

forth an abundance of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding upon the Members of Congress and upon Your people so that, together, solutions for the betterment of our Nation might be forged.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WELCH 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.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 52

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—Ms. Lofgren and Mr. Vargas.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 WHITE HOUSE MUST STICK WITHIN A BUDGET

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 4 years since the White House operated under a budget. It's not a coincidence that each of these 4 years has brought a \$1 trillion deficit.

Tennesseans are frustrated over the fact that they must stick to a budget in operating their homes and businesses, yet the Obama administration

cannot seem to do the same in running the country with our hard-earned tax dollars.

Last Congress, House Republicans passed two responsible budgets while the Administration and their allies in the Democratic-controlled Senate twiddled their thumbs.

In an effort to finally get this administration to act, Republicans have introduced the Require a PLAN Act. This commonsense proposal will mandate the White House produce a balanced budget within a 10-year window or submit a plan explaining in what year the budget would balance.

Unfortunately, it seems that we have no other choice but to force this administration to finally address the debt crisis that is destroying jobs and mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA. After years of hearing talk about family values, it took President Clinton and the 103rd Congress to adopt policies like FMLA that actually value families.

As many people know, FMLA allows up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year due to an employee's own illness, to take care of a sick family member, or to be with a new child. For 20 years, this law has recognized the needs of hardworking families, particularly working women who often are heroically trying to balance their job and their role as primary caregiver.

The latest data from the Department of Labor demonstrate the importance of FMLA. In 2011, over 14 million workers took leave under the Act. And this leave is not disruptive to employers, with 40 percent of workers being away from the job for 10 days or fewer.

I know workers around the country are grateful for the protections of FMLA. Now over 20 years they have felt confident they could take time off as needed without fear of losing their job to care for themselves or their family.

As we debate the fiscal and budgetary issues of the day, I hope FMLA serves as a reminder that we can and should be valuing families, not just in our words, but in our deeds as well.

GOT ROBOT?

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, on December 8, 2012, "Got Robot?", FTC Team No. 5037, a group of high school students from Elgin, Illinois, won an

award at the FIRST Tech Challenge Illinois State Tournament. Now "Got Robot?" will represent Illinois in the FIRST World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri, this upcoming April.

Out of 2,500 participating teams around the world, "Got Robot?" is one of only 128 to qualify for the World Championships.

At a time when we need to do everything possible to promote science education and basic scientific research, I'm so thrilled to be able to say that I've met this team, seen the robot, and it's fantastic. We are so proud of these students and we wish their team the best of luck.

Go, "Got Robot?"

SPENDING AND BUDGET DEFICITS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider a House Republican message bill that makes a point about spending and budget deficits. The problem is all those who support this bill about spending did all the spending: two tax cuts that gave us the worst period of job growth in the past 75 years and our Nation's worst recession; two wars, unpaid for, that took \$1.5 trillion out of the American economy; a drug prescription program, unpaid for, cost \$1 trillion over ten years.

The big spenders, who falsely claim to be concerned about the job creators are, in fact, the debt and deficit makers.

RESPONSIBLE BUDGETING

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, last week unemployment rose to 7.9 percent, and consumer confidence in the economy fell to a 14-month low. During the last 3 months of 2012, the economy shrank for the first time since the depths of the Great Recession.

All of these indicators confirm what the American people know all so well: the economy is still suffering. And yet the President began the new year by raising taxes on hardworking Americans and by closing down his jobs council, confirming another thing that Americans know all too well as well: that Washington truly is disconnected from the struggles of hardworking families who pay their taxes, work hard, and are struggling just to survive.

Now the President is calling for even more revenues to pay for \$4 trillion in new debt that he has heaped on the backs of hardworking Americans during the past 4 years.

More and more, my constituents in south Alabama tell me they don't want to charge more money in their names as taxes rise and red ink pours from the streets of Washington, D.C.

While the House has passed responsible budgets for the last 2 years, it's

time for the President and the Democrat Senate to do the same.

□ 1210

NRA LIST OF ANTI-GUN INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. MORAN. The AARP, the American Medical Association, the Episcopal Church, the Catholic Conference, the Conference of Mayors, Bob Barker, Oprah Winfrey, Tony Bennett, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Sara Lee Corporation, and hundreds of other individuals and organizations all have something in common: they're all targeted on NRA's Web site as holding anti-gun positions.

And what does the NRA consider to be anti-gun? For one, they say that the listed individuals and groups are opposed to the "repeal of the Brady Act." It's not that they support expanding background checks to include all gun sales, which would seem to be reasonable; it's that they're opposed to the repeal of the current Brady Act which would end all background checks.

