

that is critical to securing the base's continued operation. There would also be an impact on jobs: 2,300 Air Force civilians in New York will be furloughed, causing \$17.7 million in lost wages across the State.

Mr. Speaker, sequestration was the ransom the Tea Party demanded when it held the American economy hostage over the debt limit. But with 750,000 American jobs at stake, this process will inflict real and permanent damage on the American economy.

Congress created the sequester. Congress can and should repeal it. For the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Base and for our economy, I urge the House to do just that.

TAX INCREASES ARE A LOUSY DEFICIT REDUCTION STRATEGY

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to put this week's debate about scheduled budget cuts into some much-needed context. The Federal Government spent \$3.5 trillion last year. And yet, even with the \$85 billion in cuts scheduled to occur over the next 7 months, the CBO still projects that Federal spending will be \$15 billion higher this year than last year.

Only in Washington can billions in cuts be made, total spending still increase, and some claim that the problem is that taxes still aren't high enough. The President got his tax increase 7 weeks ago. But the government spent every dime of this year's revenue from that tax increase in just 7 days.

Mr. Speaker, raising taxes is a lousy deficit reduction strategy because in Washington, tax revenue is never dedicated to deficit reduction. Instead, new taxes are always used to finance more government and more spending.

Rather than demand more tax increases as the solution, I encourage everyone to work together to replace the indiscriminate spending cuts with a smarter plan that sets priorities—but which still enacts an equal amount of much-needed spending restraint.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the devastating impacts that the sequester will have on my community, El Paso, Texas. The numbers speak for themselves. Two weeks of furloughs for Customs and Border Patrol officers—that's the equivalent of losing 5,000 border patrol agents and almost 3,000 CBP officers at our ports of entry. Mind you, more than \$450 billion in trade passes through our ports of entry every year. More than 100,000 jobs in my home community depend on the free, secure flow of goods, trade, and people

through our ports of entry, and jobs are at stake.

In addition, 11,000 civilian employees at Fort Bliss in El Paso will be furloughed for 22 days. These are the middle class Americans who care for our wounded warriors when they return from war and make our military base run efficiently. These individuals will be facing a 20 percent cut because Congress cannot muster the courage to come up with a responsible solution.

In addition to these job losses, El Paso children will bear a large burden through the elimination of teachers and classroom aides and Head Start slots.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARDISS COLLINS, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(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, Cardiss Collins, who died earlier this month, was not the first African American woman elected to the House, but when I was elected in 1990, along with three other Black women, the small number had dwindled to one. Cardiss was alone. Today there are 15, one-third of the Congressional Black Caucus. But Cardiss Collins was more than able to hold the fort by herself.

Although she got the seat when her husband died in a tragic plane crash, Cardiss managed to transform herself from a grieving widow to a highly effective Illinois Congresswoman, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Democratic whip, and champion of women and minorities.

Cardiss retired in 1997 as the longest-serving Black female in Congress, having gotten 79 percent of the vote in her last election. Cardiss Collins left Congress at the top of her game with a record that will long survive her.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the harmful spending cuts that will threaten our economy and a range of vital services for children, seniors, small businesses, and our men and women in uniform. I've just come from a hearing in the Coast Guard Subcommittee, where we learned that in fiscal year 2011, our already underfunded Coast Guard failed to meet one-fourth of its non-homeland security mission targets and more than half of its homeland security mission targets.

The Coast Guard's ability to protect our homeland and ensure the safety of life at sea will not improve when millions of dollars are cut from the budget. Sequestration will also reduce our mobility in the skies. If we do not act by Friday, the vast majority of the

FAA's 47,000 employees will face extensive furloughs. This will result in longer delays and disruptions at airports, canceled flights, and impeded commerce.

With only 3 days left, our House Republicans must act now to allow a vote on the Democrats' balanced proposal to avert these damaging and indiscriminate spending cuts. We cannot afford to wait a moment longer.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Ms. CHU. Here we are just days away from the catastrophe that we've known about for months, just days away from a self-inflicted wound to our economy, our credibility, and the American people.

The sequester, these automatic budget cuts, will literally take food out of the mouths of hungry mothers and children—600,000 of them. Air traffic controllers will take a huge hit, increasing wait times by 50 percent. Security lines at LAX could take 4 hours during peak traffic times, as if waits aren't already bad enough. It will eliminate more than 2,000 food inspector jobs. I don't know about you, but I like knowing that I won't get salmonella when I open a can of tuna.

The American people will suffer. And for what? It's not like we couldn't see this coming from a mile away. We did see this coming from a mile away. Enough is enough. It's time for Republicans to join Democrats in a solution, a balanced approach that can avert this freight train.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle complaining about the President's sequester. It is the President that insisted that this sequester be part of the Budget Control Act a year and a half ago. It is the President who has known for 16 months that the sequester was going to happen.

This is why the House acted twice—twice—over the last 300 days to replace the sequester. There are better and smarter ways to cut spending. But the President is out doing his campaign event nonstop when he could be sitting down with Senate leaders to actually act.

