

graves—John is buried in Arlington—with his wife and their two boys, and say, Colonel Brow, it's over. Then with Major Gruber, with his wife and little girl—he's buried in Jacksonville—is to go with them and say, Sleep, you're not at fault. Sleep.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for getting emotional, but I just feel so passionate about this.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING GENERAL JAMES MATTIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Twenty-two minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And this is probably appropriate coming after Mr. JONES speaking about the United States Marine Corps. I come before you today, Mr. Speaker, to talk about a great marine, a marine who was just in charge of Central Command and has retired and resigned after decades of service to this Nation, and let me start at the point where I was able to meet him.

Ten years ago today, the war in Iraq was under way. Nineteen days after the invasion, marines and soldiers had dismantled Saddam Hussein's regime. The takedown of Baghdad and Iraq was precise and supremely coordinated, much to the credit of Marine General James Mattis, who led the 1st Marine Division in Baghdad, and just recently completed his tour as the commander of Central Command.

On March 20, 2003, Mattis led the 1st Marine Division to the borders of Iraq. The marines' success and effectiveness, sustaining light casualties, was due to the intellect and the skill of one of the most cerebral warfighters of our lifetime, General Mattis. General Mattis is a tough man, exactly what you would expect from a United States Marine. He's practical in combat while laser-focused on securing the objective.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Speaker. On the march to Baghdad, General Mattis landed C-130s on the highway to keep vehicles and tanks moving. Mattis' marines outsmarted and overpowered Saddam's forces. In the aftermath, Mattis took a totally different tactic. It was harder to win the peace in Iraq to a certain extent than it was to win the war, but that is when Mattis let his intelligence and his outside-of-the-box thinking show through. In the aftermath, General Mattis and his commanders, working to build trust, establish alliances, and support projects that were important to the Iraqi people, befriended what some thought were the worst people in

Iraq in the Anbar province where the bloody battles of Fallujah and Ramadi roared.

General Mattis was able to make friends with those sheiks and with those elders and brought about the awakening where those local tribes realized that al Qaeda was their enemy and not the Americans, and they then turned on al Qaeda in Iraq and that was able to precipitate the surge and the drawdown from Iraq where we won, largely as a testament to General Mattis' leadership.

There were a lot of other great generals—General Odierno, General Petraeus, General McChrystal, General Kelly, General Dunford, who's now in Afghanistan in charge of the International Security Assistance Force, a lot of great generals. But General Mattis stands out to me, and I would like to relay a quick experience.

When I got to Iraq in 2003, I was driving north to join the 1st Marine Division, and we got ambushed. My marine that was on the Mark 19 in the gun turret got shot in the arm. And at that point as a lieutenant, we were taught to drive out of an ambush as quick as possible and link up and go back and prosecute the enemy if we were able to. We weren't able to at this point. It was 2003. There was no radio communication at this point in time. We couldn't talk with higher headquarters. So me being the highest ranking officer in this convoy, and I was brand new in Iraq and, frankly, didn't know much about anything, we continued north to where the 1st Marine Division was headquartered in a little place called Diwaniyah.

General Mattis happened to be in the command operations center when I got there and dressed me down for not prosecuting the enemy that had ambushed my convoy. He was angry not that a marine was shot or not that we had escaped; he was angry because we didn't get after the guy that got after us. That's a real trait of General Mattis. But for a lieutenant like me who had been in country for a few hours, it was a stark awakening to, hey, you're in the war, and you have to live up to the expectations and the presence and the example set by people like Jim Mattis.

I got to meet General Mattis again in 2004 when I returned to Iraq in the battle of Fallujah. We would call General Mattis "Chaos." That was his call sign because not only was he the cerebral and intellectual architect regarding a lot of what the Marine Corps did in the Anbar province, but he was also fearless. He would drive alone and unafraid by himself in his own light-armored vehicle, and he would show up anywhere he wanted to, day or night, in any kind of situation, whether there was a fire fight going on or not. And I tell you, he earned the respect, rightfully so, of every single marine and every single soldier who saw him on the front lines during those wars.

General Mattis is now CENTCOM commander. Through his leadership,

CENTCOM has overseen the Afghan war with a level of confidence and strategy that is indicative of General Mattis' touch. Aspiring leaders would be smart to take a lesson from General Mattis. He well served the United States Marine Corps and America for more than 40 years.

I would argue, Mr. Speaker, that this administration with this Commander in Chief likes military leaders who agree with it, military leaders that give this administration the answers that they like to get about the way that the world is today. And they are opposed, frankly, to military leaders who give their honest opinions, regardless of who is Commander in Chief.

General Mattis is the type of person that our military needs now more than ever before. And as he prepares to leave CENTCOM, for reasons that appear to possibly hinge on politics and this administration and General Mattis' take on Iran, I can say that I speak for the marines who have served under Mattis that a leader of his kind is near impossible to replace.

I would like to read a couple of quotes. This book is called "Victory in Iraq: How America Won."

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The opening page, General Mattis is featured speaking to his Marines, the 1st Marine Division, in Iraq, or in Kuwait before the invasion. Here's what he said:

When I give you the word, we will cross the line into Iraq. For the mission's sake, our country's sake, and the sake of the men who carried the division's colors in past battles, who fought for life and never lost their nerve, carry out your mission and keep your honor clean. Demonstrate to the world that there is no better friend, no worse enemy than a United States Marine.

I would like to give General Mattis the appreciation of the entire United States House of Representatives and every single Marine, past, present and future, and every single American that owes, at least partly, the safety of this Nation to people like him and to him, literally and explicitly, for what he's done for this Nation.

Semper Fi, General Mattis. We hope that retirement treats you as well as your Marine Corps did.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1120, PREVENTING GREATER UNCERTAINTY IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-32) on the resolution (H. Res. 146) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1120) to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from taking any action that requires a quorum of the members of the Board until such time as Board constituting a quorum

shall have been confirmed by the Senate, the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of the appointments to the Board made in January 2012, or the adjournment sine die of the first session of the 113th Congress, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. We are re-establishing the 30-Something Working Group, which some may remember. Many—it seems like many years ago, Congressman Kendrick Meek and I and Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ came to this floor in 2003 and 2004 and 2005 and 2006, and we were talking about issues of the day and how they applied to people in their thirties or people in their twenties, and tried to take, at that point, some of President Bush's policies and make them understandable to young people in our society.

And so we had many conversations, many late night conversations here on this House floor, sometimes an hour a night, sometimes 2 hours a night, sometimes 3, 4, 5 hours a week, coming to help deliver the message. And at that time, back in 2004 and 2005 and 2006—and let me just take a second to thank all the staff that was here for those late hours, for always being around for us, and some are still here today, as we are still here today. But today, we want to re-establish this.

Back then it was the privatization of Social Security. Mr. Speaker. And President Bush wanted to take the Social Security program and privatize it, put it in the stock market and allow that to be a part of the private investment system and not the insurance system that we have with regard to Social Security. And fortunately, we were able, through the leadership of Minority Leader PELOSI, at that time, before she was Speaker, encouraged us to go out and do this, and we were able, with her leadership, the 30-Something Group and other Members going out across the country, we were able to put a stop to the privatization of Social Security.

And fast forward just a few years, to 2008, 2009, I think there were a lot of Americans who were very happy that we did not, at that time, have the Social Security program in the stock market. Many people would have lost their retirements.

So today, we have a whole new set of challenges, and we have a new crop of very talented, young Members of Congress, members of the Democratic Caucus, who want to come to the floor and talk about the issues of the day as they pertain to young people and people who have been around a little bit, and how some of these proposals that are com-

ing from the Republican Conference, the Republican Study Committee, the Republican Budget Committee, how some of these policies will hit the ground.

In my opinion, we seem to be governing by bumper sticker. So we want smaller government, we want less of this and less of that, and more of this and more of that, that can be phrased to sound really good on a bumper sticker to where you would drive by and you would look at the bumper sticker and you'd think, it makes a lot of sense.

But what we want to do with this working group and the folks who will be joining me here tonight and over the next several weeks and months is to say, how does this hit the ground? How does the Republican budget hit the ground?

How does it affect you? How does it affect your family? How does it affect your mom and dad? How does it affect your grandma and grandpa? And that's what we would like to talk about here today.

I think, and say this, knowing that many of the folks on the other side of the aisle are friends of mine, dear friends, good friends. Some I like to hang out with, some I don't get an opportunity to hang out with, but are all good people trying to do good things.

But why we need to come here and have this debate and discussion and conversation is that we need to figure out how we're going to move forward as a country. And our arguments on our side are that the Republican budget, the Republican approach, the Republican philosophy has caused a lot of the problems that we have in our economy today. The financial deregulation, looking the other way while Wall Street turned into a crap game, without any regulation at all, no cops on the beat keeping an eye on things.

We saw two wars put on a credit card, Afghanistan and Iraq, no taxpayer, no citizen, other than the families of the military, were asked to make any sacrifice at all, and funding for the two wars was put on a credit card. And then you throw in a prescription drug bill that was not paid for on the credit card.

So this is what happened from 2000 to 2008, where we were running up the deficit, running up the national debt. And here we arrived in 2009, after having to save the banks and do the TARP program in order to plug this trillions of dollars of a hole in our economy to make sure that the banks don't lock up and not loan money and everything else, so we had to go to the taxpayer, and the taxpayer had to foot the bill for the two wars, the prescription drug bill, and the massive deregulation of the financial markets, the too-big-to-fail, and then they failed. And so the taxpayer was asked to foot the bill.

What we are saying here on our side is that that's the wrong approach. Cutting taxes for the wealthiest in our society, this is not to punish the wealthy,

this is—our approach is not to punish anybody, but what we're saying is, when the income for the top 1 percent goes up over the last 10, 15, 20 years so dramatically that the average CEO is making 300-plus times what the average worker is making, when you have the rich people that are making hundreds of millions of dollars, the top 1 percent, but then you also have the top .1 percent of the Americans who are making massive amounts of money, hedge funds and whatnot.

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What we're saying is, when you have that imbalance and that level of inequality or it becomes a threat to the democratic way of life, that's the democracy piece, but we also have the economic piece. When you get a high concentration of wealth, then the average person doesn't have the amount of money in their pocket to be able to go out and spend in the economy.

So this is a supply side argument, cut taxes for the wealthy, this approach that our friends on the other side, the Republican Party, the Tea Party, has been pitching since 1980: cut taxes for the rich and hopefully something positive will happen for the middle class.

Democrats are saying we've got to invest in the middle class. We've got to help the middle class with health care costs, with the cost of going to school and going to college, getting a trade, going to a community college, helping poor school districts, making sure that families who send their kids to college and take out a student loan, that those loan repayment rates are reasonable. Those are the reforms we made as Democrats here while the Democrats were in charge of the Chamber in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, and those are the investments we made.

We're talking about two separate philosophies. One philosophy on the Republican Tea Party side is to cut taxes for the wealthy, deregulate Wall Street, and look the other way while there's a crap game going on on Wall Street; have two wars, one of them very questionable in why it started in the first place, and a prescription drug bill that all went on the credit card.

So cut taxes, start two wars, and put a prescription drug bill on the credit card, drive up the debt, deregulate the financial markets until the taxpayer has to come in and bail out and the economy collapses, that's what happened. And so we don't really have to have the argument. Those are the facts of a Republican Presidency, House, and Senate that got to implement their tax package. They got to implement their financial regulatory packages. They got to pass budgets that did or did not make certain investments. And what happened is, after a decade of that philosophy being implemented, the economy collapsed. It was not just a normal recession, it was a financial recession, which a lot of economists now are telling us how difficult and how much longer it takes to get out of these financial recessions.