

four children: Sarah, Kristin, Caleb, and Jared, and six grandchildren, including one adopted from Uganda.

I want to thank Dr. MacIlvaine for serving as our guest chaplain today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLINS of Georgia). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, when the hallmark of "Presidential leadership" becomes the refusal to have a conversation, we all should be concerned.

Our country is facing some very real challenges right now. To name a few:

Government is shut down because the Democrat Senate won't fund operations unless the House allows ObamaCare to be implemented unfairly;

Families in my district will be forced to spend thousands more next year on health insurance because of the President's partisan health care overhaul;

The country is days away from exhausting its \$16.7 trillion debt limit.

These challenges are bigger than any one party, and our solutions must be, too.

Not negotiating when such pivotal matters are at stake is wrong. It betrays years of precedent, and it contradicts the bipartisan reality of divided government.

House Republicans want to reopen government as soon as possible, but we can't shape a fair bipartisan solution when we're the only ones willing to sit down, talk to the other side, and negotiate.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican mantra of the day is that the President won't negotiate. Give me and the American people a break.

The President sat down with Republicans many times, and I think he tried harder and longer than he should have to reach bipartisan agreements. The cuts they produced hurt my and many other communities.

A popular definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

The Biden task force, the Simpson-Bowles, and the Domenici-Rivlin Commissions were bipartisan and produced nothing. I recall the Speaker walking out on one of the talks.

In the temporary CRs, Budget Control Act and lifting the debt ceiling in

the last Congress, Democrats compromised on important programs, and, frankly, there's no place left to cut.

As the President said yesterday, "I don't know why Democrats right now would agree to a format that takes off the table all the things they care about and is confined only to the things the Republicans care about."

To go to the table with a gun to our heads in a decidedly one-sided negotiation would really be insanity.

We need to, as Chaplain Black prayed last week, "stop the madness" and restore sanity in this House. Mr. Speaker, you can do that today by bringing a clean CR for a vote and lifting the debt ceiling so that the United States can pay its debts.

IRAN SANCTIONS

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, a nuclear-armed Iran is simply unacceptable and would pose a grave national security threat to our Nation and our allies.

Sanctions against the Iranian regime are having an effect on their nation's economy and remain a key tool for U.S. policymakers. Unfortunately, the Obama administration is asking to delay new sanctions following all the talk about historic, high-level meetings, and phone calls.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to be fooled by the rhetoric coming out of Tehran, especially as they push harder every day to develop a nuclear bomb. Before we even begin to discuss any deal with Tehran, we need to increase the pressure that has been working. It's time for the Senate to pass the House's new round of sanctions, which recently passed on this very floor with 400 votes.

Each day the Iranian regime is able to further drag out the promise of talks is another day that centrifuges will keep spinning. Once they're done spinning, they won't have any need to talk again.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, we are now in day 9 of the Republican government shutdown.

Let's keep it real. Come on. This could end tonight if Republicans vote "yes" on a clean CR. The problem is that the Republicans only want to pass partisan bills with no attempts to reach across the aisle. Instead, Republicans are bringing bills up for votes that claim to fund the VA, feed children, and cure deadly diseases when, in fact, they actually reduce funding for these very important programs. The appeasement of the far right, the Tea Party, is the opposite of good gov-

erning and bipartisanship, and it needs to stop today.

As a freshman Member of Congress, I am disheartened by my Republican colleagues' inability to compromise for the benefit of the American people. It's not fair to the constituents that I represent in places like Grand Prairie, people who work at the old Carswell Air Force Base and the Naval Air Station Fort Worth who were recently furloughed as nonessential employees. It's unfair to punish the 62,000 Federal workers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who have faced uncertain work status as a result of these partisan games.

I urge Republican leadership to stop the parlor tricks. Everything doesn't have to be a partisan battle. It is time for House Republicans to take "yes" for an answer and end the government shutdown today.

DEATH BENEFITS

(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 before the shutdown, this House overwhelmingly passed legislation to provide for our military in case of a government shutdown. We voted to provide them not only pay, but benefits for themselves and their families. Now the President's lawyers at the Department of Defense are blocking death gratuities to the families of those who've made the ultimate sacrifice.

Families of soldiers killed in battle are being victimized by the Department of Defense. It's outrageous. Today, Congress will act again to make our wishes even more clear. The President is the Commander in Chief. He should not be using troops and their families as pawns in this political bickering. He should be doing everything he can to stand up for the men and women of our military. Instead, he is refusing to negotiate until he gets his way. He is violating the trust between himself as Commander in Chief and the troops and destroying their morale.

Divided government is hard, but it's what the people have given us. It requires negotiation and compromise. Let's provide for our troops and their families. Let's sit down and talk, and let's get the whole government reopened.

IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS ORESKO, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in memory of Master Sergeant Nicholas Oresko, the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and Bayonne, New Jersey, native, who passed away on October 4, 2013, at the age of 96.

