

a Democrat activist used that word six or eight times in about 2 minutes—didn't want to backslide on carbon, that we couldn't do this pipeline because it would encourage additional use of gasoline. It would make gas cheaper and that would be bad because we would use more of it. That's the administration's current position.

It's absolutely absurd. If you go to Canada, if you go to where the oil sands are, to where this raw material is, who will you see? You'll see the Chinese. If we don't use this oil, if we do not refine this oil, if we do not take advantage of this particular natural resource that is right across our border, the Chinese will; and it will be used in a fashion that would offend the sensibilities of most of the people who care about the environment.

I've been to China. I remember landing at the runway and not being able to see the end of the runway out of the window because the pollution was so bad. That is how this material is going to be used if we allow it to go overseas.

We have the ability now to keep this material in this country. We have the ability now to help keep our energy prices down. We have the ability now to help keep Americans at work and put additional Americans back to work. And to the extent we keep it out of the hands of the Chinese where there are no rules on how they use this material, we actually have a chance to help the environment.

The Keystone pipeline keeps energy prices down, puts American people back to work, and protects our environment. It is absolutely absurd that it hasn't been approved already, Mr. Speaker, and it needs to be approved now.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I speak today of the forthcoming sesquicentennial recognizing three bloody days that will forever remain emblazoned on our hearts. The battle of Gettysburg was a pivotal turning point in the American Civil War, one of the single most defining moments in American history and one that united the Nation and restored peace and prosperity to our great land.

Therefore, be it known as we reflect and observe the horrific and critical events that took place in July 1863 that the memory of these brave souls who sacrificed their lives is kept alive through the tireless efforts of the National Park Service and the work of countless organizations.

The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Military Order of the Loyal Legions of the

United States, along with the Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy and other Confederate heritage organizations honor all of the brave warriors lost on the fields of Gettysburg. These organizations work together tirelessly to preserve the hallowed ground upon which these Americans—our brothers and sisters—fought, bled, and perished.

For as long as there is breath in our chests and light in our eyes, we the people of these United States shall keep alive the memory of our ancestors and maintain the peace paid for with their sacrifice during the merciless 4 years of our Nation's history.

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 11 o'clock and 13 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

Chaplain Angel Berrios, 308th Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we take time at this moment to acknowledge Your presence with us here in this congressional Chamber. We realize that without You, all our efforts are futile to make good and right decisions for the people of the United States. Your word says that not a sparrow falls to the ground without You being fully aware, so indeed we are convinced of the truth that You govern in the affairs of men.

Divine Holy Spirit, make Yourself real to us by revealing truth about every issue that will be discussed on the floor today. Truth is powerful. Truth is necessary. And truth will bring true liberty of which our country has so long experienced. I rebuke the deceptions of darkness that would attempt to deter us from true truth, which is Your holy word.

I ask these things according to Your will; therefore, no doubt You hear this prayer. In Your holy name I 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 New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) come forward

and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE 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 CHAPLAIN ANGEL BERRIOS

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce and to welcome to Washington U.S. Army Chaplain Angel Berrios, who is currently stationed at Fort Meade, located in the Second Congressional District of Maryland.

Chaplain Berrios, a captain in the U.S. Army, has been an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God for 24 years. For nearly two decades, he served as a full-time evangelist ministering in 47 countries and 47 States. Chaplain Berrios then joined the Army and was assigned to the 3rd Squadron of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood.

He was deployed to southern Iraq during operation New Dawn and provided a church in the desert for 850 fellow American soldiers. In addition to regular services and Bible study, Chaplain Berrios counsels soldiers struggling with day-to-day life in a war zone.

His ministry earned him a Bronze Star. His father, a Vietnam veteran, also served in the Army for 20 years.

We welcome Chaplain Berrios and his guests today. I wish to thank him for his many years of service to his community and his country.

I'm honored to call Chaplain Berrios a constituent, and I offer thanks on behalf of this entire body for his delivery of the opening prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

IMPRISONMENT FOR TAX TARGETING OF AMERICANS ACT OF 2013

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents in the Third Congressional District of Texas to introduce the Imprisonment for Tax Targeting of Americans Act of 2013.

On May 10, the IRS admitted to targeting conservative groups. Worse, our broken Tax Code does not make jail

time mandatory for criminal offenses such as political targeting.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better.

The bottom line is that the use of the IRS as a political weapon is outrageous and unacceptable. What's worse, this is the same agency that will be enforcing ObamaCare.

As this blatant abuse of power continues to be fully investigated, this commonsense bill sends a loud and clear message to the IRS: if you do the crime, you do the time. No exceptions, no excuses.

