

niece Katrina and nephew Bryce, as long as you all continue to keep Patrick's spirit alive, the pain of his loss eases a little more. America is grateful for his selfless service and a better place for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 85 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with the successful reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, it is important that we continue to bring awareness to the serious issue of domestic violence. It is a problem that affects one in every four women, and it is one that cannot be resolved by legislation alone.

That is why I commend the efforts of Mayor Mike Rawlings, City of Dallas, for his own efforts at the local level to increase awareness and rally our fellow Texans against domestic violence. This weekend, Mayor Rawlings will lead a "Men Against Abuse" rally in front of Dallas City Hall in a show of unified support for victims of domestic violence. During this rally, Mayor Rawlings hopes to publicly challenge the moral character of any individual who believes it is acceptable to commit domestic abuse.

Raising awareness has been a vital component of a comprehensive strategy to address this issue, and Mayor Rawlings' efforts are another step in the right direction. Domestic violence is one of the most underreported crimes, and speaking out will help victims to not only identify their circumstances, but also empower these individuals to stand up against their abusers and seek outside help.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a problem that transcends race, age, and socioeconomic status, making the issue that much more important as we tear down boundaries across communities to stand up against domestic violence. While the Violence Against Women Act has historically provided effective tools to combat domestic violence for almost two decades, increased awareness is absolutely critical if we are to bring these lifesaving measures into the homes of victims of violence who would otherwise remain silent in the face of cruelty.

HONORING DEKE TOMPKINS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the departure of a valued member of my team, Mr. Deke Tompkins.

A proud native of the Great Lakes State and a graduate of Michigan State University, Deke began working in my Washington, DC office as a staff assistant in 2006. Sitting in the front office, he quickly distinguished himself as a welcoming face to all who walked through the door. He was a great resource to those calling the office and made everyone he spoke with know that their voices were being heard.

Deke worked his way up to legislative assistant, working on projects in the district and managing a broad legislative portfolio, including: national security, foreign policy, law enforcement, immigration, and labor issues, to name a few. But above all, Deke was a passionate advocate for Michigan's military service members, veterans, and their families, as well as our local farmers and the Great Lakes.

Deke has been an invaluable member of our office—a team player who was always willing to pitch in wherever help was needed and a friend to us all. His enthusiasm in the office was contagious; his intense love for all things Michigan State unmatched. A hard-working, humble, and selfless person, Deke made a lasting impact in the lives of many, which is what public service is all about. Our team will not be the same without him.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Deke Tompkins and his outstanding service to the folks of Michigan's Sixth Congressional District. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and know that he will continue on to do great things. Go Green!

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER BRYAN HENDERSON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Henderson for his selfless and valiant service to our nation. On March 11, 2013, our country lost a soldier and the 5th Congressional District lost a native son when his helicopter went down in southern Afghanistan.

As long as the Stars and Stripes continue to soar, Henderson's contributions to protecting the freedoms we hold so dear will never be forgotten. In a generation where so many men and women have answered the call to duty, his example of heroism and devotion embody what has truly made America the great nation it is today.

Today, our words seem futile in comparison to Henderson's service, but as written in 2 Corinthians 1:3, our prayer is "that the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, may be able to comfort those in troubling times."

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Bryan Henderson and extending thanks on behalf of a grateful nation. Countless lives have been changed for the better by his efforts, and he will remain in the hearts of Louisianians forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the CBC Budget Substitute to H. Con. Res. 25 because it provides for serious deficit reduction, job creation, and promotes pragmatic economic growth. In a word: this budget puts America back in the black.

I wish to thank Chairwoman FUDGE of the CBC and Congressman SCOTT of Virginia, a Member of the CBC who helps to drive our budget, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE who sits on the Budget Committee; Members who have taken the lead in steering our job-creating, morally righteous, and deficit-reducing budget to the House Floor.

The Members of this body have some very serious ideological differences that have manifested themselves in the respective budgets that the American people will hear over the course of the next few days. But at the end of the day we have to produce for the American people—and budget means that we must do just that—and do so by addressing both sides of the ledger.

That means tough, bedrock decisions about spending but also about revenue. My colleagues in the CBC have taken on this task in earnest and I believe produced a serious, pragmatic Fiscal Year 2014 budget alternative.

The FY 2014 CBC Budget entitled, "Pro-Growth, Pro-People, Pro-America," contains \$2.8 trillion in deficit reduction relative to current law, which would put debt on a downward path after the expiration of short-term stimulus spending. Debt is projected to fall from 78.8 percent of GDP in 2014 to 66.2 percent of GDP in 2023.

We include a lowering of the threshold for the tax cuts extended in the American Taxpayer Relief Act from \$450K to \$250K, a concept which I strongly supported in 2010, 2011, and 2012; taxing capital gains and dividends as ordinary income, and enacting a financial transactions tax.

The CBC Substitute also cancels the harmful sequestration, enacts a permanent "doc fix", and includes \$862 billion in jobs measures and long-term investments. Revenue

would rise to 20.5 percent of GDP by 2023 in the CBC's budget, compared to 19.1 percent under current policy. Spending would fall to 22.3 percent of GDP by 2023 under current policy, and would fall to the same level under the CBC's budget though with a great deal of short-term stimulus measures.

The CBC Budget protects and enhances Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, TANF and other vital safety net programs that save millions of families from poverty.

The CBC Budget creates jobs and opportunity via new infrastructure investments, outlined below:

Maintenance and repair for public transit, highways, airports, ports, railroads, bridges and other infrastructure investments. (\$230 billion);

Workforce development programs such as the Workforce Investment Act Adult Program, the Dislocated Workers Program, Job Corps and other employment and training services. (\$13 billion);

Providing relief to states to preserve teacher, law enforcement and first responder jobs. (\$50 billion);

Neighborhood stabilization programs that provide affordable housing development, infrastructure improvements and other community development needs. (\$50 billion);

Veterans programs that honor our commitment to help our nation's soldiers after they come back from serving our country. (Increased by \$50 billion).

