

natural gas industry, particularly in my area, the PA 10th District. A NATO Parliamentary Assembly report estimates that our shale will provide gas to supply the United States for the next 90 years at least.

If Americans have access to vast and affordable resources, why are we not utilizing them? The same NATO PA report emphasized that the U.S. could lead the world in oil and natural gas production.

It's time to build. Remove the roadblocks preventing construction of the job-creating, economy-boosting Keystone XL pipeline.

THE TUCKERS ON SEQUESTER CUTS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, as the reckless across-the-board cuts in Federal spending known as "sequester" continue, I want to share a letter I received from my constituents, Leslie and Brian Tucker:

After being robbed by our home lender during the mortgage modification fiasco, my wife took a job with Jefferson County Public Schools and turned it into a career. She earned a certificate in childhood development and went to work at Duvalle Learning Center in Early Childhood Education as an assistant. After hard work, she rose to a lead teacher position.

I am a union steel worker with bad insurance. We have three children together—the youngest is 13 months, the oldest is 16 years old. My wife recently was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism and will require an expensive procedure to fix it.

The news of her sequester-caused layoff hit us especially hard, as it seems every time we get ahead a step, something knocks us back down.

Middle class life now requires two incomes. Without my wife's job, we will undoubtedly end up drawing some sort of assistance. If Congress can fix travel delays with the stroke of a pen, then helping my wife and the other teachers in Louisville being laid off should be a walk in the park.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to listen to the Tuckers and end sequestration.

SISTER MONSON

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

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, like all Americans, my thoughts and prayers are extended to the people of Oklahoma this day.

I also rise to pay tribute to a modern-day heroine, Mrs. Frances J. Monson, who passed away last week. Frances, the wife of Thomas S. Monson, president of the Church Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, led a life full of service, love, and dedication to her family, friends, and her faith.

Her daughter Ann has remarked of Mrs. Monson:

Instead of looking for the recognition of the world, she has always received her recognition of worth from such things as the happy smile of a son or the outstretched hand of a grandchild.

In 1998, she was the recipient of the Continuum of Caring Humanitarian award by the Friends of St. Joseph Villa, but she never asked for a lot of attention. Instead, she turned to serve others with a compassionate and caring attitude. Her life was a shining example of one filled with faith, hope, and charity.

On a very personal note, President and Mrs. Monson have always been a source of inspiration to me and my family. I want to thank them for their great example of Godly love, which has served as a model for more than 14 million Mormons around the world. She will be greatly missed; but her devotion to her faith has touched so many, it will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression upon the world.

PAY AS YOU RATE ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me as original cosponsors of the Pay As You Rate Act.

The Veterans Administration currently has more than 1 million backlog cases, and 70 percent of these have been under review for more than 125 days. For some veterans like those in southern Nevada, the average time to process a claim is close to 500 days. This is just unacceptable.

The Pay As You Rate Act will ensure that veterans receive at least some of their benefits in a more timely fashion.

Currently, the VA withholds benefit payments to veterans until their entire claim has been reviewed and processed. This is a serious problem, especially for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans whose average claim contains 8.5 separate components.

The Pay As You Rate Act will require the VA to pay veterans benefits as each element of the claim is reviewed rather than waiting until the entire package has been processed. This is a commonsense change which will put money in veterans' pockets sooner and also address the backlog.

□ 1230

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Foster Care Month. All children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home. Yet more than 400,000 of this Nation's children in foster care are still looking for such a place, a place where safe, supportive, and stable families can help nurture their dreams to reality.

Madam Speaker, our Nation can never forget these amazing young people,

and we should all thank the thousands of caregivers already answering the call and working tirelessly to help these children in need. But together, we must pledge to do more. Despite the best efforts of thousands, many foster youth struggle to find a permanent home. We are a Nation good enough and great enough to answer this call.

WHY ISN'T ANYONE TALKING ABOUT THE DEFICIT

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the mantra for at least 4 years has been the Federal budget deficit, but for some reason, it is now rather quiet. The question we should be asking is: Why?

