

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

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. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Democratic budget alternative offered by Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN, and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be heard on this important issue. Today I am supporting the Van Hollen Budget and opposing the budget blueprint laid out by Budget Committee Chairman RYAN. The Van Hollen budget acknowledges the concerns that have been expressed to us loudly and clearly by constituents since sequestration took effect March 1st; the Ryan budget exacerbates the problems caused by across-the-board cuts and attempts to recycle ideas that the American people have repeatedly rejected.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, half of our current budget deficit is attributable to high unemployment and lagging economic growth. The approach taken by Chairman RYAN's budget would make the problem worse by cutting investments in education, research, and infrastructure. Implementing this kind of harmful austerity approach will handicap our fledgling economic recovery. The budget I voted for makes strategic cuts, closes tax loopholes, and lays a foundation for economic growth going forward. And perhaps most importantly, the Van Hollen budget ends the damaging sequester and puts our country on a sustainable fiscal path without ending the guarantee of Medicare.

In the months preceding our self-imposed March 1st deadline, sequestration was a central theme in almost every conversation I had with constituents. I spoke with researchers at universities across Oregon who expressed concern about the impact cuts would have on scientific advancement, business leaders who told me they had not hired new workers because of the uncertainty caused by sequestration, and teachers who worried about cuts to vital special education programs. Oregonians, like most Americans, do not support this detrimental approach to policymaking.

In the weeks following the implementation of the sequester, my offices in Oregon and here in Washington, DC continue to hear numerous additional stories of the hardships brought about by budget uncertainty. For those who rightly raise concern, the budget proposed by

Chairman RYAN is another example of DC putting politics over solutions. My constituents want fiscal responsibility from their elected officials; not a budget balanced on the back of the working class and the elderly.

Congress has reduced projected deficits by about \$2.7 trillion since August 2010 by cutting discretionary spending, increasing tax rates for families with taxable income over \$450,000 a year, and eliminating related debt servicing. The combination of deficit reduction included in Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN's budget and the total deficit reduction achieved to date meets the \$4 trillion goal set forth by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Further, the Van Hollen alternative I am supporting today achieves this deficit reduction without implementing the Ryan budget's Medicare voucher plan, while also preserving the Affordable Care Act reforms that currently provide seniors with reduced prescription drug costs and free preventive health care.

Our constituents sent us here to solve the problems created by our predecessors, not to make them worse. The Van Hollen budget alternative puts us on the road to economic recovery while preserving the social safety net. For this reason I am proud to support it.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT BRYON KOSTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryon Koster of Van Meter, Iowa for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Bryon designed and constructed a prayer labyrinth at the St. Boniface Church in Waukee, Iowa. The work ethic Bryon has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Bryon and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining

the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE RIVERS COUNCIL

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Hampshire Rivers Council as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary. The Rivers Council grew out of the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign, a group of concerned citizens and conservation organizations that united in 1985 to create a voice for New Hampshire rivers. Thanks to the Campaign and the Council, the Rivers Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary with 1000 miles of rivers designated into the state program since 1988. Recognizing the need for a permanent and active voice for river protection in the state, the participants in the campaign formed the New Hampshire Rivers Council.

Over the last 20 years, the New Hampshire Rivers Council has made many significant contributions to river and watershed conservation in the Granite State. For example, the Rivers Council worked with grassroots organizations to implement minimum water levels on protected rivers, worked with the Governor's Commission on Land and Community Heritage to recommend a new, permanent and adequately funded program for land conservation, and joined other New Hampshire organizations to negotiate a creative license agreement for the 15-Mile Falls Dam on the Connecticut River that provides better protection to the river ecosystem and preserved nearly 12,000 acres of land on the river and surrounding the Connecticut Lakes.

The history and character of New Hampshire is largely defined by its rivers and the directors and growing membership of the Rivers Council continue to make significant contributions to river and watershed conservation and restoration, ensuring New Hampshire's natural resources will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Today, the New Hampshire Rivers Council is the only statewide organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of New Hampshire's river resources and whose leadership was instrumental in the establishment of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. I ask the House of Representatives to join me to acknowledge and thank those individuals who had the vision to create the Rivers Campaign nearly thirty years ago and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the New Hampshire Rivers Council today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE WHITE OAK
ROUGHNECKS FOR WINNING THE
TEXAS CLASS 2A BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I recognize and congratulate the White Oak Roughnecks on an outstanding basketball season in which they captured the Texas State Class 2A Basketball Championship for the second year in a row.

The entire east Texas community of White Oak and all Roughneck fans have a vast storehouse of exciting memories as a result of the Roughnecks' dominating two year stretch of championship basketball. The team went undefeated in district and compiled an impressive 74–2 record over the past two seasons. Going into the championship game with an impressive 37–1 record this year as they also had in 2012, there was no doubt the White Oak Roughnecks were a powerful force in Texas and a basketball team with which to be reckoned.

The all important game of 2013 saw White Oak ultimately defeat the Brock Eagles just as they had in 2012 to claim the Class 2A State crown for the second straight year. White Oak led most of the game, but Brock rallied in the second half turning up the heat and bringing the fans to their feet in a heart stopping final ten seconds through which White Oak emerged the victor, 56–54.

