

We don't have the biggest names, but we play hard and together with great chemistry, and we won because we're a team.

Matt was right, the Eagles won because they were accountable to each other. The dedication and commitment of the players, coaches, fans, and parents made this victory possible.

The teamwork displayed by the Pleasant Grove boys basketball team is an example for Washington. In Congress we need to work together and hold each other accountable and work as a team.

Congratulations again to the Eagles for your tremendous victory.

THE DISTINGUISHED WARFARE MEDAL

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, our country has a proud history of honoring our military heroes, and in doing so we place an emphasis on recognizing servicemembers whose actions placed them in harm's way for the benefit of our Nation and their fellow soldiers.

It's because of this proud history that I have serious concerns about the Department of Defense placement of a newly established Distinguished Warfare Medal in the order of precedence. Surely it is appropriate to recognize servicemembers who make contributions through technology-driven warfare; however, I agree with the VFW that we must continue to preserve the sanctity of our medals for those Americans who sacrifice their personal safety for the safety of the country and their brothers in arms.

That is why I strongly support the effort led by my friend, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, who is a decorated veteran himself, to alter the rank of the Distinguished Warfare Medal such that it ranks below the Purple Heart in precedence.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring his bill, H.R. 833, and urge its passage.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the chance to visit Afghanistan to get a firsthand perspective of the status of our withdrawal, as well as to visit some of our deployed Hawaii troops.

Our servicemembers continue to serve with the highest level of professionalism, selflessness, and integrity. I'm grateful to them and their families for their unwavering coverage and sacrifice.

Our military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are committed to the ongoing transfer of responsibility for security to the Afghan National Security Forces. The Afghan forces are

made up of warriors who are ready to fight and who are already leading a majority of the security operations, building confidence in their ability to withstand the Taliban and insurgency threats.

The U.S. drawdown is crucial for our military and our resources to focus on addressing imminent and direct threats like North Korea. Along with Guam and Alaska, Hawaii's families have been placed in the crosshairs of this threat. We cannot be complacent. We must take action to ensure that our families and assets are protected and defended.

THE BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President finally decided to join the budget discussion today. Good. It's high time he got off the sidelines.

The contrast between the President's budget and the balanced House Republican budget is stark. The President relies on stimulus and taxes; House Republicans rely on government-spending restraint and reform to achieve economic growth. If recent history is any indication, we chose the better path.

Examine this President's track record of growing the economy: government spending is up, workforce participation is down; national debt is up, family take-home pay is down. If President Obama's trillion-dollar stimulus didn't work, how is a shallow imitation going to help us now? The President's budget will never balance and will yield an endless string of deficits.

The Republican Path to Prosperity requires Washington to make due with a little less and keeps money in the private sector where it can be invested in job creation, expansion, and real economic growth.

The American people waited 65 days for the President's budget. They deserve more than stimulus and taxes.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 829 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. Mr. Speaker, I'm devastated by this because the American people are devastated.

Unemployment is depriving people of health care, higher education, and even food and shelter. Does this sound like a civilized Nation?

Mr. Speaker, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the U.S. a failing grade for infrastructure. We have no shortage of shovel-ready public projects that can put people to work, but this Congress is unwilling to act.

Mr. Speaker, our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

□ 1220

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. MESSER. The President's budget proposal reportedly would cap the amount of money people could save in individual retirement accounts. This is a very bad idea. More than a third of people aged 55 and older are not saving for their retirements. Three-quarters have saved much less than they will need to retire comfortably.

We should be encouraging people to save. We need to encourage people to take more responsibility for their future well-beings instead of discouraging sound financial planning. We need to incentivize self-reliance instead of government dependence. This proposal fails on all of these fronts.

Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, the White House has said that the savings cap will allow "substantially more than is needed to fund reasonable levels of retirement saving." My constituents don't need the President deciding what is reasonable for them in their retirements. They don't need him deciding anything else for them either. We need sensible reform.

IMPACTS OF THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I rise today to address the sequester.

Many of those in this House have been telling their constituents that the sequester doesn't make any difference, that nothing has really changed; but that simply is not true.

For example, a cut to the Federal Aviation Administration's budget will result in the furloughing of most of FAA's 47,000 employees, or at least one day per pay period through the end of the fiscal year. Even those employees who provide safety-critical services, like systems specialists and aviation safety inspectors, will be subject to the furlough. As much as 10 percent of the FAA's workforce could be on furlough on any given day, resulting in reduced air traffic control, longer delays and economic losses for air transportation, tourism, and the economy as a whole.

Last week, I visited Lynn Evans-Biga, the executive director of the Luzerne-Wyoming County Head Start in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, an agency which serves 1,000 students and has a waiting list of 700 already. It will have to accept 49 fewer students because of the 5.2 percent sequester cut.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate a team that captivated the Nation with style, swagger, heart, and class. I'm talking about four letters that few people have ever heard of until just March—that is FGCU—put on the map by their men's basketball team. As a Representative and servant of southwest Florida, I am so proud to have Florida Gulf Coast University in my backyard—our backyard, our home—now known as “Dunk City.”

