

other religions should be tolerant of their faith, but they are not tolerant of Christians and other Muslim sects. This ought not to be.

But that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JEAN T. MARTIN

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mrs. Jean T. Martin, a beloved Alabamian who passed away March 11 in Selma, Alabama, at the age of 89. As a dedicated public servant, Jean Martin was known in our local community as a long-serving Selma city councilwoman, an avid local historian, and a gifted journalist.

Personally, Jean was a close friend and trusted mentor. I am deeply saddened by her passing, but I am comforted in knowing that her legacy will live on through the countless life lessons she taught to so many of us.

Jean Martin worked tirelessly as a community editor for the Selma Times Journal. For more than 30 years, she served in various capacities at the newspaper.

She was also an exemplary public servant. She served on the Selma City Council from 1996 to 2008, representing Ward 3, and eventually became the council's president pro tem. During her tenure, she was an exceptional public servant who passionately represented Selma.

On a personal note, Jean Martin served with my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, on the Selma City Council and was a beloved colleague and close family friend. My brothers and I affectionately called her "T Jean." She was an amazing mentor and role model to me, and I credit my love of community to her extraordinary example. I am now in Congress and I stand on her shoulders because of the many glass ceilings of this strong woman who died at 89. She was a wonderful public servant.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in paying tribute to the life and legacy of Jean Martin.

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CONGRATULATING HAYWARD HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY 'CANES

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hayward High School's Lady 'Canes for winning the WIAA State Hockey Championship. In only their sixth year of playing varsity-level hockey, the Lady 'Canes defeated the Onalaska Hilltoppers in a thrilling 5-2 match. The Lady 'Canes out-skated their top-ranked opponent for three periods and took home Hayward High School's first hockey cham-

pionship. Let me tell you what, as a Hurricane, it has been way too long.

With great leadership from their coaches, combined with the perseverance of the players, they showed the true spirit Wisconsinites have for sports and competition. These ladies would get up at 6:45 in the morning before school, training 5 to 6 days a week, participating in community service, and never losing sight of the importance of education.

So, today, I stand before you with a pink tie saying congratulations to Hayward High School's Lady 'Canes for a job well done. Congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Members are reminded not to traffic the well while other Members are under recognition.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE BUDGET

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. The House Republican budget resolution is a blueprint for stalled growth, joblessness, and abandonment of American families.

Since 2010, Congress has cut services and investments critical to American families by \$1.5 trillion. Sequestration slashed an additional \$68 billion, which will cost 750,000 jobs this year alone.

This budget resolution will exacerbate this damage by cutting an additional \$1 trillion over 10 years from funding levels agreed to in the Budget Control Act. It would have a severe impact on critical services and investments like veterans' benefits, homeland security, schools, medical research, law enforcement, and Pell Grants.

It is time to stop the mindless cuts to critical services and investments and support job growth and middle class families.

OPEN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in defense of the common people of America—people who don't have annual vacations to Hawaii, people who don't fly to their vacations on private jets. Many of these families save for months or even years in order to visit Washington, D.C., and one of the things they expect to do when they come here is to be able to visit the White House, which is the people's House. And now this President has closed it in order to make a political point. Now that that decision has proven unpopular, he has done something that he has frequently done before and that is to blame someone else. He says it wasn't my decision; it was the Secret Service who made the decision to close the White House.

It only costs the White House \$3.7 million to keep it open to tourists for an entire year. That's much less than this President will spend on any single vacation that he takes, which is why I introduced a resolution in the House yesterday asking the President to forego any more taxpayer-funded vacations until he opens the people's House once again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to consider this request. Open the people's House, Mr. President. Open it up for the people of America.

IMPACTS OF SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. BARBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, sequestration has been in effect for just 2 weeks, and the impacts of these mandatory, across-the-board cuts already are deeply affecting the lives of my constituents in southern Arizona.

Cuts to the Border Patrol are not only among the most devastating cuts caused by sequestration; they will seriously erode the progress we've made toward securing our border. Border Patrol agents have been told that they will be furloughed without pay for 1 day per pay period, and much of their overtime will be eliminated.

Taken together, these actions will greatly reduce the pay of these Border Patrol agents by between 20 and 40 percent. We must work together to immediately come to grips with this problem to restore these cuts so the border can once again be safe and secure.

SECOND TIME IS A CHARM FOR TRAVIS TIGERS

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, my own district, Texas 22, is where Texas high school basketball champions reside.

B.F. Terry High School in Rosenberg won the 4A State Championship last Saturday. Right after that game, the Travis Tigers took the court to chase after the Texas 5A title. Travis had lost in the State championship game last year. They were determined to bring the trophy home this year, and they did just that by defeating South Grand Prairie 46-38. Led by the Harrison twins, Aaron and Andrew, the Travis defense smothered Grand Prairie from the start by allowing two baskets in 20 attempts.

Congratulations to Coach Brownson and the whole team. Find a spot in the school's trophy case because the Travis Tigers are the champs.

SETTING PRIORITIES AND BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to hold a Congress on Your Corner event with my constituents in Bloomington, Minnesota. During one-on-one conversations, I was able to discuss the issues that my neighbors feel are important in Congress.

The number one issue that did come up, Mr. Speaker, was the awareness that for far too long Americans have been tightening their belts only to watch as Washington's addiction to spending continues to grow along with our Nation's debt.

