

to end the violence in our society or to improve the safety of their families or in their schools of their children.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to sequestration.

The word “sequester” derives from the Latin word “sequi.” It meant to follow. In late Latin, it devolved into “sequestrar,” which meant to surrender into the hands of a trustee. By the early 1500s, sequestrar grew to mean “to seize, to confiscate.”

In Spanish, the word “secuestro” means to kidnap, to hostage, to ransom. And really, that is what the majority party is doing here today. They’re holding the American people hostage, holding them ransom for these draconian spending cuts. House Republicans don’t care about the harm it will cause to our working families, our seniors, our children, our military—especially our military.

We have heard now from our military leaders that military preparedness will suffer and will suffer greatly. We’ve already heard that an aircraft carrier has been stalled in port and is not able to be deployed to the Middle East. But there is a solution. Democrats, through the efforts of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), have proposed a fair and balanced plan that would replace these destructive and unwarranted cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 699, a balanced bill to replace the sequester with spending cuts and revenues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained without the appropriate clearance.

CHARDON 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. JOYCE. Today marks the 1-year anniversary of a horrific day for all northeastern Ohioans. It marks the worst day of their lives for too many mothers, fathers, brother, sisters, friends, and family in Chardon, Ohio.

One year ago today, a shooter opened fire in Chardon High School, fatally shooting three students and injuring three others. These three children were cruelly taken from this Earth all too soon. They were loved by their families, embraced by their communities, and had their whole lives ahead of them.

As the county prosecutor at the time, I saw firsthand the grief and devastation that no parent should ever have to experience. Nothing will ever come close to replacing the love and

happiness these children brought to their friends and family. Our community may never truly be whole again, but we must take every moment possible to honor these victims and pray for their families.

I would like to now take a moment of silence for Demetrius Hewlin, Russell King, Jr., and Daniel Parmertor. May God bless them and may God bless their families.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the bipartisan, Senate-passed Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

Early in my career, one of my first experiences was working with victims of domestic violence who were struggling and in desperate need of help. Having personally helped victims fill out VAWA petitions so they wouldn’t be forced to live under the same roof as their abusers, I’ve seen firsthand the long-term human devastation this kind of violence can cause, and we cannot continue to ignore its toll on women and families.

VAWA funds have trained over 500,000 law enforcement and judicial officers on the realities of domestic and sexual violence, helping to protect survivors across the country. VAWA saves money, and it saves lives.

Since VAWA was first enacted, over 600 State laws have been passed to combat domestic violence, and reported incidents of violence have decreased by 60 percent. Despite these successes, there’s much work to be done, and all victims of domestic violence, including those in the LGBT community and those without documentation, must feel safe seeking help from our criminal justice system.

□ 1220

CONGRESSIONAL VETERANS JOBS CAUCUS

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

Mr. DENHAM. When the courageous Americans who volunteer to fight our wars come home, they should not have to fight for jobs. Unemployment is one of the biggest problems currently facing America’s veterans. In addition to our gratitude and support, our veterans need jobs. With more than 250,000 servicemen and -women expected to return to civilian life each year over the next 5 years, veterans’ employment issues will only grow more challenging.

That’s why for more than a year the Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus has worked to bring the public and private sectors together—to end the vet-

erans’ unemployment crisis. I am proud to join more than 70 of my House and Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle in this important mission to raise awareness and to increase employment among our Nation’s veterans. Today and every day, we are asking our colleagues and private businesses, small and large, to make a personal and public commitment to hiring veterans by displaying this sign: “I hire veterans.” This logo should be displayed in our windows.

It is our greatest duty as leaders in Washington to uphold our commitment to our veterans, and we invite members of the public, especially business owners, to join us in this important mission.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. RUIZ. I would like to thank the Senate for working in a bipartisan manner to pass the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. However, the House Republican version of the bill fails to protect all women, including Native American women, immigrant women, and the LGBT community.

I rise today in strong opposition to the House Republican version of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. As an ER doctor, I have seen firsthand the beaten and bruised bodies of women victims and the invisible scars left on the victim, her family, and community. Native American women in my district and across the country endure an epidemic of domestic violence, and in most cases the abusers are not members of the tribes. Tribes must have the right to protect their daughters, sisters, and mothers from violence.

We must work to make sure that all women are protected from domestic violence. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in opposition to the House Republican version of this legislation, and I look forward to the passage of the bipartisan Senate version of this legislation.

SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Last Congress, I supported more than \$155 billion worth of real spending cuts. If Democrats are interested in finding a more targeted approach to avoiding the sequester, I’m more than happy to offer my suggestions. We only have to cut 2½ cents out of every dollar that we spend in 2013 to dodge the effects of the sequester. If we can’t shrink spending by 2 percent without causing a meltdown, what does that say about the size of Washington?

Frankly, I don't think this administration wants to cut spending at all. The President is only interested in raising taxes, but this year, he has already levied \$150 billion worth of new taxes on the American people. I wholeheartedly support making meaningful cuts, but there is a better way to go about doing it than with the sequester.

