

better. We can make it more efficient. We can ensure that even more people get the food they need to prevent hunger in America. But we need to address hunger in a holistic and comprehensive way, including the role SNAP plays in preventing and treating hunger. This is why we need a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition if we are going to truly reduce hunger and improve nutrition in this country. We need a plan. We need to get this right. We need some urgency and some leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, attacking SNAP, and demonizing those who rely on it to make ends meet isn't just wrong, it's counterproductive. Arbitrarily cutting SNAP will only make hunger in America worse, and it certainly won't reduce the rates of fraud, waste, and abuse. The SNAP program works. While it can always be improved, we can't simply cut our way to a hunger-free society. We must work together if we are going to end hunger now.

IN HONOR OF ADMIRAL FRANK BENTON KELSO, II

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Admiral Frank Benton Kelso, II, a great American and true son of Tennessee. On Sunday, June 23, Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District and our country lost this great American hero.

To describe Admiral Kelso as honorable, principled, and dedicated would be insufficient. His achievements and individual character are matched only by his patriotism and love of country.

Admiral Kelso's 79-year life included a gallant and decorated 42-year career in the United States Navy.

Admiral Kelso graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956 and began his illustrious career in the Navy by joining the nuclear submarine program, where he would later command two nuclear submarines.

In 1986, the Admiral commanded the Atlantic Fleet, planning military actions against Libya that significantly curbed Muammar Qadhafi's terrorist activities.

In 1990, he earned the position of Chief of Naval Operations, the Navy's top uniformed officer. During this time, he successfully led naval operations in the Persian Gulf War.

In addition to his distinguished naval career, Admiral Kelso was a family man. He was happily married to Landess McCown Kelso for 56 years until she passed away last year. Together, they had four children and eight grandchildren.

He retired from the Navy in 1994, and in 2003 he returned to his hometown of Fayetteville, Tennessee, where he would spend the last 10 years of his life. These years were filled with love for

his family and friends and service to his community.

I believe that there is no greater example of commitment to one's country than the life of Admiral Frank Kelso. His legacy of integrity and courage truly exemplify the best of the United States Navy. To quote the celebrated song of our Navy, "Here's wishing you a happy voyage home."

GOVERNMENT FURLONGHS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, the front page of The Washington Post had a headline which showed in many respects just, again, the disconnect between this town and the rest of the country. It said: "They said the sequester would be scary. Mostly they were wrong."

I would like those reporters to have joined me on July 3, 2 days later, when I went to the Groton Navy Base in southeastern Connecticut to talk to over 100 civilian DOD employees who were on the verge of being furloughed because of sequestration. Again, under sequester, 650,000 civilian DOD employees, for 1 day a week for the next 11 weeks, will be furloughed, or lose 20 percent of their paycheck, despite the fact that they contribute enormous value to the military readiness of this country.

Again, at that meeting, where I was joined by Captain Carl Lahti, who is the commander of the sub base, he talked about the fact that among the furloughed employees are crane operators, folks who install torpedoes, Tomahawk missiles, all the supplies to make sure that our attack sub fleet is ready to go at any given time. Again, losing them 1 day a week just pushes back the readiness of the submarine fleet.

I talked to Adam Puccino, who is the head of the Metal Trades Council and represents the maintenance crews on the base to make sure that the tip of the spear of America's Navy is ready to go. Again, losing those folks 1 day a week is going to slow down and retard the ability of that fleet to be ready.

□ 1030

Rob Faulise, who is the head of the NAGE force, talked about the staff that provides critical services, whether it's health care, firefighter services, clerical work, to make sure that that subbase is ready to accomplish its mission.

In every case, they all confirm the fact that not only is this going to cause personal hardship, but it's also going to harm the military capability of that base.

I received a number of emails from folks who were there that day or whose coworkers told them about that meeting. Here is what some of them said.

Kimberly from Ledyard, Connecticut, said:

I am a Federal employee working on the Navy base in Groton. I am a GS-5 step 2, which means I make \$17 an hour and am paid biweekly. I am married with three children, ages 6, 4, and 1. My husband works part time, and is already capped at a salary range of \$16.54 an hour. It's already hard enough to make ends meet as it is, and now, with the furlough, I'm losing \$226.44 every pay period.

Robert from North Stonington:

As a member of DOD, specifically the Department of the Navy, working in Groton, I am now in the second week of furloughs. As a civilian employee for the past 39 years, I have never seen our government in such disarray. My command, supervisor of shipbuilding, performs extremely important jobs of government oversight of the design, construction and repair of our country's nuclear submarine fleet.

John from Groton:

Furloughs will immediately manifest themselves in the local economies around every U.S. military base in the form of 20 percent fewer goods, gas and groceries being bought and in 20 percent fewer taxes being paid into town and State coffers that are already at an all-time low.

Lastly, Aurela from Gales Ferry, Connecticut, said:

As a result of the civilian furloughs at the Navy branch health clinic, I believe our patients' access to care and continuity of quality care will be severely hampered. Our military and their dependents don't have the option to be sick or injured on a non-furlough day. Clinic staff has been trained to refer patients to urgent care facilities and to emergency rooms as a last resort, largely due to the sequester. Where is the wisdom of forcing the use of higher cost facilities in a fiscal crisis?

Thank you, Aurela, because it shows that, in fact, these furloughs don't really save anything structurally or long term for government. What is clearly needed is for Congress to respond to sequester based on what its original intention was. If you go to Phil Gramm, the granddaddy of sequestration—the Gramm-Rudman sequester act of 1985, which today sequester is verbatim based on—he stated in a speech in Washington not too long ago:

It was never the objective of Gramm-Rudman to trigger the sequester. The objective of Gramm-Rudman was to have the threat of the sequester force compromise and action.

