

is “some possibility” that States will not be able to launch their health care exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, we’re 6 months away, and the insurance exchanges are the very centerpiece of the functioning of this health care law, and they’re essential for the President’s law to operate.

The Federal Government has spent 3 years, well over \$3 billion, assisting the States in implementing these exchanges; but the administration is now left only with the hope that it is “not a Third World experience.” A Third World experience.

It doesn’t end there. Henry Chao, a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services official overseeing the exchange technology, said in the same article when discussing back-up plans should the exchanges not be operable come October, “We are having discussions, but they are not fully baked yet.”

October is just around the corner. “Not fully baked yet” doesn’t even sound like it’s in the oven.

IT’S TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Last week, the Associated Press reported that unemployment in Greece rose to a record 26 percent. The news for younger workers is even worse: almost 60 percent of those under the age of 25 are unemployed.

As we all know, the root cause of Greece’s financial and economic collapse is the runaway government spending and unsustainable debt. Eventually, the house of cards collapsed, and the results have been devastating for their citizens.

President Obama has said he will not “chase a balanced budget for the sake of balance.” Well, Mr. President, what about chasing a balanced budget for the sake of our economy, for the sake of creating jobs, for the sake of preserving Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid, and for the sake of preventing financial calamity?

The present course of trillion-dollar annual deficits and a bloated \$17 trillion debt is irresponsible. What’s taking place right now in Greece could easily be our future if we don’t act.

Mr. President, it’s time for you to realize that the best way to help hard-working, tax-paying American families is to balance the budget and free our economy from the burden of our debt.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds the gentleman to address his remarks to the Chair.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1704

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 5 o’clock and 4 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 18) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 18

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary (in this resolution referred to as the “sponsor”) shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 32nd Annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the “event”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2012.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on May 15, 2013, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other re-

lated structures and equipment, as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 18.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Con. Res. 18 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service on May 15, 2013. I am pleased to be the sponsor of this important resolution, along with the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

In 1962, May 15 was designated by President Kennedy as Peace Officers’ Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as Police Week. The memorial service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of just 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Today, National Police Week draws tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and their supporters from around the world who travel to the Nation’s capital to participate in events that honor our fallen officers. The National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the candlelight vigil and seminars.

Tragically, over 126 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty last year. These are brave men and women of law enforcement who put their lives on the line every day.

Among the fallen officers to be honored include five that served in my home State of Pennsylvania: Officer Bradley Michael Fox, who was from Plymouth Township Police Department, which is actually part of my district, Pennsylvania’s Eleventh; Trooper First Class Blake Coble, Pennsylvania State Police; Patrolman Avery Freeman, Chester Police Department; Officer Brian J. Lorenzo, Philadelphia Police Department; and Officer Moses Walker, Jr., Philadelphia Police Department.

These officers, along with more than 100 others who lost their lives in 2012, will be remembered at this service.

These officers made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our country and our communities.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Congratulations, Congressman BARLETTA, for sponsoring this resolution enabling this important memorial service to go forward. You're to be commended for it, and I'm honored to be able to stand here on behalf of the minority and offer our support for the resolution.

H. Con. Res. 18, as the gentleman just said, authorizes use of the Capitol Grounds for the 32nd Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on May 15 on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. This is a solemn and respectful public event honoring local and Federal enforcement officers who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in 2012.

One of those brave public servants was Cold Spring, Minnesota, Police Officer Thomas "Tommy" Decker, who was shot and killed while checking on the welfare of a citizen in an apartment in Cold Spring, Minnesota, on November 29, 2012. Officer Tom Decker was a 6-year veteran and a father of four. He was a 2002 graduate of Alexandria Technical College in Minnesota, where he received an associate in arts degree in law enforcement.

□ 1710

Officer Decker worked in the city of Isle, the city of Watkins, and the city of Kimball, all in Minnesota, before joining the Cold Spring Police Department full time in March of 2006.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Officer Decker was one of 129 brave men and women killed in the line of duty last year. Of those, traffic-related incidents led to the deaths of 50 officers, while 49 died from firearm-related causes. In all, more than 19,000 law enforcement officers have given the ultimate sacrifice while on duty since the first law enforcement death was recorded in 1791.

The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service is a fitting tribute to the 900,000 current law enforcement officers—and all Federal, State, and local police officers—who do the often-dangerous and always necessary work of protecting our families, our homes, and our workplaces. We honor these officers and their families on Capitol Grounds for the sacrifices they have made to maintain the peace in communities all across America.

Consistent with all Capitol Hill events, the memorial service will be free and open to the public. I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this tribute to our fallen law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, law enforcement all over the country every day go to work to protect us, protect our neighborhoods, our communities, always knowing that they may not return home that night. I think this is very fitting that we honor the men and women who keep this country and our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 18.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 19

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the "sponsor") shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the "event"), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 15, 2013, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make

such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 19.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Con. Res. 19 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on June 15, 2013.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for introducing this resolution. He has been a long-time supporter of this event and the children involved each year. This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds.

The Soap Box Derby allows children to show off their dedication, work, and creativity as they compete for trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the National All-American Soap Box Derby held in Akron, Ohio.

I support passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was delighted to learn today from my son, Michael—who is visiting us and sitting in the gallery—that while we are looking at 40-mile-per-hour winds and blizzard conditions back in Minnesota, the snow is piling up. My son's good friend and coworker Toby, along with other kids and dads in our hometown, are bundled up in their garages and in their basements as we speak, designing and building their ultimate speed machines—the soap box racers—getting themselves ready for the exciting annual experience.

I personally have nothing but the fondest memories of long hot summer days scrounging the neighborhood for old wagon wheels, axles, two-by-fours, and thin sheets of tin or aluminum as all of us kids in the neighborhood scrambled to build our soap box racers for the annual summer races down Cemetery Hill.

These races were never formally recognized by the proper authorities, I must admit. In fact, we were frequently chased out of the cemetery by