when making foster care placement decisions. That standard should also require foster care agencies to give special preference to placing a child with relatives, where the child can be raised in the same culture or religion as his or her own, all other things being equal.

I thank Rehab and Ahmed Amer for bringing this issue to light and for their tireless efforts to make the foster care placement process fairer for everyone, first in Michigan, and, now, nationally.

RECOGNIZING SPRINGFIELD
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
SOCCER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Springfield Catholic High School Boys Soccer Team and its back-to-back victories in the 2011 and 2012 Class 1 State Championships.

Springfield Catholic has the honor of being the first boys' soccer state champion team from Southwest Missouri. The Springfield Catholic Fightin' Irish finished their season with 27 wins and 4 losses after their 1-0 victory over Southern Boone in the championship. The Irish soccer program is just 6 seasons old but holds 5 straight "Final Four" appearances and two back-to-back state championships.

I congratulate Head Coach Tom Guinn, Assistant Coach Matthew Walton and all of the players on their victory and applaud the hard work that has brought them so much success. I am proud to recognize the athletic achievements of the residents of the Seventh District of Missouri.

INTRODUCTION OF A 3-PART BALANCED
BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce legislation that will amend the United States Constitution to force Congress to rein in spending by balancing the federal budget.

We have a spending addiction in Washington, D.C., and it has proven to be an addiction that Congress cannot control on its own and which is bringing dire consequences. We have gone in a few short years from a deficit of billions of dollars to a deficit of trillions of dollars. We are printing money at an unprecedented pace, which presents serious risks of massive inflation. Our national debt recently surpassed an astonishing \$16 trillion and continues to rapidly increase, along with the waste associated with paying the interest on that debt.

Our first Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, warned of the consequences of out-of-control debt when he wrote: "To preserve [the] independence [of the people,] we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude." Unfortunately, it increasingly appears that Congress has chosen the latter path.

Our current Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, issued a similar warning when she recently declared: "I think that our rising debt levels [sic] poses a national security threat, and it poses a national security threat in two ways. It undermines our capacity to act in our own interest, and it does constrain us where constraint may be undesirable. And it also sends a message of weakness internationally." Despite these warnings, Congress has refused to address this crisis.

Congress' spending addiction is not a partisan one. It reaches across the aisle and afflicts both parties, which is why neither party has been able to master it. We need outside help. We need pressure from outside Congress to force Congress to rein in this out-of-control behavior. We need a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution.

That is why I am introducing this legislation—a commonsense, 3-part balanced budget Constitutional amendment which garnered the support of 133 bipartisan cosponsors last Congress. This bill would (1) amend the Constitution to require that total spending for any fiscal year not exceed total receipts; (2) require that bills to raise revenues pass each House of Congress by a 3/5 majority; and (3) establish an annual spending cap such that total federal spending could not exceed 1/5 of the economic output of the United States.

The bill would also require a 3/5 majority vote for any increases in the debt limit.

The legislation provides an exception in times of war and during military conflicts that pose imminent and serious military threats to national security.

Our federal government must be lean, efficient and responsible with the dollars that our nation's citizens worked so hard to earn. We must work to both eliminate every cent of waste and squeeze every cent of value out of each dollar our citizens entrust to us. Families