With over 30,000 Americans killed every year by guns, it seems that this is the time for swift and focused action to mitigate our Nation's gun violence epidemic. It's not time to be drawing up an enemies list of those who support reasonable gun safety measures. I'd suggest to some of my colleagues in the House: with enemies like these, perhaps it's time to rethink who your friends are.

PRaising THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ADELE HALL

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the life and legacy of a personal hero of mine. Adele Hall was one of the kindest, warmest and friendliest people I have ever known. Yesterday, Adele was laid to rest amongst the outpouring of family and friends who were touched and inspired by the heartwarming and graceful life that Adele led.

Called the first lady of Kansas City, Adele and her adoring husband, Don, have been staples of the Kansas City community for a generation, providing irreplaceable leadership in both business and civic affairs.

Her obituary states in part:

Adele was interested in a broad range of community needs with a special passion for the needs of children. She was tireless working toward those interests in any capacity needed—as a visionary board chairman, energetic champion and catalyst for change, hardworking committee member, dedicated fundraiser or hands-on volunteer.

We will forever miss Adele's good deeds in our community; but, most of

all, I will miss her smile. To Adele Hall, thank you for your life of inspirational leadership. You have forever found a place in our hearts.

BATTLE OF THE BUDGETS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. So in the middle of a busy legislative week, the Republicans are going to bring up a bill to require the President to submit a balanced budget. It would be good if first perhaps they looked in the mirror, because this comes from the same House Republicans who in the last Congress passed the Ryan budget which got great accolades from the right.

Unfortunately, the Ryan budget, even with directed scoring, that is, made-up numbers, the pretend "if you cut taxes, you'll increase revenues," wouldn't pretend to balance a budget until 2040—and that was after it did away with Medicare, student financial aid, and a few other domestic programs.

Now let's get real around here. One-third of the deficit is due to high unemployment. We need a strategy to put Americans back to work. That requires investment—investment in education, investment in our roads, bridges, highways, transit systems, jetties, levees, dams, and harbors across the country. That would put Americans back to work. That would get this country moving again, not a bunch of fake bills about a budget that they have no intention of balancing.

UPHOLDING OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, the victims of the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, and the victims of the other recent shootings deserve our solemn prayers for their loss and our deepest sympathy for their pain.

As a Nation, we should focus our collective grief and attention on finding actual solutions to prevent such tragedies in the future. But gun bans are not the answer. History shows that gun bans only keep guns away from law-abiding citizens, not criminals. Blaming a gun for violence is like blaming a pen for a misspelled word.

Mr. Speaker, this week President Obama hosted his latest in an unfortunate series of anti-gun pep rallies. This Nation does not need more political posturing. Instead, we need a serious discussion about how we address mental health as a Nation, and we need to take action to better protect our children in their schools.

I stand ready to protect the Second Amendment rights of our citizens and work with anyone who will support policies that could actually stop future violence.

HONORING JOAN MULHERN

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

Mr. WELCH. I rise to honor a person whose time was short, but whose contribution was great. Joan Mulhern passed away this past December at the age of 51. Joan graduated from the University of Vermont, and she very quickly made a name for herself as a fierce and extremely effective advocate for the environment in her position with the Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

Although Joan then left Vermont to pursue a law degree here in Washington, D.C., and later went on to a very successful and effective career at Earth Justice, Vermont never left Joan.

The values with which she pursued her passion for a clean environment and for a sustainable environment were ones Vermonters know well. She was relentless, she was tenacious, she was tireless, she was kind, and she was very effective.

As Joan's friends have noted, she would have been uncomfortable with all the tributes that have been paid to her, but she'll have to give us a pass on this one because she certainly lived a life worthy of praise and honor.

ADDRESSING THE BUDGET CRISIS

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, every day, hardworking families and small businessowners from the Second District of Missouri create budgets, set priorities, and live within their means. Yet President Obama and the Senate Democrats keep writing blank checks on the backs of our children and our grandchildren.

Yesterday marked the fourth time in the last 5 years that President Obama has missed his deadline to submit a budget on time to the American people, and the Democrat-led Senate has only exacerbated the debt crisis by not passing a budget in almost 4 years. This is simply unacceptable, and House Republicans stand prepared to address this crisis and offer a responsible budget again this year.

American families deserve better than missed deadlines, more spending, and more debt. They deserve answers and accountability. This week, the House will vote to require the President to show a plan of exactly when and how he would balance the Federal budget.

The 113th Congress was elected to tackle the big problems, and there is no greater problem facing our Nation right now than our out-of-control spending and debt.