Could it be because last week the CBO readjusted its projections and has determined that the government's annual deficit is shrinking faster than expected—actually shrinking? The deficit which topped 10 percent of the gross domestic product in 2009 and exceeded \$1 trillion a year is now expected to shrink to \$642 billion this fiscal year. That's \$200 billion lower than expected. The deficit is expected to be 2.1 percent of the GDP by 2015, a rate that is deemed manageable by the CBO. So why aren't we talking about this?

Just so we're clear, the \$200 billion is not due to the sequestration. Shouldn't we be saying something is going right? Could it just be the implementation of the Obama policies may be working? Imagine if we implemented it all.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about it so the people can clearly hear.

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage and the bravery of those servicemen and -women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our most cherished principles.

This Memorial Day, we honor their lives in the name of freedom, and we owe them our deepest respect and gratitude. But even more, we owe them our allegiance to the principles for which they have given so much. We reflect upon these ideals, as we have on this day for the past 145 years.

Service to one's country is a value that has been deeply ingrained in American heritage and—especially in my home State of Georgia—you would be hard-pressed to find someone who did not either personally serve or has a family member or friend who has served.

My home district has recently lost 37 of these unforgettable heroes, and it is in their memory that I would like to give my deepest regards to the servicemembers who have laid down their

lives and the families whose loved ones have been laid to rest for our great Nation.

HONORING WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, again let me offer my deepest concern and sympathy for our fellow Americans in Oklahoma—what an enormous tragedy and devastation—and also our friends in north Texas. America is embracing them, as we should.

But I rise today to acknowledge, as we look toward this coming weekend, and honor those who have fallen in battle, and to be able to celebrate the experience that Members of Congress, women Members of Congress had this morning in commemorating the war memorial for women, and to salute Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, who was the founder and originator, along with Members of Congress, of this historic memorial.

Today, we ascended to Arlington National Cemetery where we placed a wreath in honor of those women. 154 women have fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq. We had the privilege of honoring five women from the five military branches and to, again, pay tribute to those who are willing to sacrifice.

Men and women sacrifice. They are parents. Mothers leave behind their children and families. Families depend upon women in many different ways, and it is greatly an honor to be able to honor those women and to say as well that we will never, ever forget those men and women who have fallen in battle. And we will be there on Memorial Day, as I will be in my Heights location doing a flag ceremony and at the Veterans Cemetery, because this is what America does. We never forget those who fell in battle for us.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, 1,700 days and counting: that's how long it's been since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was submitted to the State Department. And with each passing day, every new delay, job creation has been stalled and American energy independence has been pushed to the back burner.

That is why I am pleased to join my colleagues in saying no more roadblocks to American-made energy. No more roadblocks to the 40,000 jobs that will be created during the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, not to mention the jobs to run and operate it in the future.

The time for the Keystone XL pipeline is now. The time for our energy independence is now. Let's pass this bi-

partisan legislation and get to work for the American people.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to be able to begin with a quote:

We are tired of waiting, and we believe the time has come to make the final decision on one of the most important projects to unlock the energy future for this country, the Keystone XL pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, this quote is not from an energy titan. It comes from Sean McGarvey of the AFL-CIO.

The time has come for America and North America to be able to seek and achieve energy self-sufficiency. This is part of the solution. Americans are tired of not planning for the future. We need to unleash that potential to be able to put our people back to work. The time has come. The time is now. Let's get America back to work. Let's create energy security right here on this continent.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to Section 3 of the Protect Our Kids Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-275), I am pleased to appoint Mr. Robert E. "Bud" Cramer of Huntsville, Alabama, to the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

MAY 22, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 22, 2013 at 11:08 a.m.:

Appointments:
Military Compensation and Retirement
Modernization Commission.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 228 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 228

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 90 minutes equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-11. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

□ 1240

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague on the Rules Committee, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I