Clearly a team does not get to the ultimate and lofty plateau of excellence without a coaching staff that knows its players. There is no doubt that each of the individual players, coaches, and supporting personnel involved with the success of the Roughnecks will benefit from having participated and witnessed the level of success that is achieved when each individual gives all they have while working together with such dedication and passion.

This tribute goes out to all of the athletic staff including Superintendent Mike Gilbert, Athletic Director Gerry Stanford, High School Principal Dan Noll, and Coaches Ron Boyett, Billy Terry and Brett Cloud.

The team members achieving this memorable accomplishment included Slade Sutton, Skylar Sutton, Dylan Gale, Kris Anderson, Josh Benson, Cass Carr, Tanner Sharp, Hayden Nichols, Gabe Michael, and Levi Yancy.

No athletic team ever becomes a champion without unwavering support, and that is exactly what the Roughnecks experienced from the entire community of White Oak, Texas. That is why congratulations go to all who contributed in any way to the success of the Roughnecks during this championship season.

May God continue to bless all of their efforts both in school and as they one day finish high school and use that same drive and determination to make this country even stronger. Congratulations to the State Basketball Champions, the White Oak Roughnecks, as their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF RITA
WILLIAMS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Williams, an exceptional journalist whose image and voice have been beamed into Bay Area living rooms for four decades. She is retiring from KTVU after 35 years at the station.

Rita is a top-notch reporter and superb story teller. I know from first-hand experience that she is fair, professional and that she won't give any elected official a pass. Rita has earned the adoration and admiration from her colleagues, her interviewees and her viewers.

But don't just take my word for it; this is what other people are saying: Greg Suhr, the San Francisco Police Chief says, "If there was a 'how to' book on how to be the most gracious fair objective 'cool under fire' reporter in the world, Rita Williams' picture would be on the cover." Ed Chapuis, her news director for over 10 years says, "Her stories were always the hardest for her editors to edit, because each word was placed with such purpose and precision." Bill Drummond, journalist and husband of the late Faith Fancher, Rita's long-time friend and colleague, says, "With Rita the reporting came first, and because of that commitment, her stories transcended the usual limitations of the television news medium."

Rita grew up in Lubbock, Texas. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree. After she graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.A. in journalism, she worked as the press secretary for the late Texas Congressman George Mahon, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. She then earned her Master's degree in political science/international affairs from George Washington University. Rita worked as a news reporter at KSAT-TV in Texas from 1975–1978 and then moved to California. She was a reporter for KQED-TV before she joined KTVU in 1980. From 1985–86, she was also a Knight Fellow and taught broadcast news writing at Stanford.

When Rita entered the broadcast world, it was dominated by men. Surviving and even thriving in this testosterone-driven environment was no small accomplishment, but Rita did it with grace and tenacity. She calls herself the "first broadcast broad." She opened KTVU's San Francisco bureau in the Hall of Justice.

Rita has reported thousands of social, economic and political stories, treating each one as the most important story at the time. Her work has earned her several Emmies, Tellies, a PASS award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, a public service award from the Society of Professional Journalists and many other awards. She was one of the lead investigative reporters in the Oakland BART shooting stories that contributed to a prestigious Peabody award and Edward R. Murrow award to KTVU.

While Rita takes utmost pride in her profession and work, she views her family as her biggest accomplishment. Rita and her husband of 37 years, Lindsey, are the proud parents of Brad who is now a law student in San Francisco. Brad and my children grew up around the same time, so Rita and I often compared notes and shared school referral options.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor one of the finest journalists and human beings I know. On her last day on the air at KTVU, Rita humbly thanked her viewers and said, "You have entrusted me with one of the biggest responsibilities anybody could ever have, to be a reporter and to be your eyes and ears."

I hope that I have used that trust well and that you have learned something in return." The answer to that hope is a resounding yes!

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TOM FILLIPPO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, Congressman PAT MEEHAN and Congressman JOE PITTS, I rise today to congratulate Tom Fillippo of Malvern, Pennsylvania on receiving the Chester County Economic Development Council's Hall of Fame Award for his outstanding accomplishments within the Chester County business community and the entire area community. The litany of his accomplishments and contributions is amazing.

In addition to his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Devault Foods, Tom served as Chairman of the Board of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry from 2002 to 2006. Tom also serves as Chairman of the West Chester University's Council of Trustees, a Board Member of the West Chester University Foundation and Sturzebecker Foundation, and a Board Member of the Paoli Hospital Foundation. Additionally, he serves on the Central and Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority and the Chester County Industrial Development Board of Directors.

Tom is a member of the West Chester University Football Hall of Fame and has received numerous awards for his service to the business community and community at large including the Chester County Boy Scouts' Community Service Award, the Great Valley Chamber's Business Leader of the Year Award, the West Chester University Distinguished Alumni Award, the American Meat Institute's Community Service Award, and the Order of the Purple Heart's Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his outstanding professional accomplishments and exemplary record of service to the Chester County community, we ask that our colleagues join us today in recognizing Tom Fillippo of Malvern, Pennsylvania on receiving the Chester County Economic Development Council's Hall of Fame Award and, on behalf of our constituents, thank him for his tireless and unceasing efforts to make the County a wonderful place to raise a family and succeed in business.

DON MACDONALD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don MacDonald of Colorado. Don