Congress needs to sit down and go through the budget line by line, and it needs to figure out what wasteful programs we can get rid of in the middle of this debt crisis. I hope that Democrats will work with Republicans to find a smarter way to cut spending while we also protect American jobs and our national security.

GEORGE ARATANI

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and philanthropist, George Aratani, who passed away last week.

Mr. Aratani was part of the Greatest Generation, and served his country as a member of the Military Intelligence Service, or MIS, during World War II. His service came at a time when tens of thousands of his fellow Japanese Americans were interned in camps scattered in the Western United States. He chose to serve and defend America with no guarantee that his own freedom would be defended in return.

I was proud to work to ensure that MIS members like George Aratani and all of the Go for Broke veterans received the credit and thanks they were due through the Congressional Gold Medal.

When he returned home, Mr. Aratani started and ran several businesses, and dedicated himself to Japanese American educational and cultural causes, including the Go for Broke veterans' memorial and foundation. George Aratani had a profound impact on our country and on his community, and he will be terribly missed.

TOUR DE BLAME

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sequester was a bad idea. I voted "no." It actually came from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, however. The House has voted twice to replace the President's sequester with other spending cuts. However, the "siesta" Senate ignored the House bills and did what it does best—nothing.

Now, in the 11th hour, the President has disowned his sequester and instead has launched the taxpayer-funded tour de blame. He has also dispatched his Cabinet on a tour de fear. The White House "sky is falling" crowd says flights will be delayed and undocumented immigrants in custody will be freed. That is a Madison Avenue-style

campaign to instill fear into Americans.

The President holds the power to determine what bills will be paid, not Congress—but he does not have the will to prioritize spending or manage the people's money. He only knows one way to lead: tax more, spend more, and continue the tour de blame.

And that's just the way it is.

BORDER AND SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the effect of sequestration on our borders will be felt especially hard in my western New York community, home to four crossings on the northern border.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, if sequestration occurs, Customs and Border Protection will be forced to eliminate 2,700 officers and 5,000 Border Patrol agents. In addition to the job losses, this could mean delays of as long as 4 hours at our border crossings.

\$1.5 billion in goods and 300,000 individuals cross the U.S.-Canada border each and every day. Western New York businesses and institutions depend on predictable access to and from southern Ontario. Increased wait times will discourage Canadian consumers from visiting western New York, and that is business we can't afford to lose.

I call on the House to take immediate action to repeal the sequester and to prevent this unnecessary injury to our economy.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTER

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

Ms. FOXX. The President is hitting the road this week for yet another tax increase on hardworking Americans. He already raised taxes just 8 weeks ago. Why the sudden urge to do it again?

The President says this is the plan to replace his sequester that's scheduled to hit on March 1, but the President and the rest of the Democrats who run Washington apparently haven't figured out that we cannot tax our way out of this mess. Tax revenues are set to double over the next decade, and top tax rates have hit their highest levels since 1986. We are already taxing wages and salaries at rates as high as 44 percent.

We need to replace the President's sequester with commonsense spending cuts and reforms, not more taxes. The House has acted twice to achieve this, and now the President needs to put forward a serious plan.

GEORGE ARATANI

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of George Tetsuo Aratani, a philanthropist and business executive who was a champion for Japanese Americans.

Mr. Aratani was born and raised in California and, along with 122,000 other Japanese Americans, was forced into internment camps during World War II. Never letting a poor situation get the best of him, Mr. Aratani used his bilingual skills to serve his country in the Army Military Intelligence Service. Following the war, he started two successful businesses—Mikasa tableware and Kenwood electronics—and enjoyed a wonderful life with his family.

Though he achieved great commercial success, he will always be remembered for his upstanding citizenship in his community. Mr. Aratani and his wife, Sakaye, established the first endowed chair in the country to study the injustice of the Japanese American internment and the efforts to rectify it. In addition, the Aratanis gave millions in support of the Japanese American National Museum, UCLA's Departments of Asian American and East Asian Studies, the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Keiro Senior HealthCare, and countless Asian American candidates.

I look to Mr. Aratani as an inspiration for all as he truly lived the American Dream.

MICHAEL ANTHONY SOLIS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the memory of Mr. Michael Anthony Solis, who was an educator. He taught at Anaheim High School in my district. He was a champion for lower income students.

He grew up in Riverside, California, and his family grew up in pretty poor circumstances, but education was always important to them. He enrolled in Riverside Community College where teachers encouraged him to be an educator. As a student teacher, Michael became involved with the AVID program, a program that helps to close that achievement gap from lower income students to the normal. Mr. Solis went on to teach AVID in various southern California schools. He was also the director of AVID for our county education program. He most recently served as our assistant principal at Anaheim High School.

He was impassioned about education. He knew that this would make a difference in so many people's lives. Even though he lost a 40-month battle with cancer, he will be remembered by all who knew him, and his legacy will move forward in all of those students whose lives he has impacted.