

neighbors. We have to have communities wherein all persons are a part of the fiber and fabric of the various communities that we live in.

Dr. King was in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, and he was there on this mission of bringing people together. He was there to help with some issues related to workers and workers' rights. Unfortunately, on April 4 of 1968, Dr. King was assassinated. His life's work did not end, however. His dream is still alive, and because he dared to transform neighborhoods into brotherhoods, the President of the United States at that time, President Johnson, took up the fight for Dr. King, and within 7 days a piece of legislation passed through the House that dealt with discrimination as it relates to where people live.

This legislation had bipartisan support. The Democratic supporter was Senator Walter Mondale, a very well-known figure in American politics. The Republican supporter was an African American, by the way, who was a member of the Senate, the Honorable Edward Brooke. These two Senators had for years been trying to pass this legislation to eliminate discrimination in housing. They had some degree of success, but they were not able to get the legislation passed.

In 1968, 7 days after Dr. King's death, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 passed, prohibiting discrimination based upon race, color, religion or national origin as it relates to the sale or to the financing of housing. In 1974, the act was amended to include sex discrimination. In 1988, it was amended to prohibit discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap as well as familial status.

The Housing Fairness Act, which I have introduced, models this piece of legislation. It, too, deals with discrimination that is invidious with reference to refusing to rent to a person, to sell housing to a person, to negotiate housing, to make housing available, to set different terms for some than for others, to falsely deny that housing is unavailable when it is available. This kind of discrimination still exists, but it's important for us today to realize that it is very much having an impact on persons whom many of us do not assume are victims of housing discrimination. The FY 2011 statistics, the latest available to me, connote that 27,092 complaints were filed with programs associated with the Fair Housing Initiatives, and of these complaints about 12 percent to 54 percent of them were complaints based upon disability.

Now, it's important for us to focus on disability for a moment because many of our veterans returning from wars, persons who chose to go to distant places, don't always return the same way they left. Many of them have given their lives, and others have survived, but they have survived and they are handicapped. Many of them returning will be discriminated against because there are people who discrimi-

nate against people who are handicapped. They may not know that it's a veteran, but whether they know or not, the act of discrimination is still harmful.

I will submit to you that it makes sometimes tears well in the eyes of people who understand how our veterans have fought for us. So I am here today to make an appeal that we support Fair Housing Initiatives and that we do all that we can to transform neighborhoods into brotherhoods.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless abundantly the Members of this people's House. During the season of new growth, may Your redemptive power help them to see new ways to productive service, fresh approaches to understanding each other, especially those across the aisle, and renewed commitment to solving the problems facing our Nation.

May they, and may we all, be transformed by Your grace and better reflect the sense of wonder, even joy, at the opportunities to serve that are ever before us.

The issues of our day are a challenge for a Nation who claims Your blessing. May we not forget the reminders to Your chosen people of once having been oppressed foreigners and the admonitions of Scripture that we might be entertaining angels in the strangers among us. Help the Members of this House to find a balance that meets the demands of our beliefs with the practical realities that challenge us as a complex Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on

agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALBERG led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, President Obama finally released his 2014 budget this week, 2 months late and trillions of dollars short.

Similar to last year's plan, it taxes more to spend more. While the President claims his budget will reduce the deficit in a balanced way, it won't ever balance—not in 10 years, not ever.

The President's plan is \$8.2 trillion of new debt. It also includes \$1.1 trillion in new taxes. Hardworking taxpayers don't deserve more taxes; they deserve a budget that allows them to keep more of their own money and not worry about financial debt being placed on their children and grandchildren.

House Republicans have passed such a budget, one that balances: a proactive budget that eliminates the deficit while also providing economic security for employers and employees, a sustainable safety net for the poor and those retiring, and a secure future for our children and grandchildren.

Americans know what it takes to create a balanced budget for their own families and their own businesses, and they deserve the same from their government.

EARTH DAY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the founder of Earth Day, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, was asked in 2005,

just before his death at the age of 89, if Earth Day should be celebrated. "Our work is not finished," he replied. "There's a lot more that needs to be done."

As we enter wildfire season, watershed infrastructure that would mitigate future contamination of local rivers and reservoirs is still being rebuilt from last season, and funding for rebuilding is only now being allocated, having been delayed under sequestration, affecting lives and homes.

We've yet to craft an agenda that talks of a multiyear transportation plan or climate change. And, of course, the green legislator at heart would love to see tools like the Antiquities Act as a job-creating mechanism rather than spending time on the floor fighting against rolling back NEPA as we're doing this week with H.R. 678, unnecessarily, at the expense of supporting hydropower, as we should.