The CBC Budget also calls for significant tax reform measures that would enhance revenues over the next decade by \$2.7 trillion. Economic history has demonstrated that you cannot starve the government of revenues. To achieve our revenue goals, the CBC Budget outlines approximately \$4.2 trillion in revenue enhancements that Congress could use to achieve this goal, including:

Ending special tax breaks and closing tax loopholes. (\$1 trillion over 10 years);

Limiting tax preferences for Corporate Debt. (\$1.151 trillion over 10 years);

Enacting the "Buffet Rule" and a surcharge for millionaires. (\$460 billion over 10 years);

Reduce the "tax gap" through better tax enforcement. (\$107 billion over 10-years);

Ending the mortgage deduction for vacation homes and yachts. (\$10 billion over 10 years);

The CBC Budget addresses health disparities by fully funding the Affordable Care Act and providing strong support of the National Institute of Health. In contrast, the Republican Budget attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, while using the revenues to help achieve balance.

The elephant in the room is entitlement policy. Unlike discretionary spending, mandatory spending grew rapidly from 5 percent of GDP in 1962 to a range of 9 percent to 10.5 percent of GDP from 1975 to 2007, peaking in recession years because of automatic stabilizers. The American people spoke last year and their collective voice clearly said no to haphazard, immoral, and arbitrary cuts to their hard-earned benefits; and the Supreme Court raised its voice when it upheld the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. It is the law of the land.

I am here to say that any type of entitlement reform will not be done on the backs of Seniors in the 18th District of Texas—and I am prepared to "stand in the gap" to protect their benefits.

And speaking of Texas, two years ago, my hometown of Houston, Texas was forced to lay off nearly one thousand municipal employees. When these employees are put on the unemployment line, libraries close, schools cut back on essential after-school programs, community centers lose personnel, police hours are trimmed, and the truly destitute become an afterthought.

Those tough budget decisions had a human cost and I hear from my constituents every day about them, and frankly, I don't want tax cuts for the wealthy at the expense of jobs for people in Texas.

Nonetheless, I stand here today and declare that the federal budget is a moral document, with meaning, fiber, and a unique texture; and the budget we craft, and what we do here today in the hallowed halls of Congress is really about the American people and the impact that our budget and fiscal policy decisions will have on them.

The Democratic Budget Alternatives stands in clear contrast to the budget that our Republican colleagues have put forward. This budget will reduce the deficit in a balanced and credible way, making difficult choices while providing investments that help create jobs now and build an even stronger economy for the future. But unlike the Republican budget—which ends the Medicare guarantee while providing tax breaks to millionaires—we ask the very wealthy and special interests to share responsibility for reducing the deficit. It is a shared American sacrifice.

This budget demonstrates that we can put our fiscal house in order without blindly slashing investments and breaking our promises to seniors, low-income kids, and individuals with disabilities. We will preserve the Medicare guarantee and work to strengthen it, along with Medicaid, and not ending it. We will provide tax relief for working families, not a tax windfall to millionaires and corporations that is financed by middle-income Americans. And we will protect the promise and opportunity of the American Dream for all, instead of leaving future generations behind.

Mr. Chair, let's roll-up our sleeves and get to work on a pro-growth, pro-people, and pro-American budget.

SUPPORTING THE MARCH FOR MARRIAGE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support for the March for Marriage. Next week, individuals from across the country will travel to Washington, D.C., in order to participate in the March for Marriage and to highlight the fact that the institution of marriage is worth protecting through the Defense of Marriage Act.

Marriage is the sacred union between a man and a woman. On September 23, 1972, I was blessed to marry the former Sandra Jordan of Orlando, and this year we will celebrate 41 years of marriage.

Marriage is a vital part of the foundation upon which a strong and prosperous society must be built. It is the institution through which new life is formed, and it provides children

with mothers and fathers. Marriage plays an important role in children's development and success.

Marriage and strong families are indispensable contributors to the prosperity of our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS. BARBARA GELLER

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Geller, who sadly passed away this past weekend.

Barbara was a committed and active volunteer in her community, serving a number of leadership roles over the years with local civic organizations. She was someone who believed strongly in the value of political participation and civic engagement to build a better Washington.

Barbara was a strong leader who many, including myself, came to rely on for advice and support. She demonstrated a great ability to bring people together around a common cause to make a difference in her community.

I was fortunate to have known Barbara and to have worked with her. She impressed me with her passion and devotion to whatever issue, project or person she decided to help or work on behalf of. She was committed to the democratic process and the positive change that could happen when people came together, organized and stood up for what they believed in.

She will be missed by all of us who valued her calm, wise, and elegant way of working with others. My thoughts and prayers go to her husband Arthur, her children Randy and Betsy, and the rest of her family.

HONORING DR. BERNARD EICHOLD, 2012 MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, many times this House honors outstanding and influential Americans who have given of themselves to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. However, it is not often that we shine the spotlight on individuals who literally have safeguarded the health and well-being of hundreds of thousands. Dr. Bernard Eichold is one such example and I'm proud to pay tribute to him today as the 2012 Mobilian of the Year.

Born and raised in Mobile, Dr. Bert Eichold was taught early the importance of serving others. Through his parents, Dr. Samuel and Charlotte Eichold, he gained an understanding of the vital role that proper medical care and preventative educational outreach programs play in the well-being of a community. For this reason, it is not surprising that he chose to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a doctor himself.

Bert attended his father's alma mater, Tulane University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree, Master of Public