The House has acted twice. It's time for the President to put his plan on the table, and it's time for Senate Democrats to put their plan on the table to avert the sequester that's due to go into effect on Friday.

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ROSA PARKS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, 58 years ago a woman named Rosa Parks took a seat on a bus in Montgomery and refused to give it up.

Tomorrow Rosa Parks will take her place in the Halls of the United States Capitol when her statue joins other great American women like Helen Keller and Sojourner Truth, who stand sentinel over average citizens and Members of Congress alike in this hallowed place, reminding us of the quality of courage and the humble face of justice.

I'm proud to welcome fellow San Pedroan Eugene Daub, the talented artist and sculptor who created this magnificent statue, to the Nation's Capitol. San Pedro is a community for artists in Los Angeles.

It means a lot to San Pedro that a member of our own community was chosen to commemorate the woman whose quiet dignity and defiance inspired a nation to stand up against the daily injustice of Jim Crow. What an honor for Mr. Daub and the entire San Pedro artist community.

Rosa Parks would have been 100 years old this year, but I know that this is only the first century that we will be inspired by her example and this statue.

ACADEMIC COMPETITION
RESOLUTION OF 2013

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Academic Competition Resolution of 2013. The resolution, which will establish a yearly academic competition in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics each year in each congressional district, will be much like the long-standing art competition, one in which individuals in the STEM areas—science, mathematics, and engineering—will compete for their best accomplishments.

Art is important; English is important. But today, our greatest shortfalls are in the areas in which these young men and women need to go, need to be interested. Nothing will more promote STEM degrees, the type we need for sciences, for our accomplishments in Silicon Valley and throughout America, than saying it's important enough by an annual competition.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, the American public is tired of the

blame game. They want to see real solutions. Irresponsible, across-the-board spending cuts are not a real solution. If we don't act to avoid these spending cuts, we threaten the very safety of our community and our country.

There will be \$50 million cut from firefighting funding. In my own district, that's \$1.5 million in SAFER grants. Let me translate that. My fire chief, Kurt Henke, says that's the equivalent of one engine company and slower response times. People are going to be unsafe, homes are going to burn. We have to act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to lock us in a room and cut a deal. Let's figure out how to avoid sequestration. This is devastating to our economy and our country.

OUR BEST DAYS ARE STILL
AHEAD

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce myself to my new colleagues, some of whom I've not had the chance to meet since joining this distinguished body.

I've served as a high school teacher for 23 years, and I believe the diverse community of the 41st District sent me here because they believe fervently that education is the key to achieving the American Dream. They see a teacher as an emblem of hope.

As a community college trustee for 22 years, I've gained an understanding of the critical role our Nation's community colleges play in workforce training and providing a pathway toward college degrees for middle class families. We must prepare our young people to be the innovators, scientists, and engineers that will keep our economic future strong and secure.

And I'm proud that the people of my district chose to press boldly into the future and make me the first openly gay person of color to serve in the House. As the grandson of an Issei gardener and an Issei small farmer, I stand in the well of this House as the expression of three generations of striving and as a testament to the endurance of the American Dream.

Our Nation's best days are still ahead, and there are many more dreams to be made.

CARDISS COLLINS

(Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my predecessor, who came to the House basically as an auditor, an accountant, not one who was greatly involved in public activity but quickly learned the ways of the House, became chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus

Foundation, and a leading voice in equity for women in sports.

I lived in the same community that she and her husband lived in, and our community is especially proud of the accomplishments of the honorable Cardiss Collins.

CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, the effects of the sequester are broad and far reaching.

Up to 2,600 NOAA employees expect to be furloughed and 2,700 positions not filled, which will affect managing our natural resources and our ability to address climate change.

Climate change is real. According to the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment, across the Pacific Islands region, the frequency and intensity of climate extremes are changing.

Hawaii is usually thought of as a lush, green paradise, but droughts have been more frequent and prolonged. For example, earlier this month the Big Island of Hawaii was declared a natural disaster due to ongoing extreme drought conditions going back to July of 2008. This is causing havoc for our farmers and ranchers. Waikiki, a highly visited and well-known treasure around the world, would be wetlands with beaches gone by the end of the century.

We must take action. We cannot afford to ignore this problem that is currently and will continue to wreak havoc across the globe for generations.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. America is facing some very serious problems, and they're looking to Congress for a solution.

What have we done this week since the sequester is coming on Friday? We had one vote yesterday, and that was to rename a flight center, and we have one vote today. And these are good votes, but just two votes. Friday is looming, and America wants us to answer the sequester.

We heard the Speaker say that they have put two bills before the floor, but they have not been acceptable. We need to compromise.

We also heard the Speaker say recently to the Senate to get going and get moving, and I would suggest that the House should do the same thing. We need to reach out and compromise, find the solution that can pass this House, pass the Senate, and become law.

STOP THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House