In the final stages of World War II, on January 23, 1945, Master Sergeant

Oresko's unit was pinned down by deadly enemy gunfire as the Battle of the Bulge drew to a close.

As platoon leader with Company C, he made a final, solitary attempt to eliminate the German position in nearby bunkers. Master Sergeant Oresko charged the hill, weathering enemy fire, to throw a grenade into the German bunkers.

Refusing to withdraw from the battle, despite being wounded and weak with blood loss, he continued the assault until he was assured the mission was successfully accomplished. His lone assault wiped out two machine gun positions and enabled his unit to take the hill with minimal casualties.

The true impact of his unselfish actions can never be measured as it extends beyond the lives of the men he saved.

Master Sergeant Oresko was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman on October 30, 1945, for his quick thinking, courage, and unswerving devotion to his country and fellow soldiers.

I rise today in memory of Master Sergeant Nicholas Oresko, to honor his courage and to ensure that those who will sacrifice their own safety for the benefit of the Nation are never forgotten.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our message in the House has been pretty clear. We want to reopen our government and provide fairness to all Americans under the President's health care law.

This law had a big rollout last week. It has been called an "inexcusable mess," a "rolling calamity," "consumers will face dramatically higher rates," "many remain locked out," "surprise, premiums just went up," "instead of making it easier for people to get health insurance, it will be a lot tougher." What a train wreck.

How can we tax people for not buying a product from a Web site that doesn't work? How can you give big businesses a tax break and leave hardworking families out in the cold?

This is why we need to sit down and have a conversation about the big challenges that face our country.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Mental Health Awareness Week.

I was raised by a mother who struggled with mental illness her entire adult life. I personally know firsthand how important timely and proper intervention and care are for those who

are struggling and how important that care can be.

I want to thank the mental health advocates who have contacted me or whom I have met at Iowa events to raise awareness in my district, events such as the walks hosted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Hearing from those at home in Iowa who are personally affected by mental illness on a daily basis has strengthened my resolve to continue to fight to make improving access to mental health care for all Americans a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end this shutdown of government and get back to work on the critical issues that face our Nation, including a mental health system that will work for all those who are struggling, as my mom did for so long.

RESPECTING SERVICEMEMBERS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, two Army Rangers, a nurse, and an Army criminal investigator were killed in action while defending our freedoms on Sunday. Because of a devastating decision made by the administration, the grieving families of American heroes Sergeant Patrick Hawkins, PFC Cody Patterson, 1st Lieutenant Jennifer Moreno, and Special Agent Joseph Peters are not receiving their loved ones' death gratuities.

Over a dozen more military families are also suffering due to the administration's actions and failure to negotiate. When Congress passed the Pay Our Troops Act last week, it was our intent to pay the pay and benefits our brave men and women have earned and deserve without question.

On Friday, I sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Hagel, demanding answers. Our brave men and women serving in uniform risk their lives to keep American families safe. I appreciate today, as a grateful military dad, that Congress will pass a bill restating benefits to our military families who have earned everlasting respect.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1215

HONORING THE FAMILIES OF FALLEN SOLDIERS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Standard and Poor's, Mr. Speaker, indicates that the wealth of American families has grown three times since President Obama has taken office. But here comes the government shutdown, the Republican government shutdown.

Yesterday I rose to the floor of the House to mourn the fact that we lost five brave young men and a young woman over the weekend in Afghanistan doing their duty. I wrote to the Secretary of Defense to direct him and ask him to immediately pay those moneys for the memorial services and other dollars to their families.

We all are concerned, but there comes the government shutdown, a shutdown because of something totally unrelated, the Affordable Care Act. Never during the time of Speaker PELOSI did we have a government shutdown. So, today, we will come together, as Republicans and Democrats, mourning the loss of those soldiers and having H.J. Res. 91.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that every single Member be counted as an original cosponsor of this bill to pay those families that are now mourning and that we never, ever again, never, ever again say "no" to our families who have seen their young men and women fall on the battlefield.

We don't have to do this but here comes a government shutdown. Let us all join on this bill. Let us be cosponsors. I ask the leaders of this bill to put every single Member on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot entertain that unanimous-consent request. Cosponsors may be added by the sponsor in the normal, proper format.

RIISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I continue to hear the real-world impacts of the implementation and cost of ObamaCare in my congressional district. Just last week, I received an email from CyrusOne, a small business located in my district. Due to ObamaCare, they anticipate paying over \$86,000 more for their current level of health insurance for their employees once ObamaCare is implemented.

For a small business, these significant new costs inhibit their ability to hire new workers or to simply keep the workers they have on the payroll. Consumers will begin to see the impact of these costs in the form of higher prices passed on to them.

Higher prices and fewer jobs, this is not the health care reform that Americans want or deserve. We must repeal or at least delay the individual mandate before it does even more damage to our economic recovery.

DAY 9 OF THE REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the ninth day of the Republican government shutdown. There are only 8 more days until we hit the debt ceiling.