

and UNH. We cannot afford to cut investments in programs that prepare our students for the 21st century economy, like those at Nashua Community College. We cannot afford to cut investments in critical defense systems produced by companies like BAE, that protect our troops and create good jobs.

The only way to protect these priorities while avoiding the sequester is for both parties to pass a balanced, bipartisan plan that will responsibly reduce the deficit, grow our economy, and protect middle class families. Now is the time for Congress to step up and do its job.

CONGRATULATING THE STEPHENVILLE YELLOW JACKETS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. I rise to salute the mighty Stephenville Yellow Jackets for winning their fifth State championship in football.

Texas football has been written about in TV shows, movies, and books, but Hollywood's version isn't nearly as exciting as the real thing. During the 2012 high school football season, Stephenville lost only one game as it prepared to enter the playoffs. In the championship game, quarterback Tyler Jones threw for five touchdowns and 422 yards and rushed for another 126.

What makes this team so remarkable is not only that it won, but that it was worthy of winning. These are good kids who do credit to their school and their town. Stephenville, Texas, is the cowboy capital of the world. The 17,000 Texans who live there are patriotic, passionate people who take care of business and take care of their neighbors; and, like their high school team, they are winners at everything they do.

I am proud to represent Stephenville, Texas, in the United States Congress, and I am proud to salute the Yellow Jackets on their fifth State title. I look forward to congratulating them next year on another championship.

INVESTING IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, many will be hurt by the sequester, but San Diego will be hurt in particular. Today, I'm here to urge Congress to work together to find a bipartisan solution to sequestration.

The Port of San Diego is our window to national and international commerce, as well as a main driver of our economy. The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest port in California, and one of 17 commercial strategic ports in America, overseeing two maritime cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, and hundreds of maritime leases to small businesses.

Since 2001, the port has received almost \$22 million in Federal funding for critical infrastructure projects, which has allowed the port to hire more San Diegans and boost San Diego's economy. The American Society of Engineers found that with an additional investment of \$15.8 billion between now and 2020, our national system of ports could provide \$270 billion in U.S. exports and \$697 billion in GDP.

Now is not the time to be cutting critical investments in our infrastructure. Let's work together to find a solution.

HONORING MR. JAMES E. WALKER

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American, Mr. James E. Walker.

Mr. Walker was born on April 12, 1924, in Gulfport, Mississippi. He grew up in a close-knit family of seven children. After graduating from Woolmarket High School, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served in World War II from 1942 to 1945. Upon returning home, he earned a degree in engineering and became the engineering supervisor at the VA in Biloxi, retiring after 35 years.

Mr. Walker was also the loving husband of Helen Peterson Walker. They wed on February 21, 1946, exactly 67 years to the date of his recent passing.

Mr. Walker was known for his love of trout fishing, his hometown of Gulfport, Mississippi, and most importantly, his family. I stand before you today and declare without a shadow of a doubt that he was the epitome of what we consider a member of the Greatest Generation.

Mr. Walker, you will be missed, not only by your family, but also by the country you so faithfully served in the Marine Corps. *Semper fidelis*.

SEQUESTER AND THE CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Because they have no voting rights, a group that we don't hear a lot about is children. On Friday, March 1, our children will be in the eye of the storm. The sequester that will occur will impact children, particularly Head Start.

So many of my Head Start organizations have cried out for relief and Title I funding, so I want to say to them that we are going to come together. It may not be on Friday, but we know that we're going to look forward to overturn what has been a process that was put in place because President Obama and the Democrats were ready to make sure the government was going to run and others were not.

Now we have a crisis, but that crisis will not last long because we Demo-

crats will put children first and find a solution to ensure that the American people have the resources that are necessary to provide services to ensure the quality of life that their tax dollars pay for. We must have revenue and, yes, we must have spending responsibility, but we cannot undermine the American people.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong disappointment in the House Republican leadership in committing such legislative malpractice by failing to do anything about automatic spending cuts that will happen this Friday.

Here we are on the brink of another economic disaster manufactured by Washington, and, just as before, this crisis will have real consequences to real people. In my district alone, schools will lose \$11 million in Federal funding. California will be losing \$87.6 million in funding for primary and secondary schools. Fewer students will be learning and more teachers will be out of work.

There's a rational way to approach balancing the people's budget, and this is not it. We can cut foolish spending without foolishly cutting spending.

H.R. 699, of which I'm a cosponsor, would replace this meat-cleaver method of budgeting with a balanced approach. It would include additional revenue from multimillionaires and smart cuts for unnecessary spending.

We might not agree on what the right way to cut spending is, but we also should agree that using broad, indiscriminate cuts is the wrong way to cut spending. Let's come together to pass legislation to avert these cuts.

□ 1920

RECOGNIZING DR. IRVING FRADKIN

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Irving Fradkin of Fall River, Massachusetts, a finalist for the national "Citizen Service Before Self" award.

The son of Russian immigrants, Dr. Fradkin's story of service began in the late 1950s. As an optometrist opening his new practice in a struggling former mill city, he was immediately struck by how few of his young patients had plans to go to college. When he asked why, the response was always a simple answer: My parents can't afford it.

At the time, the average cost of tuition was a couple hundred dollars a year. Dr. Fradkin did the math. He figured that if each of Fall River's 30,000

households gave a single dollar, they could send every single graduating senior in the city to college. And so Dollars for Scholars was born.

