

all in our power to protect the rights, safety, and educational future of our most precious resource—America's children.

The time has come for the United States of America to bring our child labor laws in line with our American values and to give all of our children the fundamental protections they rightfully deserve. I urge my colleagues to support and to help pass the CARE Act.

#### 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 44 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

Colonel Andrew Gibson, Maine Army National Guard, Augusta, Maine, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we thank You for allowing us to live in a land that is free, and we thank You for the men and women who have served to ensure that freedom.

As this body convenes to create the laws of this land, might we faithfully plan for a day when war is forgotten, but that we would never forget the warriors who will have brought us to that day.

Guide us that we might through inspired legislation be a healer of all nations, a healer of our own Nation, and a healer of those who have willingly traveled far from their homes to secure our liberties, in the current generation and extending back to the formation of our great Nation.

Bless the men and women of this House. Give to them an ample portion of Your wisdom, Your courage, and especially Your love this day and forevermore.

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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN 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 COLONEL ANDREW GIBSON

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Colonel Andrew Gibson as today's guest chaplain.

Colonel Gibson is from Pittsfield, Maine. He is a decorated veteran who served in the Maine Army National Guard for 25 years. Before being deployed to Afghanistan in 2006, he served in Bosnia in 1997 as one of the first two National Guard chaplains to ever be deployed to a hostile fire zone.

Currently, Colonel Gibson is the Joint Forces Headquarters Maine chaplain and the director of Deployment Cycle Support. In these roles, he oversees the spiritual needs of the Maine Guard's soldiers and families. He also coordinates a team of health professionals who provide support to our servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

Colonel Gibson's service also extends deep into our communities. He is a key organizer of Maine's annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. Colonel Gibson is a true asset to our State of Maine and our country. I'm proud that he is my constituent, and it's an honor to have him deliver today's prayer.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### PATRIOT ACT

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

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to implore my fellow Congressmen to wake up. Can't we see what's happening?

In just the past month, we discovered that the NSA is snooping on millions of innocent Americans using the PATRIOT Act. Congress wrote the PATRIOT Act. The IRS is targeting conservative organizations using the Tax Code. Congress created the Tax Code. And the DHS has stockpiled 200 million hollow-point bullets. Congress just funded DHS last week. Do you want me to be surprised? I'm not surprised. I'm outraged. But what's happening here? In each case of executive overreach, Congress gave an inch and the executive branch took a mile.

When our civil liberties are stolen, Congress investigates and expresses

righteous indignation, but all too often Congress then turns around and funds and enables this unconstitutional behavior. If we don't reverse this trend, we can kiss our civil liberties good-bye.

The Constitution embodies American principles that men and women fought and died to protect. We swore an oath to protect it. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to reflect on the damage that CISPA, the PATRIOT Act, and the NDAA have wrought on our civil liberties and implore my fellow Members to uphold the constitutional rights they swore to protect. Don't yield one inch.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, the pivotal days for immigration reform are before us. I am pleased that a bipartisan group of Senators have come together in a compromise that could finally create a roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million people in this Nation who have worked hard and contributed to the success of this Nation. We are a Nation founded by immigrants and working families. It's what makes this country strong.

Let us not forget that nearly every American family has its own immigration story. We all pledge allegiance to the same American flag, and we all hope to achieve the same American Dream.

Our Nation's immigration system is broken. This is our chance to get it right. Let's get it right for those young DREAMers, let's get it right for the tireless working mothers and fathers, let's get it right for same-sex families stuck on opposite sides of the border. Together we can build an effective, fair, and inclusive system that lives up to our heritage as a Nation of immigrants. Let's get it right this time.

#### THE BUCK MUST STOP SOMEWHERE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, where is the accountability? From Benghazi to the IRS to the Justice Department monitoring reporter emails, the trust Americans should have in their government is being shaken, and for good reason.

It's unfortunate we're spending time and resources searching for answers from our own leaders. Americans have questions like: Has the President been completely transparent about the Benghazi attacks? Who ordered the IRS to target conservative groups? Were more reporters monitored by the Justice Department, more than just the AP and FOX News? Did Attorney General Eric Holder mislead the U.S. Congress?

Because of his failed leadership on this and other scandals like Operation Fast and Furious, I have called on Eric Holder to resign. The buck has to stop somewhere. It's time for the Obama administration to come clean with the American people.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT ADDS PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, this week, we will vote on the National Defense Authorization Act. As we debate this important legislation, we must keep in mind the deeply troubling problem of sexual assault within our military.

