

Judge Barkett earned her J.D. from the University of Florida Law School, where she became the first woman to be awarded the J. Hillis Miller Memorial Award as the outstanding senior graduate. After having practiced civil and trial law from 1971 to 1979, she was appointed to circuit court judge in the Fifteenth Judicial Court of Florida. After only 4 years she was elected as chief judge of the circuit, becoming the first woman chief judge in the State's history. Two short years later she was appointed to serve on the Florida Supreme Court, again marking the first time in the State's history that a woman had been named justice. Finally, in 1992 her colleagues chose her to become Florida's first woman chief justice.

Throughout the years, Judge Barkett has been consistently honored for her achievements. The recipient of seven honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning, she has also earned dozens of honors and awards from national and state professional, civic and charitable groups. Her contributions have also been uniquely recognized by the creation of the "Rosemary Barkett Outstanding Achievement Award", given each year to two outstanding lawyers by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, and the "Rosemary Barkett Award" which is presented by the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers to a person who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to equal justice under law.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Honorable Judge Rosemary Barkett for her continued service to the Miami community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLICE CHIEF
STEVE SWEENEY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Steve Sweeney, who is retiring this month after nearly 30 years of service to the City of Livermore. Chief Sweeney has served his community with excellence and has executed his role as a public servant with professionalism, fairness, and integrity since he joined the Livermore Police Department in 1984. Under his leadership, the department has remained fiscally stable and has maintained vital partnerships with outside agencies, schools, and community groups.

As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of cultivating the public's trust and assistance in ensuring our communities remain safe places to live and work. Chief Sweeney's work has exemplified this model of service, as he has stressed accessibility and community outreach throughout his tenure. For example, he has overseen the expansion of the Livermore Police Department's Citizen's Academy, Youth Academy, and Neighborhood Watch programs.

Chief Sweeney graduated from Cal State University, East Bay before becoming a patrol officer and member of the SWAT team of Livermore in 1984. He steadily climbed the ranks and served as a detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain before becoming chief

of the department in 2007. Chief Sweeney played a key role in the merging of the Pleasanton and Livermore SWAT teams in 2011, which resulted in the formation of the new East County Tactical Team. Even after several years of budget cuts, Chief Sweeney's skilled management and leadership enabled the Livermore Police Department to hire seven new officers this past January and restore the department's Drug and Gang Task Force.

I want to thank Chief Sweeney for his decades of public service to Livermore and for helping to keep the East Bay a great place to live, work, and visit. After his retirement, he plans on staying in the town he has served for so many years and looks forward to spending time with his wife and three children. I wish him the best of luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

HONORING MS. JANISSET RIVERO-
GUTIERREZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month I rise today to honor Ms. Janisset Rivero-Gutierrez, an outstanding individual and someone who has been vital in the effort to bring about a democratic Cuba.

Ms. Rivero-Gutierrez was born in Camagüey, Cuba and left at the age of 14. She lived in Venezuela before moving to the United States, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications and advertising from the Instituto Universitario de Nuevas Profesiones in Caracas. She is currently working on her master's degree in Spanish literature from Florida International University.

In 1994, Ms. Rivero-Gutierrez initiated Operation Boitel, a campaign involving travel to other countries in order to generate support for the opposition movement in Cuba. She continued to do work to bring about a democratic Cuba and in March of 2002 testified before the Inter-American Commission of the Organization of American States and presented a detailed report on human rights violations in Cuba. Similarly, in April of the same year she spoke before the United Nations Human Rights Commission, one of only two Cuban exiles who were able to testify.

Ms. Rivero-Gutierrez is a founding member of the Cuban Democratic Directorate, a non-governmental organization that supports human rights efforts in Cuba. She has worked extensively for this organization, and engages directly with opposition groups in Cuba, relaying their messages to the international community and co-author of Steps to Freedom, an annual report that documents the opposition movement's actions of protest against the totalitarian Cuban regime.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Janisset Rivero-Gutierrez for her continued support of human rights efforts in Cuba and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

SUPREME COURT HEARS A CHALLENGE TO CALIFORNIA'S "PROPOSITION 8" AND THE FEDERAL DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this week the United States Supreme Court will hear arguments on two cases that are fundamental to the way our democratic society functions. Tuesday they will consider a challenge to California's "Proposition 8" prohibiting homosexual marriage in the state. And on Wednesday they will look at the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

In the midst of all the discussion and protest surrounding these arguments, I would encourage the Court to not be distracted from the fundamental issue before them—will the U.S. Supreme Court choose to radically redefine marriage, thus overturning the will of the American people as reflected in numerous votes by states, and by a vote of this body and signed into law by President Bill Clinton?

