

Everybody remembers, if they're of age, where they were at that time. I was sitting in my office at One Shoreline Plaza in Corpus Christi. When that second plane hit the Twin Towers, I got a feeling in the pit of my stomach that I remember from when I was told my father died when I was a child. It was a devastating moment.

But we cannot let our fear guide us. We've got to be strong, we've got to be vigilant, and we cannot let the terrorists win.

Let's take a moment right now until I'm gavelled out of time to remember and pray for those victims and their families and go forward with our life and reflect how we can do what we need to do so the terrorists don't win.

CR EXTENSION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is, indeed, a sober day of reflection on the events of 9/11. Twelve years ago today, I was on the floor of the House when we got word of the first attacks.

It unleashed a series of horrific events, but those events continue to this day. There is another tragedy that is occurring in Iraq and Afghanistan—the thousands of Iraqi and Afghan nationals whose lives are at risk because they helped Americans as guides, drivers, and interpreters.

That is why we developed a special immigrant visa program—to help these people trapped in the country against those with long memories who seek revenge. But this program is seriously broken.

There are thousands of men and women on this waiting list, some who have died while they wait to have the paperwork processed. The State Department won't even tell us how many are on the waiting list. It is seriously broken. Congress can't fix it. But at least we can put in the CR an extension so that the program doesn't expire at the end of the month and their lives lost.

VOW NEVER TO FORGET 9/11

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 12th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our great Nation. Though on that day cowardly terrorists hijacked the Islamic religion and used it to justify their murderous acts, what we will remember most is America's strength and resolve.

In the aftermath, Americans of all backgrounds and faiths united as one. Servicemembers and first responders ran toward—not away from—the wreckage. Our Nation continues to set an example to the world as a land of opportunity, tolerance, and independence, and in keeping with our founding document, the promise still of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, as we witness the construction of One World Trade Center, we see more than a building rise up through the New York City skyline. It is truly representative of the resilience of the American people, which remains unbroken despite these hardships, challenges, and unthinkable acts.

So today, and every day, we stand tall as Americans as we vow never to forget.

THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

(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, today we mark the 12th anniversary of 9/11, a day that changed America forever.

We remember those who died. We lost close to 3,000 people on 9/11, but many thousands more lost their health and many are suffering from cancer. This body passed the 9/11 health and compensation bill to help them, and I thank my colleagues.

Since that day, much has changed and much has been restored. Ten million people have visited Memorial Plaza that opened in 2011. The 9/11 museum opens next spring. The 104-story Freedom Tower opens next year.

But there are still men and women who suffer—or will suffer—from the effects of that massive toxic stew that enveloped Lower Manhattan for months.

So, on this special day, I would like to remind everyone that the final deadline to register for the benefits under the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund is October 3. Please let everyone who is eligible know—registering will cost you nothing and may help you and your family tremendously.

THANKING THE FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is 9/11. We've all talked about it.

When I think about 9/11 I mostly think about—I think about the victims, obviously, but the first responders who were also victims—firemen and policemen in New York City and that area who rushed into harm's way and lost their lives trying to protect others.

We appreciate it and thank those heroic fire people and police people. But sometimes I don't think we keep them in our minds like we should. They're public employees, they're middle class Americans. They're having a tough time, and we need to always appreciate the sacrifices they make to people that keep our liberty here in this country and keep us safe from crime and from horrific circumstances.

I thank the first responders. I appreciate what they did on 9/11 and what they do every day.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we all have extremely vivid memories of this day 12 years ago.

Personally, I remember seeing the clouds of smoke from the Pentagon through my office window and the panicked feeling I had as I searched all day for my children who live in New York City but couldn't reach.

I recently saw the emptiness that we all felt captured at Memorial Plaza. We can honor those we lost by remembering that, after the immense tragedy of that day, we rose as a Nation, united in the belief that there was no obstacle we could not overcome together.

Have we lost that spirit?

Many would say that this Congress has been stalled on the best way to lead this Nation, focusing too much on what divides us, losing sight of what brings us together.

It is my hope that we will put aside our differences and come together for the American people. Let us use the sad, traumatic reminder of today and remember that we are all Americans and we all want what is best for our families, our communities, and our country.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise asking my colleagues to join together to end the sequester.

Many constituents and many business owners have expressed this question over the last 6 months: "What is Congress going to do about ending the sequester cuts?"

My district has military and Federal contractors that are impacted by these cuts. Head Start programs are serving fewer children, while nutrition programs that serve seniors such as Meals on Wheels are also being cut. Sequester affects our economy and the most vulnerable of our Nation.