This week, the House Budget Committee passed a budget that the House will vote on next week. This is important, Mr. Speaker, because it is a budget that addresses the serious fiscal challenges that are facing our Nation.

First, it outlines tax reform so that it is simpler, fair, and more competitive to grow our economy. Secondly, it actually produces a balanced budget. Why is this important? A balanced budget will give young people more opportunity; a balanced budget will protect programs and preserve programs that are essential for seniors; and most importantly, Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget will encourage and promote a healthier economy.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for Washington to take a lesson from Minnesota families and deliver on a balanced budget.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS UNVEILS THE BACK TO WORK BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus to repeat and enhance our calls made by our colleagues today to talk about the budget introduced by the House Republicans.

We have a number of members of the Progressive Caucus who will be addressing various components of the budget. I will start out with one of the freshman Members from the great State of California (Mr. TAKANO).

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. I'd like to thank my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin, for yielding the time this evening.

Earlier today, I was joined by 22 of my fellow freshman Democrats in sending a letter to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) requesting specifics for his 2014 budget.

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As freshman Members, we had hoped Mr. RYAN's budget provided areas where both parties, Democrats and Republicans, could find common ground.

Instead, what was presented was a document that was vague. How can we begin to negotiate when we don't even know what we're negotiating? And where Mr. RYAN is specific, it's in areas that he knows that Democrats won't agree.

Ezra Klein of The Washington Post described Mr. RYAN's so-called "Path to Prosperity" in the following ways:

He cuts deep into spending on health care for the poor and some combination of education, infrastructure, research, public safety and low-income families. The Affordable Care Act's Medicare cuts remain, but the military is spared, as is Social Security. There's a vague individual tax reform plan that leaves only two brackets—10 percent and 25 percent—and will require either huge, deficit busting tax cuts or increasing taxes on poor and middle class households, as well as a vague corporate tax reform plan that lowers the rate from 35 to 25 percent.

After reading Mr. RYAN's budget, I find this document bears a striking resemblance to the tactics used by the Romney campaign: Promise massive tax cuts but don't provide any specifics on how to pay for them. This is surprising since Mr. RYAN is considered a "serious" policy maker.

My colleagues who joined me today don't expect to agree with everything in Mr. RYAN's budget. But as we detailed in our letter today, we hope to find areas of common ground so that our country can move forward. Only then can we begin to tackle the fiscal challenges facing our Nation.

Mr. POCAN. I would like to thank the gentleman from California. As a member of the Budget Committee that marked up the bill yesterday, we had spent the entire day considering the budget proposal that was introduced by our Republican colleagues. From the beginning, it was clear that the budget represented little more than recycled policies that have already been rejected by the American people and unrealistic proposals that will never occur.

We had an opportunity in committee to focus on areas where Democrats and Republicans could come together to grow our economy and responsibly reduce our deficit. Instead, we were given a budget that is based on math gimmicks and absurd assumptions, assumptions like trying to keep the savings from the Affordable Care Act while repealing its benefits. Well, that has about as much credibility as if we had said in the budget we should hire leprechauns to grab pots of gold at the end of rainbows and count that as revenue. It is simply not realistic.

As a small business owner and as a former cochair of the Wisconsin joint committee on finance, I've worked on budgets for years and years. We used to spend 8 hours a day, 3 days a week for 4 months making sure that each and every detail meant something in a budget because a budget is a statement of our values, where do we stand as a country, or, in that case, as the State of Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, we didn't take the time to make those tough choices with

the budget that was presented to us. Instead, we were given a budget that balances the budget on the backs of seniors and working class families. It's not a tough choice. It's a reckless and irresponsible choice.

Our budget should reflect our values, and the GOP budget does not reflect Wisconsin's values. And I don't believe it reflects the values of middle class families across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the type of choices that we were given from the Republicans in presenting their budget included things from keeping the sequester in place that you heard earlier have had terrible effects across the country and will continue to in the coming months of this current budget, like turning Medicare into a voucher system, a system that breaks the promise to the American people that we've had about Medicare for so long.

It includes trillions in undisclosed spending cuts with absolutely no information on where they'll come from other than eventually they're going to come from the middle class through losing some of the current proposals that we have in place in the law. Ultimately, all these will harm our economic growth and stunt the positive gains we've made in the economy just as recently as last month.

In fact, the Economic Policy Institute has found that the GOP Ryan budget released yesterday would result in 2 million fewer jobs next year alone. It would decrease our gross domestic product by 1.7 percent and stall our Nation's economic recovery.

What the budget does, and we can tell this in my State of Wisconsin and across the country, is, one, it keeps the sequester in place. And we've already been told that could cost 750,000 jobs nationwide, including 36,000 in my State of Wisconsin. The budget would turn the Medicare program into a voucher program, forcing 873,753 Wisconsin seniors out of the traditional Medicare plan when the conversion happens and breaking the promise that kept the link to increasing costs and having increasing funds that go with it. Finally, it would increase tax breaks for the very wealthy and big businesses but cost middle class families \$2,000 annually in new taxes.

We must remember the biggest threat to our long-term economic security at this time is not the deficit; it's our economy. It's about jobs. It's the 12 million people that are unemployed in this country. We need to be making investments in American workers, in American ingenuity, in education, research and development, and infrastructure, and that's what will get the people of America back to work.

We have a budget that does just that, and I'm proud to support the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Back to Work Budget. The Back to Work Budget invests in America's future because the best way to reduce our long-term deficit is to put America back to work, get people back working and get people into jobs.