

It has become clear that the House Republicans' so-called "plan" to create jobs was just empty rhetoric, a hollow promise to the American people. If House Republicans were serious about creating jobs, they would vote on the updated Van Hollen substitute—a real plan to replace the sequester with a sensible, balanced approach to deficit reduction that puts job creation first.

IN MEMORY OF ALMERINDO "AL"
CARVALHEIRA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of Almerindo "Al" Carvalho, a Vietnam veteran who lived an extraordinary life of service to his country and to his fellow veterans. Al succumbed to cancer on January 21, 2013, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northport, New York.

Al was born on October 21, 1947, in Portugal. His family immigrated to the United States when he was 10 years old and settled in Nesconset, New York. Al proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War and received numerous awards and decorations, including two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Air Medal.

Honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant in December of 1969, Al returned to his home on Long Island where he pursued a career in nursing and was hired by the Northport VA Medical Center in 1977. There he dedicated himself to the care and treatment of his fellow veterans as a VA registered nurse and nurse leader for nearly four decades.

Al was known as a highly effective and empathetic caregiver who was never too busy to spend time with his patients, especially the most challenging among them. His own experience gave him a unique understanding of what his patients had endured in combat. In discussions with them, he often cited his favorite book, "The Things They Carried," written by fellow Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien.

Soon after the start of his career at the VA medical center, Al was promoted to nurse manager, which gave him the supervision of all inpatient psychiatric units and the outpatient treatment program. In addition to these significant responsibilities, Al trained and developed staff in crisis intervention and implemented a crisis response team for the safety of VA patients and staff. In order to provide veterans the best care possible, Al found the time to earn a master's degree in nursing from Stony Brook University.

Dear to Al's heart was the Suffolk County, New York, chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, to which he devoted 38 years of service, working day in and day out taking care of "his boys," advocating for the needs of all

veterans and raising awareness of the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans and their families.

In May of 2009, I had the great pleasure of working with Al and his friends and fellow Vietnam veterans Richie Kitson and Clarence Simpson to rename the Riverhead, New York, Post Office in honor of Suffolk County's only Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, PFC Garfield M. Langhorn.

That same year, Al took the lead in the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden on the grounds of the Northport VA Medical Center, which recognizes and honors the sacrifices of our Nation's servicemen and -women. The memorial garden's dedication ceremony was held in October 2010 and was attended by more than 300 people.

In 2011, Al and members of the VVA were inspired by Dignity Memorial's replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to expand the Northport VA Medical Center's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden for the inclusion of a permanent war memorial known as The Wall of Wars.

□ 1050

It was during this time that Al was diagnosed with cancer. Although Al will not be present at the VA's Veterans Day dedication of the The Wall of Wars, his legacy as a war hero, a VA nurse, and a veterans advocate is and will be forever present on the grounds of the Northport VA Medical Center and throughout Suffolk County's veteran community.

On January 25, 2013, Vietnam veteran and U.S. Army Sergeant Al Carvalho was laid to rest with military honors at Long Island's Calverton National Cemetery. Al is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years, Geraldine, and their two sons, Almerindo and John, as well as six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District and a grateful Nation, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Almerindo "Al" Carvalho for his distinguished service and many contributions to our Nation and his fellow veterans. He will always be remembered with our love and appreciation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, recently research has shown that fish populations are not waiting for climate change to make their habitat impossible for them to live. They're moving. That's right: fish all over the globe are migrating to cooler climates.

In a process that's been taking place for decades now, fish are sorting themselves out and leaving areas that no longer sustain their quality of life,

their ability to reproduce and to thrive. They've steadily been moving to areas where the effects of climate change are not so pronounced.

Isn't it interesting that fish, without fancy scientific instrumentation or computer analysis, have reacted to the facts in the sea and moved where they can function, where they can live and where they can, at least for the time being, escape the impacts of climate change?

They're also escaping from people who depend on them in their previous habitat to fish, but that's another story on the consequences of climate change and global warming.

Isn't it time that the political process starts responding in ways that even fish can? One would hope. But, instead, today on the floor of the House, we're going to return to debate the Keystone pipeline that would carry oil extracted from Canada's tar sands to the U.S. gulf and short circuit Presidential review.

Given the potential negative environmental impacts, the repeated efforts by some to rush the environmental and public safety review process, the overwhelming number of comments and concerns received from the public and the recent news about the atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide that have reached 400 parts per million, an amount not seen in at least 3 million years, I'm concerned that this sideshow over the Keystone pipeline will make our climate problem worse, rather than better, and poison the ability to make progress in the future.

The simple fact is that this pipeline would facilitate the exploitation of one of the dirtiest sources of energy—tar sands oil—that poses public, safety, and health risks.