The men's basketball team and the university itself have only been around for, basically, a few years. Heck, the players are actually older than the school itself. Now, this was only FGCU's second year of Division 1 eligibility, and in their second year they went all the way to the sweet 16—busting brackets, knocking down threes and, of course, representing Dunk City with a total of 148 dunks this year.

I am proud to represent Dunk City. I am proud of our young team and our young campus of Florida Gulf Coast University, and we all look forward to another stunning season next year.

FOSTERING MIDDLE CLASS PROSPERITY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we need to focus on fostering middle class prosperity, and I feel investing in job training and education is the best way to do that.

We recently had an opportunity to revamp the Workforce Investment Act. However, the consolidation approach that was taken with that bill was counterproductive. That legislation could have been a bipartisan effort. Instead, it has gone to the Senate to die.

So I propose, instead of belittling Federal employees, attacking unions and repealing environmental protections, why don't we focus on working together across the aisle and doing what we can to equip people with the skills and the education they need to fill the job openings that are out there.

That might sound warm and fuzzy, but that is what Americans want us to do. My constituents have told me again and again: let's focus on practical solutions to the problems people are facing, not political ideology.

FIXING AMERICA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Yesterday, Dylan Quick, a 20-year-old student at Lone Star College in Texas, went on a rampage with a knife, hurting more than a dozen people. He told police he had fantasized since elementary school about stabbing people to death.

Tucson shooter Jared Loughner told his psychologists that he wished he had been taking his anti-psychotic medication. If he had been, Loughner, who has schizophrenia, says the Tucson shooting might not have happened.

A psychiatrist treating James Holmes told campus police a month before the Colorado theater attack that Holmes had homicidal thoughts and was a danger to the public. Holmes also exhibited signs of schizophrenia.

Those with mental illness are generally more likely to be the victims rather than the perpetrators of violence, but those with untreated mental illness are at increased risk of violent behavior. Ten percent of all homicides are committed by individuals with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other psychotic illnesses.

When will we acknowledge that it is not just what is in the killer's hand that makes him dangerous, be it fist, knife or gun, but what is in his mind? We must take off the blinders and acknowledge the importance of the diagnosis of mental illness and severe mental illness. Let's fix our mental illness system.

MARKING 30 YEARS OF SAN RAMON

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Tonight, San Ramon celebrates its 30 years as an incorporated city.

It's a city I know well. My mother grew up there, and my grandfather was the editor of the Valley Pioneer newspaper. I went to elementary school there, and I coached youth soccer there for years.

Americans first came to San Ramon in 1850 when Leo and Mary Jane Norris purchased property there. The name “San Ramon” came from a Native American sheep herder in the area named Ramon. For many years, agriculture was a key part of San Ramon's economy. Starting in the 1960s, suburban development began there; modern San Ramon emerged; and the population took off. Eventually, the residents voted to incorporate as a separate city.

It has grown from about 4,000 people in 1960 to over 70,000 today. It's the fourth largest city in Contra Costa County. It is the location of the headquarters of 24-Hour Fitness and Chevron, and it is the west coast headquarters of AT&T. Both of its high schools, California High School and Dougherty Valley High School, were ranked by U.S. News & World Report as being in the top 200 California high schools. These are just a few examples of the highly educated, hardworking folks who live in San Ramon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing the people of Minnesota understand, it's hockey.

That's why I'm so excited to be able to be here today to congratulate the St. Cloud State University men's hockey team. They're making history. Never before in their history have they advanced to the Frozen Four. I'm here to congratulate them for the first time in the program's history. It has taken talent; it has taken teamwork; it has taken dedication; and the men on this team have shown it all.

I know I speak for all of the people back home in St. Cloud when I say we are extremely proud of these young men and what they've already accomplished. The Cinderella story is going to take place tomorrow evening. It has captivated the community. We can't wait to cheer them on when they take on Quinnipiac in the Frozen Four.

So congratulations. Good luck. Go Huskies.

SEQUESTER

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, we are back from a 2-week recess in the district. Everyone must have been told or seen the impacts of the sequester.

When the sequester went into effect a little over a month ago, people did not see its immediate impact. Now it's different. Many of them, and us, were hoping that the continuing resolution would take care of the sequester, but it did not. Now many of them, and us, are hoping that the President's budget—unlike the Ryan budget, the Republican Study Caucus, or the minority budget in the Senate, which kept the sequester in place—will repeal the sequester.

We know for hospitals like those at home that have large numbers of Medicare patients a 2 percent cut to Medicare is devastating; we know our friends who are still struggling with the recovery from Hurricane Sandy will be affected by the \$1 billion cut to FEMA; and for our Federal employees, the furloughs to cover the sequester will affect not only them and their families but our local economies. We need to recognize that slashing with the sequester is not the answer, but also know that we need to reduce our deficit sensibly.

□ 1230

AMERICANS WANT A BALANCED BUDGET

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