

## JOBS FOR HEROES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a piece of legislation I will be introducing that will help put our brave veterans back to work in good-paying jobs in the communities across our country. It is called the Jobs for Heroes Act—good for vets and good for the economy.

It would extend and expand two tax credits for businesses that prioritize hiring veterans. Without congressional action, both of these tax credits are set to expire at the end of the month. The time to act is now.

□ 1100

Last month, I traveled to all corners of my district to meet with local veterans to listen to their priorities and to their concerns. I also hosted an economic summit attended by roughly 200 people whom I am here to serve.

This was all about jobs and all about the economy, and this is also about our veterans. Making sure veterans have access to good-paying jobs came up everywhere I went from Pekin to Peoria, Rock Island to Rockford. Literally, everywhere I went.

Legislation to help prioritize the hiring of veterans is especially crucial due to the high unemployment rate of young veterans. Veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 have an unemployment rate of more than 20 percent. That is 5 percent higher than non-veterans of the same age. That is absolutely shameful.

I hope all Members of Congress will join me in supporting my commonsense bill to help put veterans back to work and to making sure that those who have served always remain a priority—good for veterans, good for the economy, and good for America.

## CONGRATULATING SERGEANT MANELLA FOR WINNING ARMY'S BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sergeant First Class Jason Manella, who recently won the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Award last week during the Army's best warrior competition. Jason is from my district in Fremont, California, and recently moved within my district to Hayward, California.

The Army's best warrior competition is a 3-day event that tests the soldier's physical and mental toughness. Sergeant Manella is the first ever reservist to win this prestigious Army-wide title.

Sergeant Manella is a member of the Reserve's 445th Civil Affairs Battalion based in Mountain View. While serving in Afghanistan in 2012, Sergeant

Manella had his convoy attacked. While it was attacked, it left him with a traumatic brain injury.

Sergeant Manella's story is one of hope and the power of resilience. As part of Sergeant Manella's recovery, he focused on training for the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

Back in August of this year, I had the opportunity to visit Afghanistan. I was able to meet with soldiers, men and women, serving from California's 15th Congressional District. Over in Afghanistan, I saw firsthand what our men and women in the armed services endure each day to make sure that we rid Afghanistan as a breeding ground for terrorism and make sure that never again the United States is attacked from enemies created abroad.

I am very thankful for the service of people like Sergeant Manella and those I met with while I was in Afghanistan. I know that Operation Enduring Freedom has led to thousands of Americans being wounded who served over in Afghanistan and are healing today back home on their own path to recovery.

Sergeant Manella's story is truly one that is uplifting for every soldier, man and woman, who is recovering.

Congratulations again to Sergeant Manella. Your strength, your determination, and your character is an inspiration to thousands of other wounded men and women of our armed services.

## PRESERVE THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the House Judiciary Committee yesterday raised the overarching question of our generation: Will the American Constitution stand?

All the laws passed under that Constitution have elaborate enforcement mechanisms backed by armed force, but the Constitution itself has no such enforcement mechanism. It was designed to be internally self-enforcing, with the powers of government clearly divided among three separate and equal branches of government.

But this self-enforcement mechanism can only work when the powers are evenly divided, when those who exercise those powers are devoted to the Constitution, and when the American people insist on it. That is the great question for our generation and for which we are deeply answerable. Are we allowing the Constitution to disintegrate before our eyes?

The Constitution makes very clear that only Congress may make laws and that the principal responsibility of the executive is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. Yet the executive branch has increasingly asserted sweeping powers to unilaterally nullify laws that it dislikes, to pick and choose who must obey the law and who need not, and even to impose entirely

new laws that Congress has explicitly refused to enact.

James Madison, the father of the Constitution, said that its single most important feature was giving the legislative and not the executive branch the decision of war or peace. Yet the executive now asserts the authority to attack other nations without congressional authorization.

The Bill of Rights protects every American from retribution for expressing their political beliefs; it protects a free press from intimidation; it protects the free and open expression religious beliefs; it protects the means of individuals to protect themselves and their freedom; it protects every individual from having their records searched or their property seized without due process of law. Yet, these fundamental rights have been made a mockery of by the agents of this administration from the IRS to the Justice Department to the NSA.

The rot began long before this administration, but under this administration it has become a crisis. All this is happening, we are told, for the common good. Ours wouldn't be the first civilization to succumb to the siren song of a benevolent and all-powerful government, but every society that has fallen for this lie has awakened one morning to discover that the benevolence is gone and that the all-powerful government is still there.

Much of the structure of the American Constitution that has preserved our liberty for 225 years, that has contained the unwarranted expansion of governmental power, and that has preserved the natural and individual rights of every citizen has been allowed to decay.

The form is still there—the institutions continue to function—but they no longer serve their principle role to protect the rule of law and the liberty of the people.

