

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

Health Degree, Medical Doctor Degree, and his Doctorate of Public Health Degree. Like his father, he also served honorably in the United States Navy, rising to the rank of Captain before pursuing a full-time career in medicine at home in Mobile.

A long-time physician, Bert touched many lives with his caring approach to health care. But like his father before him, he didn't limit his contributions to the confines of his medical practice. In 1990, he stepped forward to take on the role as health care advocate for the entire county. As the Health Officer for Mobile County, he is responsible for safeguarding the health and the environment for over 400 thousand people.

After nearly a quarter century of his proactive leadership, the Mobile County Health Department has effectively doubled the number of patients to over 140,000 a year. His dedication to the health education and prevention also helped to place him as Area Health Officer for Public Health Area XI for the State of Alabama Department of Public Health.

Also like his father, Bert took on highly respected teaching roles at the University of South Alabama. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine where he has served as the Co-Course Director of Public Health and Epidemiology. He is also science advisor to the NASA DEVELOP National Program which extends NASA Earth Science research to the community through the volunteer work of local college students. In 2012, he was presented NASA's Exceptional Public Achievement Medal for this work in support of NASA DEVELOP in South Alabama since 2003.

His dedication to public health and education is matched by his involvement in the local community. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Board of the Community Foundation of South Alabama. He is an active member of the Alabama Public Health Association, Mobile United, and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. His philanthropy and volunteer efforts have also touched more than 50 organizations in South Alabama.

And finally, Bert carries on the proud tradition of his father who was named the 1989 Mobilian of the Year.

On behalf of the Cottage Hill Civitan Club and the people of Mobile, I would like to extend congratulations to Dr. Bert Eichold on being named the 2012 Mobilian of the Year.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Women's History Month. Recently, we have witnessed history being made for women in the armed forces. In a long overdue decision, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles. This decision opens up every position for advancement within the military to women.

Dating back to the American Revolutionary War, women have proudly served in the Armed Forces. Their roles may have varied throughout history but they have always answered the call to action for their country. During the Civil War, Clara Barton became a household name because of her service as a nurse and later as the founder of the Amer-

ican Red Cross. In the World War II era, the iconic image of Rosie the Riveter represents the women who stepped up to help their country in a time of need. Under the Obama Administration, Michale Flournoy was the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the third-highest-ranking woman in the Pentagon's history.

For more than a decade now, America has been engaging in a new method of warfare. With the ever-increasing use of technology, our military is now at a place where gender differences are less important. As the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown, the ban on women in combat roles was mostly theoretical because women served and continue to serve in de facto combat roles every day.

Women have had the opportunity to serve in combat roles in other countries for years. It is long past time that the U.S. gives this opportunity to their female soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I am extremely pleased that our military made history by looking at this outdated policy and made the long overdue decision to reverse the ban on women in combat.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIVINA GROSSMAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Divina Grossman on her appointment as the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Dr. Grossman grew up in a family of teachers and has proudly carried that legacy to the pinnacle of her profession. Her dual career in nursing and education provides a window into her character: compassionate, dedicated, and eager to apply her skills to the benefit of others. After earning her degree in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas, Dr. Grossman departed her home country of the Philippines to continue to hone her academic prowess. She would go on to earn her Masters in Nursing at the University of Miami and a Doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania.

An outstanding tenure at Florida International University led to her appointment as Director of the School of Nursing, followed by promotion to Dean. She subsequently served as Dean for the University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. As Dean, Dr. Grossman further developed the nursing program, strengthened partnerships with public and private institutions, raised funds for scholarships and lab facilities, and greatly expanded the College's endowment. She also oversaw the opening of Florida International's College of Medicine and pioneered a program to deploy medical students into local neighborhoods. As the founding Vice President of Engagement at Florida International, Dr. Grossman worked tirelessly to better connect the University to local communities and global issues. She is an ideal fit for UMass Dartmouth, and I am certain that the University's many years of academic excellence will only continue under her guidance and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize Dr. Divina Grossman as the seventh Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. I have no doubt that her decades of experience and robust record of leadership will make a positive, lasting impact on

the UMass Dartmouth community. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Grossman and thank her for her outstanding contributions to both medicine and academia.

MICHAEL RILEY—A PATRIOT WHO
NEVER TOOK "NO" FOR AN ANSWER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Michael Riley, an American patriot, exemplifies that through dedication and determination, one can achieve great things in our country. Faced with adversity from a young age, Michael was no stranger to obstacles. He wasn't brought up by the most encouraging family. Instead of being surrounded by love and support, he was laughed at and ridiculed by his family members for wanting to serve and represent his country.

Michael was always small in stature, in comparison to others his age, and he was told he would fail at his dream for that very reason. Despite these hardships, he was determined to succeed. Michael had his eyes set on his goal, and there was no turning back for him. On his own, he enlisted himself in the Marines just one week after turning 18. He chose the Marines, the toughest branch, because he wanted to prove wrong everybody that tried to tell him he couldn't do it. Before long, Michael surpassed everyone's expectations, or lack thereof. It didn't take much time for Michael to impress his superiors with his work ethic and determination, eventually earning the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4, a remarkable achievement.

Every day, Michael was out there serving his country in full force. He recalled the days that he experienced conflicts many others hadn't at his age. One day, his squad was ambushed and surrounded by their enemy. Adrenaline was pumping, but you could still smell some fear in the air. In the attack, his squad leader became wounded, and his lieutenant was killed. It wasn't the outcome they had hoped for, but the fight had to go on. When he was only 19, Michael led a squad of Marines in combat, a task that not many would be able to accomplish at such a young age.

Throughout his service, Michael served in several conflicts, including Vietnam, Cuba, and Iraq. But despite his service overseas, he says he is most proud of his service securing our nation's borders. When his service in the Marines was over, Michael joined the United States Coast Guard. During the devastating aftermath of September 11, 2001, he was appointed Task Force Leader to design and implement the Sea Marshal Program, a security measure that, to this day, has provided safety and security for the Port of Houston. The program, which Michael oversaw from start until finished, was launched to prevent terrorism in a given port. Michael and his armed protection teams boarded ships and guarded them for their voyage through the Houston Ship Channel.