I urge the Supreme Court to uphold the will of the American people, support traditional marriage, and protect the democratic process by allowing the American people to express their will on this issue.

HONORING MS. CARLA DEAN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month I rise today to honor Ms. Carla Dean, an outstanding individual and someone who has continuously supported the community in and around Collier County.

Ms. Dean is President and Founder of the Bladder Cancer Foundation of Florida, a non-profit organization committed to educating the public and medical community about bladder cancer for awareness, research and early detection. Professionally, Ms. Dean is a registered radiologic technologist with specialties in mammography and radiology. In her over 40 years of experience she has worked in a variety of management positions, including lead mammographer, lead medical coder for a large radiology group, and headed a nuclear medicine department.

Outside of her professional career, Ms. Dean is heavily active in the Collier County community. She has been a member of the Collier County Republican Executive Committee, CCREC, since 2000, serving as its chairman from 2004–2009. As chairman of the CCREC she helped revive Teenage Republicans, and instituted Republicans "After 5" social gatherings which allowed candidates, elected officials and others to meet socially. Ms. Dean also helped form the Collier Republican Club, which has proven to be one of the largest Republican organizations in Collier County.

While Ms. Dean remains active with the CCREC, she still finds the time to be active in the community elsewhere. She currently

serves as a Board Member of the Naples High School Band Boosters, and is the Director and Publicity Chairman of the Genealogical Society of Collier County. She was also a founding member of the Eagle Oak Ridge Homeowners Association, City of Naples.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Carla Dean for her continued service to Collier County and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2014

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (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:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H. Con. Res. 25, the Ryan Republican Budget, and the coarse meanness it embodies. I rise today in defense of those who are the subject of this legislation's contempt. I rise today in support of the New Deal, the Great Society, and the programs that have pulled our people out of poverty and our Nation out of depression—the programs that Mr. RYAN's budget demolishes to pay for tax breaks to the already wealthy.

There is so much wrong with the Chairman's budget I do not know where to start. It attacks the poor, the working, and middle class; it guts programs that protect our seniors, our children, and our environment; it relies upon fuzzy math and budgetary tricks that are not befitting of federal legislation. It is quite simply a perfect distillation of the disdain its authors have for everyone who is not a millionaire.

Mr. RYAN's budget is one of the cruelest that has been introduced in the House of Representatives. It shifts Medicare to a voucher system, which virtually assures that many seniors will be unable to receive the care that they need. It destroys two million jobs with the same wrongheaded austerity measures that have Europe standing on the precipice of economic calamity. It hands a six-figure tax cut to millionaires. But then you see the other side of the Chairman's budget—the fantasist side. That is the side that imagines all those tax cuts will be paid for by eliminating deductions; the side that imagines that those deduction eliminations will not harm the middle class; the side that imagines that after a majority of Americans roundly rejected this "tax cuts now, tax revenues later" platform last fall, it is a good time to double down.

Earlier this week my friends across the aisle seemed to admit a hard to swallow fact: they are out of touch with Americans. The report that came out Monday suggested that Republicans need to reach out to a broader segment of society; that they need to court voters outside the insular world of the million dollar a year club. Given that a majority of Americans last fall cast their vote for a Democratic Presi-

dent, a Democratic Senator, and a Democratic Representative—I would tend to agree. But let me offer you some friendly advice about outreach—the answer is not to keep making the same base attacks on the poor we heard last summer and last fall. The answer is not to weaken Medicaid and TANF; the answer is not to weaken Social Security, or turn Medicare into a voucher system; and the answer is not to eviscerate all labor laws—as the Republican Study Committee budget would. The answer is none of the above—the answer is creating a budget that helps more than just the small crescent of the wealthy who make it into rooms where they can hear about how much better they are than 47% of Americans.