The vast majority of men and women who are in our armed services serve us with honor and distinction, but their dedication is undermined by those who commit sexual assaults. Last year, nearly one out of every 16 Active Duty women reported having been the victim of an unwarranted sexual contact. This is a deplorable situation.

Last week, in a truly bipartisan manner, the Armed Services Committee produced a bill that we will debate today. It prohibits the dismissal or reduction of guilty verdicts in sexual assault convictions. It makes sure that those who are found guilty of these heinous crimes will be discharged from the military, and adds other important protections for victims of sexual assault.

As leaders, we have a duty to protect those who protect us.

#### UNACCEPTABLE VIOLATIONS OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

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

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, "Those who give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Ben Franklin uttered those words several hundred years ago, but his warning is still relevant today.

Reports that the National Security Agency has been monitoring the phone records and Internet activities of ordinary citizens should concern every American.

The President has said that these surveillance programs don't involve listening to people's phone calls or reading their emails. Americans want to believe their President. Yet his tax agency lied about targeting conservative groups and his Justice Department spied on reporters who were just doing their job.

As a Nation, we would be wise to heed Ben Franklin's advice and make sure that there is a bright line between acceptable counterterrorism activities

and unacceptable violations of our fundamental rights.

□ 1210

#### WARRANT OFFICER MULLEN

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

Mr. CARNEY. I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from my home State of Delaware.

Last week, I joined the family of Warrant Officer Sean Mullen at Dover Air Force Base to witness the dignified transfer of his remains.

Sean, whose family resides in Dover, Delaware, was killed earlier this month in Afghanistan. He was on his sixth tour of duty. He leaves behind his wife, Nancy, and a life full of service, loyalty, and courage.

As I stood with Sean's mother, Mariam, through her tears, she asked me to do one thing. She said, "Let the people know what these men and women go through. Let them know what they do for their country."

That's why I'm here on the floor today—to do what this Gold Star mother asked me to do, which is to remember the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have volunteered out of a sense of patriotism and selflessness to put themselves in harm's way in service to their country.

So to Sean Mullen and to his heroic brothers and sisters in arms who have given their lives to protect ours, I stand here today to say thank you, and may God bless you.

#### ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. COTTON. Today, I want to highlight another potential IRS abuse, namely, unfair audits of adoptive parents who filed for the Adoption Tax Credit.

We've all heard about the abuse of conservatives, Christians, and other groups, but fewer people know the alarming story of families who use the Adoption Tax Credit to offset some of the high costs of adoption.

According to the IRS' own Taxpayer Advocate Service, 90 percent of those who filed for the Adoption Tax Credit last year were flagged for additional review. Nearly 70 percent were audited, but only 1½ percent of adoption credit claims were disallowed in the end. By contrast, only 1 percent of all tax returns are audited.

Adoptive parents are loving, selfless Americans who are simply trying to provide a safe and loving home for kids in need. An adoption is a reflection of the boundless compassion of our country, and it helps save innocent unborn lives that may otherwise be ended by abortion.

We should do all in our power to encourage adoption, not to discourage it

through bureaucratic runarounds. I urge the Congress to get to the bottom of this unfair treatment of adoptive parents.

#### ARMY SERGEANT MARIBEL MANRIQUEZ RAMOS

(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. I rise today to honor Sergeant Maribel Manriquez Ramos, a resident of my district who was laid to rest this past week.

Her dedication was displayed in her many promotions, commendations, and medals earned during deployments to imminent-danger areas like Korea and Iraq. Sergeant Ramos served her Nation with both duty and honor both at home and abroad. Back home, she was set to receive a degree in criminal justice from Cal State Fullerton this May. During her enrollment at the university, she served as an inspiration to other veterans in the pursuing of their dreams through higher education.

Unfortunately, our heroic Sergeant Ramos died at the age of 36. She is a hero because of the way she lived her life. She lived a life of honor and service both as an Army sergeant and as a community leader.

To her family, I convey the deepest sympathies from all of the community. May she never be forgotten.

#### JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue that matters to all Americans—jobs and economic growth. The story got buried with all the breaking news of last week; but last month's job numbers are in, and they aren't good.

On the surface, the U.S. economy adding 175,000 jobs might sound like good news; but look deeper, and you'll see troubling indicators for our economy. Manufacturing actually lost 8,000 jobs in total. This recovery is so weak by historic standards that it has produced 4 million fewer jobs than any other recovery since World War II.

Madam Speaker, this isn't real recovery. If we are going to improve this economy and create jobs, we need less government and more freedom. Every day, House Republicans are seeking solutions to grow the economy. Let's make life work for families across the country, and let's expand opportunities for everyone without expanding government.

#### ENDING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

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