

CONGRATULATING DUBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations as DuBois Area Middle School earns redesignation status as a Pennsylvania "School to Watch." This is quite an achievement, and I highly commend the administrators, teachers, and students for their efforts. It is my understanding that DuBois Area Middle School is one of only three middle schools that has been redesignated a second time, after originally earning this designation in 2007 and again in 2010.

These selections by State educational leaders exemplify DuBois Area Middle School's outstanding responsiveness to the needs and interests of its students in helping them achieve their greatest potential.

Furthermore, by working together to improve curriculum and foster continuous academic growth, DuBois Area Middle School leadership has gone the extra mile to ensure success. The example your success has set for other schools is an excellent one, and I hope it will be shared widely.

Also, I encourage all people, students and adults, to continue to learn as it is probably the single most significant ingredient in leading a successful and fulfilling life.

EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, in a historic decision yesterday, the Supreme Court rightly ruled that all married couples, regardless of gender of the spouses, are deserving of equal protections and rights under the law. In doing so, they recognize what 13 States, including my home State of New York, already knows: that a family is a family and that love is love.

Our Nation was founded on the basic principles of freedom and equality, and any law that discriminates against one group of individuals is an unjust law; and injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, the next step is in Congress's hand. We must bring to the floor and pass Congressman JERRY NADLER's Respect for Marriage Act. It is time to get rid of this discriminatory law once and for all and bring us one step closer to full marriage equality.

SUPPORT THE ROMEIKE FAMILY

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most treasured privileges of parents living in the United States is the

freedom to choose the means to best educate their children. For many families, including my own, that choice is home schooling.

Unfortunately, for many parents living in countries where freedom of choice and expression is supposedly valued, home schooling can entail punitive fines, jail time, and even seizure of their children.

The Romeike family fled Germany after facing persecution for home schooling their six children and were granted asylum here in the United States. Now the Romeikes face deportation unless they are granted a hearing before the full Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and receive a favorable decision.

Mr. Speaker, no parent should be faced with imprisonment, fines, or removal of their children simply for choosing to educate their children at home. I call on the Obama administration to persuade Germany to respect international human rights law that recognizes the authority of parents to direct their children's education. I also call on the administration to grant asylum to the Romeikes so they can be afforded the privilege our country offers to educate their children freely in the manner they choose.

BATTLING CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I agree with President Obama when he said this week that America is uniquely suited to take on the challenge of climate change. Those of us in the Northeast know firsthand what the President meant when he said that Hurricane Sandy's destruction left our mightiest city underwater and dark. Sandy destroyed homes, businesses, and, in some cases, entire neighborhoods. It halted our markets and damaged the infrastructure that the country depends on. These costs are real and they are personal.

Now is the time to improve the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. Now is the time to protect our beautiful natural resources. Now is the time to mitigate future natural disasters, and now is the time to take on the battle against climate change.

We know where to start. We need to reduce carbon pollution, utilize more renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and oppose the Big Oil subsidies on the floor this week.

OBAMA'S WAR ON COAL

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Obama continued his relentless war on coal. He indicated he would circumvent Congress and use unelected bureaucrats to fulfill his

anticoal agenda. He implied he had a moral obligation to do so because Congress is not acting. But Congress has, indeed, acted and simply doesn't agree with the President's ambitions. Congress realized that his agenda will destroy jobs and increase the cost of electricity. Electric bills will go up for everyone who uses power. Everyone will pay more.

The President is basing his call for action on flawed theories about what may happen in the future, but his actions will have an immediate negative impact today.

During his remarks, the President insulted his critics with sophomoric name calling and dismissed the opinions of over 32,000 scientists and physicists who contend that the issue of global warming has not been settled. In the coming months, we will highlight the devastating impact these anticoal policies will have on America's future, its families, and the economy in general. We will point out the flaws in his climate projections.

The President may believe that a war on coal is exactly what's needed, but the thousands who will lose their jobs and the millions who will pay more for electricity beg to differ.

□ 1220

THE SUPREME COURT'S VOTING RIGHTS DECISION

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, a vote at the ballot box transcends gender, race, religion, and socioeconomic status. Knowing that an 80-year-old veteran, a single mom, or an 18-year-old high school senior voting for the first time has an equal vote and, thus, an equal voice as does a millionaire or billionaire, this is what has separated us and made our Nation great.

Unfortunately, the recent Supreme Court decision to strike down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is not only a major setback for civil rights and voting rights, but it is a major blow to basic fundamental democracy in this country.

Now is the time for Congress to rise above partisanship and create free and unfettered access to the ballot. Access to the ballot on election day may be one of the only times that the most disadvantaged in our communities have an equal voice, regardless of what they look like or where they come from.

And as a Member who represents some of the most disadvantaged, I am undeterred and will continue to fight so my constituents can have an equal access to the ballot box, from the wealthiest towns to the poorest cities; and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

(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, in a June survey on business optimism, respondents cite regulations and red tape as one of their top concerns.

I can speak from experience from my own small business. When government imposes new red tape, it takes away precious resources that are needed for small businesses to create and expand jobs.

Under this administration, regulations have steadily increased. According to the Competitive Enterprise Institute, an annual cost of \$1.8 trillion is inflicted on small businesses as a part of the Federal Regulatory Code that has now reached 174,000 pages.

Since coming to Washington, my priority has been to stand up for small businesses and improve the economic climate so employers and entrepreneurs can succeed and create jobs.

Throughout this fight to remove hurdles to job creation, the National Federation of Independent Business has been a steady ally, providing a voice to it's more than 350,000-member small businesses, and advocating for issues that would enable small businesses to succeed and create jobs.

This month marks the 70th anniversary of NFIB, and I'd like to congratulate the organization for its decades of service to small businesses.

REAUTHORIZE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the reauthorized Voting Rights Act was passed in a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and signed by a Republican President. Then the House and Senate Republican and Democratic leadership led Members of Congress to the front steps of the Congress to express their collective pride in the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Yesterday, the Court did not nullify section 4 of the act. It invalidated it, as applied, and advised Congress to update the formula.

The leadership, who so proudly reauthorized the act on the front steps of the Capitol, remains in place today. If the pride they expressed then in the right of all Americans to vote remains, they will now resume their place of leadership to ensure that the entire Voting Rights Act remains proudly the law of the land.

OBAMACARE EXCHANGES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week, on the front page of The Wall Street Journal, we read that the implementation of ObamaCare exchanges is falling behind schedule.

According to the GAO, both State and Federal exchanges have major work to complete before the October 1 start of open season. The administration has predicted some "glitches and bumps."

Would failure to open the exchanges on time be a bump?

Is the fact that some small business exchanges have only a single participant a glitch?

Millions of Americans will be required by the Federal Government to purchase insurance on these exchanges, but they're shaping up to be a train wreck.

GAO tells us that the 17 States running small business exchanges were late on an average of 44 percent of activities that should have been complete in March.

The signals are flashing, the sirens are wailing, but we keep rolling on towards ObamaCare implementation. The only way we can prevent the disaster is by putting a stop to a law that is failing on nearly every count.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act has a strong bipartisan history. It was reauthorized by Congress in 2006 with the overwhelming support of both Democrats and Republicans.

Yet the Supreme Court, in striking down a key provision of this historic civil rights legislation 2 days ago, has undermined the integrity of the democratic process.

It was a jurisprudential hijacking of the principle of responsive and representative government. It's a decision that will go down in history, right next to the infamous Dred Scott opinion written way back in 1857.

The unencumbered right to vote is fundamental to the foundation of this democracy. In this regard, the Supreme Court has failed the Nation. Let's make sure that this Congress does not do the same.

THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBON AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, year after year, decade after decade, the American people have been held captive to the Middle East for what we pay

for the price of gas. Even today, war-torn Syria, with its own civil war, has impacted the price of gas that each of us pays.

In my own city of Charlotte, we pay 14 cents a gallon more this year than we did last year. While families are going on vacation over the 4th of July, throughout the summer, or what they pay at the grocery store is all impacted because America is not energy independent.

Mr. Speaker, that's why I rise in support of H.R. 1613, to make America energy independent. We can develop oil and natural gas off our maritime border in Mexico, while creating new jobs and improving our economy.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for America to be independent and to stand alone and to bring and restore a solid economic period of time for this country. Let's vote today to support gas prices that will be lower for America, with energy independence from America.

RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congressman GREEN for yielding to me the opportunity to speak out of order and to remind this body that, in a recent conversation I had with JOHN LEWIS, our hero and colleague, I asked him the question: Just what drove you to place your body in harm's way and your life in jeopardy for the civil rights movement?

And he said, because he had confidence in this country, the Congress, and he also had confidence in the Supreme Court.

Recently, he had to admit that the Court's action has really plunged a dagger in the heart of this legislation that so many Americans have depended on for fairness, which includes, of course, that basic constitutional right to vote. But that light was dimmed; it wasn't extinguished.

And as I recall the Voting Rights Act that we did pass overwhelmingly in both Chambers, it was the names of JIM SENSENBRENNER and JOHN CONYERS that come to mind. They both are still in this House. They both love the country, love the Congress, and love the Constitution. And I'm confident that, once again, they would bring together that coalition of Republicans and Democrats, that may see things differently as it relates to the ideology, but together they can bring the same forces that we had in 2006 to make certain that we restore the rights that the Supreme Court has taken away from us.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD J. SEITZ

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House