In addition to possible worsening of the effects of global climate change, there are serious questions that remain about pipeline safety, spill prevention, and protecting the public from potential health impacts in the wake of the spills that are inevitable.

Tar sand developers are amazingly exempt from paying into the oil spill liability trust fund, making American taxpayers liable for the cost of any spills from the Canadian tar sands oil. This places, I think, an unacceptable and unnecessary risk on American taxpayers, one that we can ill afford to assume today.

This will be the seventh time that we voted and that I will vote against proposals to streamline the building of the Keystone pipeline as some Members of the House continually and repeatedly attempt to circumvent the legislative process and rush its proposal.

The only positive of this project is creating several thousand temporary construction jobs and a few dozen permanent jobs. That's no reason to short circuit the review required by law.

The potential environmental harm done by the pipeline—both from the threat of oil spills to the precious aquifer that it will be passing over and because tar sands emit three times more

global warming pollution than conventional oil—has led me to the conclusion that I hope President Obama does not approve the pipeline.

There are many things we should be doing to rebuild and renew America and create millions of jobs, not a few thousand temporary construction jobs. We ought to be looking at different approaches to revenue and dealing with carbon pollution. For instance, we are discussing a draft that would potentially tax carbon emissions dealing directly with the problem, help provide revenues to lower taxes, pay for what America needs and deal with emerging technologies and level the playing field for technologies of the future.

Now, as we watch climate change begin to have serious impacts on our environment, our fish, our wildlife population, and our seasons and the weather, the least we can do is stop actions that may well make climate change worse.

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 56 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

Dr. Ken Whitten, Idlewild Baptist Church, Lutz, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven,

Our heads are bowed because that is the position of humility, a spiritual characteristic that Your Word says brings grace. We fold our hands to express godly fear because You said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." And we all recognize that is the need of this hour and this day.

Our hearts, Lord, break with the families in Moore, Oklahoma. The loss and devastation leave us speechless, but it is in these heart-wrenching days we find ourselves saying that we are not Republicans, Democrats, or Independents; we are one Nation in need of grace, healing, and salvation.

We pray that the decisions made in this Chamber today will reflect Your heart, a heart for the broken, the bruised, the abused, and the abandoned.

May You help us today to think more about the spiritual than the economical, more about the eternal than the temporal; and Lord, may we echo that Puritan prayer of old:

What we know not, teach us.
What we have not, give us.

What we are not, make us.

In Jesus' wonderful name we pray.
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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. OLSON 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.

WELCOMING DR. KEN WHITTEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Pastor Ken Whitten before the House of Representatives.

Pastor Whitten serves as the senior pastor at Lutz, Florida's, Idlewild Baptist Church, which has served the Tampa Bay community for almost 80 years.

While originally based out of an old garage building, today it serves a congregation of more than 12,000 members on a 143-acre campus.

Under Pastor Whitten's leadership, the Idlewild family has placed a focus on both local and global missions, a biblical guidance ministry, instructional classes for those who seek to grow spiritually, and activities and ministries for all ages.

Pastor Whitten is a pillar of our community and has guided tens of thousands of people as they develop and grow their personal relationship with the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome Pastor Whitten to our Nation's capital.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL MEMORIAL

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, I visited the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Memorial on

Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. The memorial wall is located across from the EOD school where men and women from every branch are trained in the elite and specialized skills necessary to locate, identify, render safe, recover, evaluate, and dispose of explosives.

As former Army EOD, I understand the critical role our EOD forces play as the key enablers in the ongoing war on IEDs both at home and abroad. I also understand the omnipresent danger that our EOD warriors face in the battlefield and on civil support missions here in the United States.

The memorial wall contains the names of the brave men and women of the EOD who have given their lives in defense of our freedom. The memorial wall does an excellent job of recognizing the incredible sacrifice that our EOD forces and all of our men and women in uniform make every day on behalf of our freedom.

I would like to take a moment to honor the EOD warriors who lost their lives in the line of duty between World War II and Vietnam but are not recognized on the EOD memorial wall. These men and women served valiantly and lost their lives in the line of duty, but are not included on the memorial wall because they were not physically assigned to an EOD unit at the time of their death. These brave warriors lost their lives performing EOD duties in support of their fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and deserve to be recognized for their service.

With Memorial Day approaching, now is an appropriate time to recognize their sacrifice. I would like to submit their names for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

God bless our troops and God bless the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair asks all Members to remove communicative badges prior to being recognized.

THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, instead of working together to find a compromise to fully reverse the sequester, House Republicans have turned their backs on the American people and are jeopardizing our fragile economy. In fact, sequestration will cost 750,000 jobs this year alone, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

We saw last month how quickly and easily these cuts can be addressed when the Congress passed legislation to address traffic controller furloughs. But we have not been given the opportunity to address the 70,000 children who could lose access to Head Start or any of the