

West Virginians may be somewhat stubborn when it comes to asking for help for themselves, even if life itself depends on it; but they are the first in line to offer help and assistance to their neighbors. And in West Virginia, Mr. Speaker, we go a step further. I doubt we have ever known a stranger in any of our 55 counties. If you need help, West Virginians are there for you.

The charitable spirit of West Virginia is built on rock-solid principles. First and foremost, you will find an abundance of faith among those who dwell in our mountains, faith in the Almighty. Families form the core of our lives, with West Virginia parents and grandparents putting their children and grandchildren first. You figure in that a big dose of loyalty to our hills and hollows, our family traditions, our common heritage, and our many unique histories, and you begin to see why hard times cannot keep us down.

Like most of America, West Virginians are in the midst of a transitional economy, but a new dawn is breaking. We have harnessed positive change while holding on to much that makes West Virginia unique, enabling us to attract new and promising ventures.

Witness the 100-year commitment of the Boy Scouts of America's almost half-billion-dollar investment in a Fayette County scouting reserve adjacent to the largest federally protected system of rivers east of the Mississippi. Recently, Wayne Perry, the Boy Scouts' national president, when commenting on our rugged but inviting mountain venue, said, "We think God made West Virginia for the Boy Scouts of America."

Mr. Speaker, I have news for my colleagues and their constituents: we have more room at the inn. This may be our 150th birthday celebration, but West Virginia is still wild and even more wonderful than ever before. So I say to all, come and visit us soon.

To my fellow West Virginians, may I say a happy 150th. And be assured, as long as there is still one Mountaineer heart beating, there will always be a West Virginia.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues in the House of two very important words for the American people: unfinished business. The American people, by their voices that we hear as we go back to our district, challenge us in unfinished business.

Two days ago, I stood with mothers that demand action in my district, to stand with their children, their babies in strollers—these mothers who love America, who are patriots—to stand alongside of the mourning families of Sandy Hook and to read the names of the 26 who died more than 6 months

ago, to ask for the passage of universal background checks; and to ask the question why the Armed Citizens Project needed to arm citizens in Houston. We know that the area that they are arming is an area where they felt intimidated—not by their government to take over, but because of crime.

I look forward to meeting with those citizens to be able to address the issue of crime in their neighborhood. But we stood against the kind of arming citizens as a response to gun violence. I have no qualms of standing against that and working with my neighbors to ensure the safety of their neighborhoods, but to move forward on sensible gun legislation to prevent gun violence—unfinished business.

And then the question of the National Security Agency and the phone calls and numbers of our American citizens.

□ 1050

We in Congress must be challenged to rein that in and balance it with the need for national security, which I promote and support as a member of the Homeland Security Committee.

I will be introducing legislation to assess the use of outside contractors—70 percent of Federal dollars going to that in the intelligence community—and reduce those numbers by 2014; establish more openness on the FISA court, but making sure that we don't interfere with operations and operatives that are making our country secure. And to be able to say to Mr. Snowden, I won't call you a name, but I know what you did in certain instances is wrong, and you must stand up under the laws of this Nation.

Then to be able to say that, today, as we go forward on the farm bill, to be able to ask the question: Why are we taking \$20 billion away from the supplemental nutrition program, from seniors, from young children, from babies, when this is a lifeline for those in the United States military who are on food stamps?

I also want to say to my community that we need to get ready to enroll in health care, which is going to be a major step in making America healthy.

To the small business community, this is going to help you provide your employees—your one employee, your two employees—health care. That is unfinished business.

Then I want to thank the U.S. Postal Service—the letter carriers, the people who put our mail through—who help small businesses. We've got to fix this problem with the U.S. Postal Service, make sure that they're stable, financially able. The rural post offices, let's not close any more. This is the infrastructure of America. It's a job creator.

And then to our students, many of them who have graduated, we have got to fix the problem of the increasing, or the major increase, in student loan interest rates that are going to burden our parents and students, 6.8 percent by July 1. Congress can do better. We

need to be able to join in the legislation that I've signed on to, to be able to keep that interest rate at 3.4 percent. Unfinished business, Mr. Speaker.

The American people want jobs. They don't want sequestration. They want the right kind of comprehensive immigration reform that has reasoned border security but not to criminalize those students who wanted to do nothing else but to go into the United States military, called "DREAM children," who wanted to be able to serve the Nation, who wanted to work and give back to this country. Let us not go down that pathway. Let's have the kind of value-based comprehensive immigration reform and border security legislation that was passed out of the Homeland Security Committee, of which I was proud to be an original cosponsor, coming out of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security. Unfinished business.

Guns. Preventing gun violence.