Again, that's from the inventor of sequestration.

Seven times, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and the House Democratic minority have tried to get the Rules Committee to allow a vote to be taken on a measure to turn off sequester, replacing it with smarter cuts and smarter revenue to achieve the goal of deficit reduction, but to do it without a chain saw that is disrupting the lives of those individuals whose stories I just described. In every single instance, the Rules Committee denied the ability of this House to vote on a commonsense measure to turn off sequester.

Folks, we are now 4½ months into sequester. Its impact extends even beyond the Department of Defense. In Head Start programs, kids are losing slots, and NIH research grants are being canceled. It is time for Congress to listen to Phil Gramm, to compromise, to act to turn off sequester,

and to represent these hardworking Americans who every single day are serving our Nation.

THE REPEAL OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, the Democrats told the American people that Congress had to pass the ObamaCare act so that we could learn what was in it. Well, 3 years later, we are just now learning what really is in the law and how it will cost American jobs and limit their health care choices.

It is no surprise to me that the administration has delayed the implementation of the employer mandate. Just as every honest observer said it would, ObamaCare is costing Americans full-time jobs and hourly wages as employers prepare to comply with the new mandates spawned by this law.

Later today, the House of Representatives will vote to delay imposing ObamaCare's crushing burdens on employers. For once, we agree with the President—this law cannot be implemented without significantly harming our economy. We will also go one step further and delay these same burdens from falling on the backs of individuals as well. I don't believe it is appropriate to protect one half of America from ObamaCare but not the other half. We will give American families the same reprieve from this law that the Obama administration is promising to employers.

The two votes we are taking today are important steps toward repeal. All of the regulations required by this law are still not written. With every day that passes, a new regulation is announced, revealing just a little more of what this bill will actually do. Each rule and regulation mandates new costs for employers, more restrictions for the insureds, and ultimately hikes the cost of health insurance for American families. This law is not ready to be implemented. There are too many questions, too many inconsistencies, and too many complications. Despite the promises of the Democrat leadership, the fact is that we still do not know what's in it.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents want to see this law repealed. I think it is bad policy, bad politics, and terrible for health care in America. I have supported every effort to end this law, and I will continue to support these efforts as long as I am in office.

Fundamentally, I do not believe that this law will ever be ready; so next year, if the President has not worked with us to delay it or to replace it, I will be back to argue for additional delays on both the individual mandate and employer mandate. I will continue to demand that Congress and the President repeal this law and replace it with one that puts patients first, that allows new and innovative paths for care and

coverage, and that does not put the government between patients and their doctors.

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION ON FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. I was going to talk about sequestration—and I will, Mr. Speaker—but I've got to respond to my friend on what he calls ObamaCare. It does everything he says he wants it to do, and I will remind those critics of ObamaCare that the individual mandate was a Republican idea; and far from putting government between patients and their doctors, it actually facilitates patients' care directly with their doctors and their medical providers.

Just 2 weeks ago, we celebrated our Nation's independence, and it reminded us of the full panoply of American history. American history, especially at the Constitutional Convention, is all about parties coming together for the common good and compromising.

The first great compromise created the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, allowing proportional representation here to protect the interests of the bigger States, but equal representation in the other body to protect all of the States. That was the first great compromise.

The second great compromise was between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. It involved the Federal debt and the location of the future Nation's Capital. They had a dinner, and they compromised. Hamilton got what he wanted in the Federal debt, and Jefferson got what he wanted in terms of the Nation's Capital. It was all about compromise. That's what we have to now remind ourselves of as we deal with the horrors of sequestration—yes, horrors.

On July 5, the EPA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the IRS completely shuttered their offices throughout the United States, furloughing 115,000 employees that day. It was the third such agency shutdown for those agencies. Last week, 680,000 Department of Defense civilian employees began a one-day-a-week furlough that will continue through the end of this fiscal year.

For my colleagues who are so fond of saying, Let's run government the way a business ought to be run, what business would furlough 85 percent of its workforce one day a week for 3 months? What CEO or chairman of the board would last one day advocating for that as a management practice? Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle think that's perfectly fine in order to manage the Federal Government.

I recently met with the members of the Federal Bar Association, who highlighted yet another unforeseen cost of sequestration, and that has to do with

\$350 million of cuts in the judicial branch.

Since July of 2011, spending cuts have forced the Federal court system to shed 10 percent of the total judicial staff through layoffs. Staffing of the court system is now at 2005 staffing levels, but the volume has only grown. Many Federal courts across the Nation plan now to close one day a week. Think about that. The American judicial system is looking at possibly only operating 4 days a week because of the lack of resources due to sequestration. This will result in the slower processing of civil and bankruptcy cases, which will have a ripple effect on local economies for individuals and companies all across this country. Court security will be cut by 30 percent, and we can only ask ourselves rhetorically what could go wrong with that. Probation will be affected.

These cuts will undermine our ability to fulfill the Sixth Amendment right of defendants to a speedy trial and representation for the indigent. Cuts to the Federal Defender Services program will lead to attorneys being furloughed up to 15 days for the remainder of this fiscal year. The office already is understaffed after losing 113 employees between last fall and spring as a result of budget cuts.

Mr. Speaker, the Judicial Conference of the United States recently called this situation an unprecedented fiscal crisis that will seriously compromise the constitutional mission of the United States courts—the same Constitution that so many of my friends on the other side of the aisle proudly hold up and say they believe in. It's just the latest in a string of what, I hope, are unintended consequences from sequestration and another reason we must act within the next month to resolve the situation and stop the mindless disinvestment in the important functions of government.

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 40 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

Reverend Robert Wagenseil, Calvary Episcopal Church, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, offered the following prayer:

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: thank You for the men and women who have been called to serve Your people in this House.