If you want answers, take a look at the budgets put out by the Congressional Progressive Caucus' "Back to Work Budget" and the Congressional Black Caucus' "Pro-Growth, Pro-People, Pro-America Budget." If you want to show Americans that your party cares for those who are not already millionaires, you need to provide the answers they are asking for. Those answers involve federal investment in the programs critical to having Americans who are prepared in mind, body, and spirit to build a new economy for the next generation. Those answers address concerns about our educational system, our infrastructure, and the critical services that will make sure our children are prepared to lead the world in the 21st Century. Those answers understand that any changes to Social Security need to be made separate from the yearly budget process. Those budgets understand that Social Security is a multi-generational pact—not a "pay for" and that it should not be changed to reflect the whims of a particular wing of a particular party.

The answers that the American people are looking for reflect the fundamental proposition they voted for last fall—that those who have benefited the most from our society's bounty are blessed to have the most to give back.

The American people recently spoke to the Budget Committee Chairman, but sometimes I wonder if he was listening.

As much as you may wish that it is the answer to your political problems and the economic issues facing our country, the answer Americans are searching for does not involve continuing to repeal the Affordable Care Act again and again and again—you'll excuse me if I don't say "again" for each time my friends across the aisle have voted to repeal the ACA. It would seem a rather pointless exercise and it would take quite a while. While we may be tired of the gimmicks and the pointless political theatre, we are not too tired to defend a century of progress. You cannot exhaust the conviction of Americans that Social Security is a promise to our seniors; that Medicare should not be a voucher; that Medicaid should not be a block grant left to the states; and that children should not be left to fend for themselves. These repeated attempts to do so are wastes of our, and by extension, America's time.

I know sometimes it is tempting for my friends across the aisle to engage in name-calling and class warfare: implying that those who need federal services are lazy, laying about on hammocks. But not everyone is born into a family made wealthy through government infrastructure contracts. Some children are born to parents who simply are not prepared to provide all the skills and knowledge that our modern society requires of students,

workers, and citizens. That is where Medicaid and CHIP come in: ensuring that children grow up healthy. That is where food assistance comes in: ensuring that children are not too hungry to learn, too hungry to care about their future. That is where Head Start comes in: ensuring that children receive the early engagement critical to success.

When we consider the Chairman's budget—I want us to think what we would want for our own children if we were rendered unable to help them. I hope you will consider that question. What if it was my child who needed the programs I am cutting to give six-figure tax cuts to everyone who makes more than a million dollars a year? What if it was my child who was struck by a chronic ailment—but they could not get treatment? What if it were my child who needed the support I am now denying to other people's children? No, we would want them to have the services protected and improved in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus' budgets. Whether you care to admit it or not, no child who goes to sleep hungry or in pain, is comforted by the thought that millionaires have a few extra hundred thousand dollars in their banks.

So instead of Chairman RYAN's budget, which guts federal assistance to the poor and threatens to plunge us into a deep recession, I encourage all my colleagues to endorse the budgets offered by the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. These bills get Americans back to work; they invest in infrastructure improvements and repairs which necessity dictates must happen eventually. They know that the key to addressing our deficit is not cuts, but economic growth, that is why the Congressional Black Caucus adopts my Humphrey-Hawkins legislation, which puts every American who wants a job to work. And they provide trillions in deficit reduction over the next decade, but they do so through cuts and revenues that reflect a balanced approach. For example, they keep the Bush-era tax cuts for those making less than a quarter million dollars a year. And they treat the income of hedge fund billionaires just like they treat the income of a bus driver, something even President Ronald Reagan supported.

I want to praise these budgets for their focus on the future. In the great choice that we face as a Nation, they do not simply abdicate responsibility as H. Con. Res. 25 does. They do not simply shovel money to the wealthiest Americans in ruinous tax breaks that are all but assured to explode the deficit—instead, they invest. They invest in infrastructure across the nation; they invest in our youth, providing increase in Pell Grants and workforce training; they invest in our public servants, the men and women who teach our children, guard our streets, and pull us from burning buildings. And they actually pay for all that with specific proposals rather than accounting gimmicks.

Mr. Chair, let us end the division. Let us end the giveaways to those already lucky enough to make more than a million dollars a year. Let us come together—not just some, but all of us—and pass a budget—one that benefits not just some, but all of us. I urge all my colleagues to vote against H. Con. Res. 25, and for the CBC and CPC alternatives.