Reining in the issue of intelligence, balancing it with civil liberties, putting back in the supplemental nutrition some \$20 billion, making sure that Americans are enrolled in health care under the Affordable Care Act, supporting the Postal Service. And, Mr. Speaker, finally, supporting our students. Unfinished business. It's time to get to work creating jobs in America.

JOBS NOW ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON of Florida) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people are now in the 899th day of a scandal that is truly "worse than Watergate." Yet, this scandal has nothing to do with Cincinnati or the AP or Benghazi or even NSA. It is the scandal of this Republican Congress failing to bring a single serious bill to address our unemployment crisis to the floor for a vote.

The tens of millions of people affected by this scandal are not constantly on television drawing attention to their plight; they're too busy looking for work. They're not hiring lobbyists to press for change; they're too busy figuring out how they're going to pay for their next meals, for the roofs over their heads, or for their children's college tuition.

Mr. Speaker, this scandal, unlike so many other scandals in history, is one that you can end instantly. You have the power to bring the Jobs Now Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote.

Mr. Speaker, the only scandal that matters to the American people right now is this Congress' failure to address unemployment. Our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs for the American people.

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 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend James Rehder, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Bellevue, Washington, offered the following prayer:

Lord, You are our strength. Grant that we may become a people united in love and peace.

Grant favor to all who hold office in our land, especially President Obama and Vice President BIDEN, this Congress, Governors, legislatures, all who make and administer our laws. May all be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty.

Holy Spirit, we commend to You our schools, those who learn and teach, that our children may thrive in safe havens and bring forth the fruit of their lives and dreams.

Grant our Armed Forces personnel and families courage and success, and us, for whom they sacrifice, our unending respect and gratitude.

Receive our thanksgiving for those who serve, protect, labor, farm, care, heal, create, and lead. Thank You for this abundant land. Give us calm compassion to live as one nation under You.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms.

Foxx) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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 THE REVEREND JAMES REHDER OF PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to rise to welcome my good friend, the Reverend James Rehder and his daughter, Mele, who is with him today. Jim and I have known each other since our college days at Concordia Lutheran University in Portland, Oregon, before he went on to receive his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Reverend Rehder was ordained into the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church at Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is currently a pastor at Bellevue Pilgrim Lutheran Church and Preschool in Bellevue, Washington.

His passion for service extends far beyond the four walls of his home church. He has been a committed volunteer and supporter of causes like the Northwest Lutheran Ministry Services, the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle, the Sophia Way Women's Shelter, and the Free Burma Rangers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Reverend Rehder for being with us here today, and I thank him for his dedication in serving others.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WE NEED A RESPONSIBLE FARM BILL

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a fourth-generation farmer, I know firsthand how important the farm bill is for farmers. I believe that we need a farm bill, but I also believe we need a responsible farm bill.

Unfortunately, the bill passed out of the Rules Committee last night is a farm bill in name only, with 80 percent of the spending going toward food stamps. This isn't the solution American taxpayers deserve.

Washington's unholy alliance of farm policy and nutrition policy has spun

out of control, and now we will consider a massive trillion-dollar spending package called a farm bill.

Mr. Speaker, we must have an up-or-down vote to split the farm bill into a true farm-only farm bill and a separate food stamp bill. The American people deserve an honest conversation about how Washington spends their money. We've made progress ending direct payments, but there's more work ahead.

Let's do our work in the full light of day by splitting this bill and having serious debate on both farm and welfare policy. Without that debate, I cannot in good conscience vote for a welfare bill passed on the backs of hardworking American farmers.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Juneteenth. Each June 19, we observe Juneteenth to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth is observed in 42 States, including my home State of New York. In Buffalo, we are proud to have the third-largest Juneteenth celebration in the Nation.

In Buffalo, we are also proud to have a rich history in the anti-slavery movement. The Michigan Street Baptist Church hosted abolitionist Frederick Douglass at an anti-slave gathering in 1843 and Booker T. Washington in 1910. Nearby, Buffalonian Mary Talbert opened her home to prominent African American leaders in the early 1900s and founded the Niagara Movement, which was a forerunner of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Juneteenth to honor the strength of our Nation's African American heritage and to celebrate the promise of an even stronger future.

SECURING OUR FUTURE IV

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, our country remains in a state of economic stagnation. Nearly 12 million of our fellow Americans are out of work, and 4.4 million people have been out of work for 6 months or more. We deserve better. America deserves better. We deserve more than the political posturing with which Washington Democrats continue to respond to the problems facing our Nation.

House Republicans offer real solutions. We have passed a long-term student loan fix to keep rates from doubling this summer, a plan that is similar to the President's plan, but yet the Democrats and the Senate cannot even get that bill passed.

It's time to get past politics here. We need to create jobs, we must grow our economy and secure the future for all Americans. That's what hardworking