The American people want, need and deserve to know the truth and assurance that this never happens again. This bill is a step in that direction.

I urge my colleagues to join my efforts.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning a number of members of the CBC, the Congressional Black Caucus, will speak on the emotions, the value and the gift of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

I thank our chairwoman, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, and I'm delighted to lead that moment this morning. I will tell the Members of Congress you will hear us over the next couple of weeks and months as we proceed to do what the Supreme Court has said that Congress must do and has the authority to do, and that is to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I disagree with the court's decision, for that bill was firm. And just a few years ago, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, with 15,000 pages, 21 hearings, a vote of 390-33 in the House and 98-0 in the United States Senate, we reaffirmed every American's right to vote. In fact, since that passage, Virginia has had 11 of its jurisdictions opt out. Many other jurisdictions have opted out or taken the bailout provision. But yet, that decision now has left bare the soul of so many voters who will now be unable to vote because of the Voting Rights Act elimination or striking down of section 4.

Mr. Speaker, if the Voting Rights Act is wrong, then Fannie Lou Hamer was wrong, the three civil rights workers were wrong, and Martin Luther King, Jr., was wrong.

Today we stand together to encourage our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to work with us to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act.

OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, as of today, 85 percent of the offshore areas have

been blocked from offshore drilling by the Obama administration. The energy legislation on the floor this week makes significant strides towards increasing our offshore production.

Additional energy production contributes to lowering fuel prices at a time when gas prices are over 100 percent higher than when President Obama took office.

H.R. 2231, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act, creates 1.2 million American jobs over the long term by removing Federal barriers to offshore energy production. According to the CBO, the legislation would also generate \$1.5 billion in new Federal revenues over the 10-year period, which helps pay down our outrageous national debt.

This important legislation grows the economy and creates American jobs at a time of high unemployment and stagnant economic growth. Furthermore, it puts us on a path to energy independence and security by decreasing our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

We need to stand together to support this legislation that addresses our soaring gas prices and our sinking economy.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues to action.

Monday, the Supreme Court handed down its decision regarding the Voting Rights Act, ruling that the current formula for determining covered jurisdictions is outdated. Nearly 2 hours after the SCOTUS ruling, one prominent Texas leader said that they will move immediately to reinstate the State's voter ID laws that were passed in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, the Justice Department objected to Texas' voter ID law because the State's own data indicated that the law would have a detrimental impact on minority voters, the poor and the elderly. Why in the world would a State as great as Texas want to implement a law that its own data said would hurt the very citizens in its own State?

For this very reason, me and six other plaintiffs have filed suit in Federal court to bar enforcement of Texas' discriminatory voter ID law. The lawsuit in place is to ensure that we do not disenfranchise voters and to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans.

I refuse to allow Texas or any other State to replicate laws that constrict our American values. I firmly stand here as proof that Texans and Americans need a voice. I call upon my colleagues to work together to ensure voter protections remain. The Supreme Court has overreached, and now it's time for us to act to protect the integrity of democracy.

□ 1210

NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the National Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

Head injuries are the signature and oftentimes invisible wounds of our recent wars. These injuries are not a sign of weakness or a character flaw but, rather, the potential catalyst of more serious illnesses, like traumatic brain injury and PTSD. Nearly one-third of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who received VA health care in the decade after 2001 were diagnosed with PTSD, and the numbers, unfortunately, are only expected to climb.

We must tear down the stigma surrounding head injuries and ensure veterans have timely access to quality care, particularly in situations of TBI and PTSD. As we mark PTSD Awareness Month, let's work together to address these important issues by drawing attention to the real dangers head injuries present and encourage our servicemembers to seek treatment.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE SET TO DOUBLE

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in 3 short days, the student loan interest rate is set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent unless Congress takes action. This is unacceptable. College is already too expensive for far too many young people, and doubling the interest rate on student loans will only make things worse. We should be working together to solve this looming crisis.

Regrettably, the only vote we have had on this is a Republican-led bill that would make college more expensive and prevent students from locking in a fixed rate. By the time 2013's freshmen graduate, they will be paying more than double today's current rate for subsidized Stafford loans.

Rather than waging another partisan fight on a bill that will not pass in the Senate and the President is prepared to veto, we should consider legislation that has a chance of becoming law and that will provide real relief to students and their families. I, therefore, strongly urge House Republican leaders to allow a vote on legislation I proudly cosponsored by Congressman COURTNEY of Connecticut to extend the current low rate for an additional 2 years.

It is a moral and economic imperative that we provide a top-notch education to every student in this country regardless of their financial means. Congress must act to fix this problem, and the clock is ticking.