With the deep faith and compassion of a tight-knit community, Dr. Fradkin began collecting as little as \$1 from his neighbors and friends to provide scholarships to the local students. Over four decades later, what began as a card table operation in a determined Massachusetts town became Scholarship America, an organization that has awarded nearly \$3 billion in scholarships across 38 States.

At 92 years old, Dr. Fradkin continues to fight for that city that he loves and the students that have made his life's work. Tonight, I congratulate him and his wife, Charlotte, on a recognition deeply deserved.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans refer to President Obama's sequestration, they must think that no one in the country remembers the events of the last 2 years. Remember that 2 years ago, the Republicans blackmailed the entire country by saying that they would not permit the debt ceiling to be increased and they would force the country to default on its debts—and in fact destroy the economy—unless we cut the budget by \$2.4 trillion. We cut it by \$1.2 trillion. But no one could figure out, no one could agree how to cut another \$1.2 trillion, so both parties put in the sequester to kick the can down the road on this entirely artificial demand for an extra \$1.2 trillion in cuts. That's why we're here now facing an economic catastrophe—because of the blackmail of an even worse catastrophe of failing to pay our bills, of calling into question the full faith and credit of the United States. That's what got us to this point. The only way to get us out is either to just repeal the entire sequester entirely—because we've made enough budget cuts—or to say, all right, we'll do half the budget, half the \$1.2 trillion in cuts, and half by adopting loophole-closing measures that the Republicans themselves supported last year.

SEQUESTER REBUTTAL

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting in the back of the House, listening to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I just had to rise to answer some of the things that they just said.

The gentlewoman from Texas was talking about sequester and the effect that it would have on children. I'd like to remind the gentlewoman from Texas

that the effect that the millions—or billions and trillions—of dollars of debt we are leaving on the backs of our children is going to have an equally negative effect.

This sequester—we are accused of not doing anything on this side. We have passed two bills out of this House doing away with the sequester, but they have not been acted on by the President or the Senate. We have done our job.

The President has asked for a balanced approach. He got his increase in revenue; it's now time to come up with some cuts. Sequester isn't the way to do it, but we cannot give up on getting rid of wasteful spending here in Washington.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN SAM JOHNSON ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELEASE FROM PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a remarkable individual that serves with us in the House of Representatives.

We are really surrounded by remarkable people, 435 individuals who came from other walks of life. Most of them had other careers before they came to the House of Representatives. But tonight, we're going to talk about the anniversary of one individual. Because, you see, 40 years ago, Colonel SAM JOHNSON was released as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He had spent 7 years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

It all started when he was flying one of his F-4s, being a pilot. This was not a new experience. I mean, after all, he had served in Korea and flew 62 combat missions in an F-86 Sabre called Shirley's Texas Tornado, after his wife, Shirley. So he flew 62 in the Korean war; Vietnam, he's on his 25th mission flying an F-4 Phantom. He left Laotian airspace, came into North Vietnam, and he was shot down by ground fire. This was not his first tour of duty in Vietnam; it was his second tour of duty. SAM JOHNSON is an American warrior.

After he was shot down on this day, April 16, 1966, his life took a turn, a different turn. When he parachuted out of his plane, his shoulder was injured—of course the Vietnamese, they didn't do anything to help his injuries, and he still carries some of those wounds from

his prisoner days and from when he crashed or when he came back down to Earth in that parachute. He was captured by the North Vietnamese Army and he was put in a prisoner of war camp.

The North Vietnamese probably developed prisoner of war camps better than anyplace on Earth. They were hard, they were tough, they were mean, and not everybody survived those camps. So he spent 7 years as a prisoner of war, and they interrogated him every day. But SAM never gave in. In fact, the Vietnamese called him "Die Hard." He was the first person that I know of that was called "Die Hard" because he would never die no matter how hard they beat him.

He was so obstinate, Mr. Speaker, that they sent him to the infamous "Hanoi Hilton"—satire, of course; it was everything but a hotel—and put him in a section called Alcatraz, where he and 11 obstinate prisoners of war were put together. SAM JOHNSON was so tough, would never break, would never give information, that they finally put him in solitary confinement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to describe the cell to you that he spent 4 years of his life in—solitary confinement. It was 3 feet by 9 feet. It's about the size of this table, 3 feet, over to about that podium, 9 feet. That was his cell. That's where he was for 4 years. They left the light on constantly. At night, they would come in and put him in leg irons—4 years solitary confinement. But he never gave up.

He learned how to communicate with other prisoners by tapping on the wall. He learned the names of the other 374 members, memorized their names so that when he got out—because he expected to get out—that he could tell their families that they were there.

But he never broke. He was never broken. He continued to do what he was supposed to do to honor America and represent America, but he never gave information to America's enemies.

So tonight, we commemorate his 40th anniversary of being released from that prisoner of war camp when the war was over. Seven years of his life he gave to this country in a camp that most of us would never survive.

At this time, I'd like to yield to the majority leader, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to honor and celebrate our friend, SAM JOHNSON, the gentleman from Texas that we all know as a friend and colleague, but that I think America knows as a hero.

SAM, as the gentleman from Texas points out, was awarded two Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts, among his many other decorations, for fighting bravely for freedom, and for 7 years SAM JOHNSON was held as a prisoner of war by the North Vietnamese—the horror of which none of us will ever know