No, our work is not finished. There's a lot more to be done.

MOVING FORWARD WITH LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, the United States surpassed Russia in becoming the world's largest producer of natural gas. Due to recent technological advancements, large deposits of natural gas, mainly shale gas, are now being harvested. Through the use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, previously inaccessible hydrocarbons are now seeing the light of day.

Having Henry Hub located in the center of the Third Congressional District, I'm fully aware that the market price of U.S. natural gas is at an all-time low and much lower than Asian and European natural gas prices. While this fact presents challenges, it also provides an opportunity for our Nation to fast become a global energy hub by exporting one of our most abundant natural resources in the form of liquified natural gas, or LNG.

With domestic demand being met, exporting LNG leads to job creation at home, a reduction in the national trade deficit, and an increase in revenues for the Federal Government. As a member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, these are all value-added benefits for our Nation.

The domestic natural gas boom presents the United States with an enormous economic opportunity and geopolitical opportunity. Our Nation should seize this opportunity and not let it pass. It's in the public interest.

INVEST IN AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week I took part in a town hall meeting in Buffalo, along with the Alliance for American Manufacturing, and discussed the importance of manufacturing jobs to our region and to our Nation.

With western New York's dedicated workforce and history of manufacturing success, we are ready to grow our economy with the resurgence of advanced manufacturing industry. But to do this, our workers and businesses need a willing partner in their government.

This Congress must make investing in our infrastructure and investing in our people top priorities. Robust funding to rebuild roads and bridges, along with fostering job-training programs and passing legislation in the House Democrats' Make It In America agenda, will enable us to compete with any other nation in the world.

Mr. Speaker, investing in American manufacturing creates jobs and reduces the deficit. There is much work to be done, and there are Americans who need the work.

□ 1210

THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE'S REPORT ON WASTE

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, we engage in so much Washington speak in our debates—words like "sequestration," "continuing resolutions," and "debt ceiling"—that the structure of our debates, I feel, can be off-putting to many Americans. So let's try to be a little more straightforward.

The reality is that we have a huge mismatch between revenues and expenditures. We all know that this is a struggle, but we have to get our fiscal house in order, just like American families do, businesses do and even local governments do; but instead of hashing through the same old debates, perhaps there is an easier way forward.

Right here, Mr. Speaker, is a Government Accountability Office report that came out this week. It's a new report that builds upon former reports. There are more than 300 areas in which we can tackle redundant spending across the Federal Government. So here is the right place to start, Mr. Speaker—in delivering a smarter and more effective government while also saving money.

GUN REFORM

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, throughout the United States, in red and blue States alike, we have speed limits for

travel on public roads. These laws are good public policy because they prohibit behavior that can endanger the lives of others. But imagine if we blocked our police from using speed detection devices so they could never prove that you were speeding or if we only allowed the use of those devices on certain roads. Such a policy would make speed limits mere suggestions with no consequences for those who would violate the law.

It sounds ridiculous, but this is exactly the strategy we currently use to prohibit the purchase of firearms by criminals and those with serious mental illness. Federal law bans the purchase of guns by dangerous people, but massive loopholes in our background check system permit at least 40 percent of purchases to evade the law without detection by law enforcement.

The NRA and its supporters often claim that we need to enforce the laws on the books. Agreed. Universal background checks are designed to do just that—to provide an actual enforcement mechanism. That's what the Congress should require because 90 percent of the American public wants us to do at least that.

SITTIN' ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, the President hosted a star-studded concert at the White House for his friends, featuring the music of Otis Redding and others. One of Otis Redding's lines in his "(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay" sums up my thoughts on the President's budget: "Looks like nothing's gonna change. Everything remains the same."

Just like the Senate, the President's budget raises taxes, increases the debt and never, ever, ever balances. The Obama budget has a trillion dollars in new taxes on top of the trillion-dollar ObamaCare tax and the \$600 billion "fiscal cliff" tax from earlier this year. The Obama budget spends \$46 trillion, borrows another \$8 trillion, and increases the national debt to \$25.4 trillion over the next 10 years. Then, after all those taxes and all that spending, we still have a budget that never, ever, ever balances.

Mr. President, we can't borrow forever. We can't keep spending more than we take in. These problems are staring us right in the face, but the big spenders in Washington are just sittin' on the dock of the bay, wasting time.

NEW JERSEY'S LIFE SCIENCES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the contributions of the