

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

other programs that have been crippled.

Funding for the National Institutes of Health has shrunk by \$1.5 billion, cutting into lifesaving medical research for areas that include breast cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's. The cuts from NIH alone will result in a loss of more than 20,000 jobs and \$8 billion in economic activity.

We can address these cuts, but the GOP's obstructionism has stalled all reasonable efforts.

We need to work on an approach that will fix sequestration while reducing our deficit sensibly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to come to the table to compromise, and help find a solution that will keep our economy on track and growing.

IS THIS AMERICA?

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, under the threat of perjury, a Tea Party in Texas' 22nd Congressional District was asked these questions by the IRS:

Have you attempted or will you attempt to influence the outcome of specific legislation?

That activity is protected by the Constitution. Is this America?

Do you directly or indirectly communicate with members of legislative bodies?

That activity is protected by the Constitution. Is this America?

This is not America. House Republicans are going to restore America by giving the people the truth they deserve.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative represents our Nation's commitment to protecting the health of our Great Lakes, the largest source of fresh water in the world, representing \$7 billion in economic activity annually.

In western New York, the revitalization of Buffalo's Inner and Outer Harbor areas depends on efforts to restore the health of Lake Erie and the Buffalo River.

The Environmental Protection Agency will soon host a series of public meetings to gain community input to guide the next phase of Great Lakes restoration, and one of the meetings will be held in Buffalo.

Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes are a unique natural treasure with global significance. The Brookings Institution report shows that for every \$1 invested in Great Lakes restoration, a \$2 return in the form of increased fishing, tourism, and home values is achieved. It is our responsibility to ensure that the restoration initiative is fully funded in

this year's appropriations, and also to be an active partner in protecting and restoring our Great Lakes.

□ 1210

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, it's a rare occasion when Democrats, Republicans, the President, his supporters, and the public all agree on something. What doesn't make sense is that, while we all agree it's time to build the Keystone pipeline, President Obama has blocked its construction for over 4 years.

The Keystone pipeline would create over 42,000 jobs. It will invest \$7 billion into the U.S. economy, and it will increase U.S. energy security and independence by safely transporting 830,000 barrels of oil per day, which is nearly half of what the U.S. currently imports from unstable, hostile nations.

At a time when gas prices are on the rise and unemployment remains around 8 percent, we cannot afford to delay this project any longer. The President's own Web site says we need an all-out, all-of-the-above energy strategy that develops every available source of American energy.

I would say, Mr. President, you have a lot to worry about currently, so forget about this one, and let the oil flow.

The Keystone project is ready. Congress is ready. The public is ready. Madam Speaker, is the President ready?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to address their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING OUR WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINERS ACT OF 2013

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, for over 200 years, the U.S. Merchant Marine has been a pillar in the foundation of our country's national security and economic growth, and so it is fitting that every year on May 22 we celebrate National Maritime Day in recognition of their service and sacrifice across the centuries.

On this day, we reflect on the service of the men and women of the Merchant Marine who served during World War II, many thousands of whom died in delivering the arsenal of democracy over the seas to the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific. Merchant mariners died at a higher rate in World War II than any uniformed service. Unfortunately, the veterans of the Merchant Marine who risked their lives in the service of this Nation and of all freedom-loving nations were never eligible for the provisions of the GI Bill, which helped millions of veterans go to college, secure a home, and transition seamlessly into civilian life.

That's why I have introduced the Honoring Our World War II Merchant Mariners Act of 2013. This bill would provide a \$1,000 monthly benefit to the nearly 10,000 surviving World War II mariners. By providing this modest benefit, we will finally be giving our brave merchant mariners the recognition and benefits they deserve.

MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today to honor all of those who died in fighting for our country. This coming Monday, this Nation will observe Memorial Day, a day set aside to pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in defense of our freedom.

As Members of Congress, so much of what we do on behalf of our constituents touches the military in some way. Recently, my office secured a new Silver Star Medal for the late John Chase, a World War II veteran from Batavia, New York.

Drafted into the Army, Mr. Chase fought bravely in the Battle of the Rhineland in 1945, a critical victory for the Allied Forces. Last month, as he grew increasingly ill, Mr. Chase's family reached out to my office for help in securing a new medal. In the process, we discovered Mr. Chase also qualified for the Bronze Star, which he had never received. We were able to present the medals to Mr. Chase's family on the day he passed, allowing them to be properly displayed at his funeral.

I want to thank Mr. Chase posthumously for his distinguished service and pay my respects to all Americans killed in wars both present and past.

SEQUESTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the devastating effects sequestration is having on HUD and those who benefit from the agency's work.

Because of Congress' failure to pass legislation to reduce the deficit, the Federal Government is making across-the-board spending cuts to domestic and defense programs, including HUD and all its related agencies. These cuts are having a profound impact on people, especially in the rental and homeless assistance programs, and families in my district are feeling this firsthand. The housing authorities in my district will soon be forced to consider terminating approximately 1,800 families from housing assistance. Cuts to housing authorities will affect their capacity and their efficiency to serve