Here in this Capitol, we are surrounded by the symbols of the Roman Republic. They should be a warning to us. The Roman Senate continued to exist 400 years after the fall of the Republic, but its nature and purpose had become empty.

Chairman GOODLATTE quoted Gibbon yesterday, who observed that “the principles of a free Constitution are irrevocably lost when the legislative power is dominated by the executive.” That is precisely what is happening.

The institutions of our American Republic continue to operate, but the structures within it are rapidly degrading. In this condition, our Constitution is becoming like a rotting porch: we can still discern its form and purpose, but the structure that gave it strength and support is hollowing out through years of abuse and neglect until one day it will simply collapse.

The Judiciary Committee hearing yesterday was the first step by Congress to assess the harm already done and to begin reversing that damage before it is too late. But I must warn that

in its current divided condition Congress cannot do so alone. Ultimately, it will require the active assistance of the rightful owners of the Constitution, the American people.

How ironic it would be if the liberties of this Nation, heroically defended by the sacrifices of nine generations of Americans on far-off battlefields, might someday be carelessly thrown away here at home.

Let that not be said of our generation. Let it be said instead that just when our Constitution seemed most in peril, this generation rose up, insisted on absolute fidelity to the Constitution by those it elected, and then went on to revive, restore, and preserve that Constitution for the many generations of Americans who followed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Once again we come to You to ask wisdom, patience, peace, and understanding for the Members of this people's House.

Give them the generosity of heart and the courage of true leadership to work toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

As true statesmen and -women, may they find the fortitude to make judgments to benefit all Americans in their time of need.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### MARY COTHRAN: AN ADVOCATE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President has broken multiple promises to the American people. Constituents living in South Carolina's Second Congressional District have lost their coverage and access to doctors because of the President's health care takeover, which destroys jobs. And now citizens are seeing massive premium increases.

James from Lexington says:

My son got a letter from his employer informing him that his health insurance would increase \$179 per month, 52 percent more than he is presently paying. He is a plumber and his wife works as a home health aide. Now their dream of home ownership is highly unlikely.

Mary Cothran of Williston was tireless promoting limited government and advocating alternatives to ObamaCare. Congress should work together to replace it with reforms such as those introduced by Congressman Dr. TOM PRICE which have been ignored by the media, which is failing to fulfill its First Amendment opportunities.

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

#### WE NEED A PRO-BUSINESS POLICY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last month the President and CEO of FedEx Freight spoke at a conference for the National Industrial Transportation League. He warned that our Nation's roads, highways, and bridges weren't equipped to handle current or future needs.

The American Society of Civil Engineers reports that there are 69,000 structurally deficient bridges in this country—meaning that every second of every day, seven cars are driving over a bridge that is structurally deficient—and that \$3.6 trillion will be needed by 2020 to address our aging infrastructure. Despite this, the most recent transportation bill passed by Congress spends a pathetically weak \$52 billion a year on infrastructure.

Companies like FedEx understand the long-term benefits of efficient transportation of people and goods. The United States Chamber of Commerce estimates that we will experi-

ence \$336 billion in lost growth over the next 5 years due to inadequate infrastructure.

I urge my colleagues to understand that a robust infrastructure investment not only creates jobs but promotes pro-business policies that sustain and produce economic growth.

#### WHEN WILL THE DEMOCRATS START LISTENING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the American people work hard, and they have got a right to expect their elected Representatives to do the same. House Republicans are listening. To date, the House has passed nearly 150 bills this Congress that the United States Senate has failed to act on. Many of them would help our economy and boost job creation.

Nearly 150 bills passed by this House have yet to be acted on by the Senate. These bills would do things like increase the supply of American energy and build the Keystone pipeline, roll back red tape and unnecessary regulations, provide for flexibility to working families, reform and improve job training programs, protect Americans from cyberattacks, help schools to recruit and keep the best teachers, delay the individual mandate and allow the American people to keep the health care plans that they would like, or to scrap the health care law that is wreaking havoc on our economy. Every single one of these bills has been blocked by Washington Democrats. The Senate and the President continue to stand in the way of the people's priorities.

Now we are trying to come to an agreement on the budget and on the farm bill, amongst other issues that are in conference. Chairman RYAN and Chairman LUCAS have made serious good faith efforts to Senate Democrats. When will they learn to say 'yes' to common ground? When will they start listening to the American people?

#### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOURO SYNAGOGUE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, the oldest synagogue in America. Dedicated in 1763, the Touro Synagogue has been a monument to the history of religious tolerance in Rhode Island and the legacy of religious freedom in America.

Before construction even began, the design of the building was conceived as a balance between European architecture and traditional Jewish worship. This synagogue became a symbol of the freedom to worship in peace widely