That is why we need a balanced approach to repeal sequestration. We need to reach a compromise on a real plan and work out the differences between the House and Senate budgets to end sequester cuts.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DERRICK LIONEL MARTIN

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Derrick Lionel Martin. Derrick was a son of Hawaii, born and raised on the island of Oahu. At an early age, Derrick displayed the intelligence, integrity, and vision needed to be an exemplary American.

In 1978, he enlisted in the United States Army before becoming a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard in 1983. He served honorably until 2001, when he chose to continue his commitment to the United States as a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard. He also served as an officer in the Honolulu Police Department for 25 years.

As a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Derrick truly understood what it meant to sacrifice for others. A true patriot, he was a man of compassion, understanding, and unwavering resolve. His wife, JoAnn, and two sons, Michael and John, are his greatest legacy and will continue to share Derrick's aloha.

On behalf of the First Congressional District of Hawaii, and the entire State of Hawaii, I would like to bid a fond aloha to Derrick and thank him for his selfless contributions to the defense of our country. As we say in Hawaii, "a hui hou," Derrick—until we meet again.

□ 1230

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOULDER WEEKLY

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Boulder Weekly—an alternative newspaper based in my hometown of Boulder, Colorado—on 20 years of publication, a challenging feat for any newspaper, even more so for a newspaper that's freely available to readers both in Boulder County, where print editions are freely distributed, as well as nationally over the Internet.

They've had a number of in-depth, incisive reports that have uncovered human rights abuses within our own prison system in Colorado. They've given detailed coverage on the impact of organic farming practices and GMOs and fracking.

It's very difficult these days to find a trusted investigative news source. The Boulder County community is very fortunate to have one in the Boulder Weekly, and I rise to congratulate them on their 20th anniversary.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2775, NO SUBSIDIES WITHOUT VERIFICATION ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 339 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 339

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2775) to condition the provision of premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act upon a certification that

a program to verify household income and other qualifications for such subsidies is operational, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 339 provides for the consideration of H.R. 2775, the No Subsidies Without Verification Act of 2013. This is a critical bill as the Obama administration begins to implement and sign up people for the insurance exchanges in literally less than 3 weeks' time.

I am a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that the Secretary of Health and Human Services appears ill prepared to verify that the people qualifying for the numerous government handouts and subsidies included in the Affordable Care Act actually meet the income requirements for those subsidies. Because fraud and abuse have been rampant in just about every program that is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, including Medicare and Medicaid, a certified verification system being in place prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act is critical. This bill addresses this extreme deficiency in the inappropriately named Affordable Care Act.

The rule before us today provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided between the majority and the minority. Further, the rule makes a correction to the underlying bill, clarifying that the Inspector General for Health and Human Services, rather than the Secretary, which is a partisan position, is better equipped to oversee the verifica-

tion process for the eligibility of subsidies. Finally, the minority is afforded the customary motion to recommit, allowing for yet another opportunity to amend the legislation.

H.R. 2775, the No Subsidies Without Verification Act, introduced by Mrs. BLACK from Tennessee, is an important piece of legislation to protect taxpayer dollars from inappropriate expenditure. With less than 3 weeks until enrollment in the health insurance exchanges and they go live, the Obama administration continues to tinker and twist the dials on the Affordable Care Act, exposing the executive branch's lack of readiness for such a massive and fundamental change of the way health care is delivered and administered in this country. In an effort to save their misguided health care takeover, the administration has significantly scaled back the original scope of the Affordable Care Act—cutting corners and delaying any piece of the legislation which becomes inconvenient or, perhaps, embarrassing to the President.

The President has chosen to delay the employer mandate included in the Affordable Care Act; yet has not given that same reprieve to everyday Americans. Why? Why should that be? Because enforcing the employer mandate was inconvenient. The President announced that he could not implement the CLASS Act portion of the Affordable Care Act. Why? Because it was inconvenient. Now the President simply will not enforce the verification requirements to prevent the fraudulent acceptance of subsidies. Why? Because, again, it is inconvenient.

Just 3 months before the exchanges are supposed to go live, on January 1, Health and Human Services decided that on July 5 of this year it would simply accept an applicant's attestation of household income without any certifiable verification. The President's strategy on the health care law is now "trust; don't verify."

The Secretary of Health and Human Services has made the opening of the exchanges on October 1 her central priority. However, in facing tight deadlines and daunting workloads, the administration has instead drastically lowered their standards. It's clear from the final rule issued late in the day on July 5, 2013, that the administration will allow any type of flexibility necessary to ensure that their law appears that it is being implemented as planned. Regardless of what you may believe, the administration has been very clear.

The rule states explicitly:

The exchange may accept the attestation of projected annual household income without further verification for the purposes of the exchange's eligibility determination.

The administration is more than comfortable with letting over \$1 trillion go out the door without verifying that it's going to the correct individuals.

They even state in the final rule: