

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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD J. SEITZ

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

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz of Junction City, Kansas, who died on June 8 at the age of 95.

A native Kansan and Kansas State University graduate, Dick went through the sixth jump school class the Army ever had, becoming one of its first paratroopers. He was quickly promoted to be the Army's youngest battalion commander and led his battalion throughout its historic combat operations in Europe during World War II.

Dick ended the war with a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. During his lifelong Army career, including nearly 37 years of active duty, he also received the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit, among many other awards, promotions, and commands.

Dick retired to Junction City in 1975 but remained active in his community and at Fort Riley. Among other activities, he was on the board of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, president of the Fort Riley-Central Kansas Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, and chaired Junction City's Economic Redevelopment Study Commission. Most recently, the General Richard J. Seitz Elementary School was named in his honor on the post at Fort Riley.

In short, General Seitz epitomized what it means when we refer to him and his peers as America's Greatest Generation.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we live in a world where it's not enough for things to be right. They must also look right. And while it may be right for the Supreme Court to strike down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, it doesn't look right, given that just last year we had a multiplicity of cases wherein it was found that insidious discrimination existed such that those cases accorded voters rights that they would not have but for the Voting Rights Act.

Much is said about section 4 in the coverage. Little is said about section 4 and the opt-out, bail-out provision that has allowed many jurisdictions that were under the purview of the Voting Rights Act to extricate themselves.

The Voting Rights Act has functioned efficaciously. I'm so glad that medicine is very much unlike politics. Because in medicine, when a drug functions efficaciously, we market it, we extol the virtues of it, and we keep it. In politics, when a law succeeds, we demean it and we eliminate it.

I am here today because of the Voting Rights Act. I never thought I'd sit next to the Honorable CHARLIE RANGEL

in the House of the United States Congress. Thank God for the Voting Rights Act. We must revise it. We must extend it. We've got to renew it.

STOPPING STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES FROM DOUBLING

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

Mr. MESSER. Four days. In 4 days, interest rates on student loans will double if nothing is done. A bill to stop that from happening passed this House last month. But the President and the Senate refused to do anything but posture. The truth is we don't disagree by much. The House plan mirrors a plan put forward by the President. Both plans use market rates. Both plans seek a long-term solution. But politics is getting in the way. And that is wrong.

Our plan gets politicians out of the student loan business. And that is good for students. America's students deserve affordable rates, not schoolyard antics. Let's work together and stop the rate hike.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH PALAFOX

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, since 1982, the Congressional Art Competition has recognized the special power that arts have in students throughout our country. In my district, the art competition winner this year was Elizabeth Palafox. Her piece has a message for every young woman in the San Joaquin Valley. When describing her work, Elizabeth stated clearly that her art "defines women in our Valley that don't give up on their dreams, and live large, no matter the challenges it brings upon us." Her mother, who raised her as a single parent, has been a strong role model and taught her firsthand the lessons of hard work and life in her own artwork.

Sadly, Elizabeth could not make it to Washington to see her artwork unveiled this week. But she's watching back home. Her self-portrait is representing our Valley well here in the Capitol.

Elizabeth, your work reminds me of the hope that we all have not just in your future but for the future of our women in our Valley and throughout our Nation. Thank you for showing your talent, and congratulations on being chosen as the art winner from the San Joaquin Valley in the 16th District.

JOBS IN THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUFFY. Today, I rise to talk about jobs in America and jobs in Wisconsin. One of the largest centers of our economy in rural Wisconsin is our forest products industry. And that industry is under assault.

One of the largest portions of our forest is held by the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In fact, from 1986 to 1992 we harvested 150 million board feet of lumber a year, on average. Now, we harvest 98 million board feet a year. We've reduced that by 50 percent. What does that do? That causes thousands of jobs to be lost in rural Wisconsin.

Let's kick-start our economy. Let's put our loggers back to work. Let's open up our saw mills and paper mills. By opening up those mills, we have to open up our National Forests. Let's make sure our National Forests don't rot and burn but that we actually harvest them. They are a renewable resource and have a direct tie-in to jobs in rural Wisconsin.

STATISTICS 2013

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to an exciting global initiative, the International Year of Statistics, or Statistics 2013, which is supported by nearly 2,000 groups in more than 120 countries.

Organized in the U.S. by the American Statistical Association, Statistics 2013's primary objectives are to increase public awareness of the impact of statistical sciences on our society and to nurture an interest in statistics among our youth. Participants of Statistics 2013 are educating the public in how statistical sciences improve our lives in a myriad of ways, such as finding better cancer treatments and informing public policy. Statistics is an incredibly powerful tool that can be used in understanding complex phenomena. It's been used since antiquity.

Congratulations, Statistics 2013. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions and goals of Statistics 2013.

IN MEMORY OF VINCE FLYNN

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, Lysa, her children, and thousands of admirers gathered at St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minnesota, to bury the legendary author Vince Flynn.

Vince Flynn was known and beloved as a Minnesotan and a great American. He lost his battle with cancer just this last week. He left behind a wonderful family, a beautiful family. He left behind a literary body of work. And, most importantly, he left behind his