

"The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Amendment XXVII:

"No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened."

Mr. GOODLATTE. That concludes the reading of the United States Constitution.

I want to thank the gentlemen who arrived and were available, but we ran out of Constitution before we ran out of readers.

I want to thank the Speaker and all the Members who participated in this important reading.

I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at noon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH CAREY McVICKERS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Carey McVickers for achieving his 500th victory.

Coach McVickers is the head coach for the Taylorville High School boys basketball team and, on December 26, led my Tornadoes to defeat Rantoul, 76-35, to secure his 500th win. He has been coaching for 31 years, leading teams from all across central Illinois, in areas like Palmyra, Divernon, Williamsville, Nokomis, Pana, and my hometown of Taylorville.

In his career, his teams have combined to win 12 conference championships, 9 regional championships, and 19 tournament championships. And to our knowledge, he is the only coach to have brought home a trophy from the State tournament for boys and girls teams.

He has been named the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year four times and was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

Carey McVickers is more than just a head coach; he is a dedicated husband,

father, and grandfather, and is a rock within the Taylorville community.

Congratulations, Coach.

Go Tornadoes.

REGULAR ORDER

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come here to the floor today to speak on behalf of the regular order. I hope that this Congress can be one in which it's not First World War trench warfare, where we retreat into our bunkers and lob grenades at each other, but where we can come together and deal with the problems that face this Nation.

The first opportunity will be raising the debt limit. The President doesn't create the debt limit; we do. We authorize the President to spend that money. We put him out there and say, Spend it; and we must give him the ability to pay the bills that we have incurred by our actions. So it shouldn't be a trench warfare issue.

There are some bigger issues, those issues of the debt and how we deal with the major crises before us in health care costs. Those issues can be debated in the regular order. Committees can come up with bills about how we should reduce the costs, whether it be in defense or it be in health care. But that should be developed and worked out in a regular order in the House. That's my sincere hope for this Congress.

RESTORING TAX-FREE COMMUTER BENEFITS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, my district includes the north and west suburbs of Chicago. Our area has the second highest percentage of commuters in the country.

Many of my constituents currently receive employer-sponsored transit benefits for commuting costs like parking and train tickets. Last year this benefit was cut in half for public transit commuters, and I fought hard throughout 2012 for that benefit to be restored.

I am thankful that it is now law that employers may provide up to \$245 a month for their employees as a transit or van pool benefit tax-free. This is good for both employees and employers. Now neither of them will be taxed on that money, and employees will be encouraged to use the public transportation options. I'm glad that Congress has restored this important benefit.

AMANDA'S LAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago this Thursday, western New York teenager Amanda Hansen tragically passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of a defective boiler at a friend's home where she was spending the night.

In response to this tragedy, the New York State Legislature designated January as Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month and passed Amanda's Law. Amanda's Law requires carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in all new single and multifamily homes and any rentals with a fuel-burning appliance system or attached garage.

Mr. Speaker, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in this country. There's a simple way to lower that number: installation of carbon monoxide detectors in homes and residences.

I commend the work of the Amanda Hansen Foundation and join them in encouraging all Americans to prevent carbon monoxide-related tragedies by installing detectors in their homes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAN CURTIS

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, today I'm here to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine who has been valiantly battling cancer for the past year, Dan Curtis. Dan is a long-time resident of Dayton and a pillar of the community, and he has committed his talents to improving the lives of countless Ohioans.

A dedicated volunteer and philanthropist, Dan has given generously of his time, expertise, and financial resources to make a difference in the lives of individuals and the quality of life in his community.

He joined the Dayton Development Coalition soon after its inception and dedicated his efforts to stimulating the region's economy, while embracing the Air Force as a member of the community, and improving the lives of airmen.

Dan helped shepherd our community through good times and bad by selflessly giving of himself and his resources. He has always enjoyed working with people and assisting them in reaching their goals, and in no place is that more evident than in his home. Dan is a devoted husband and father who enjoys the loving support of his wife, Amy, and children, Kevin, Chelsea, and Matthew.

His relationships are characterized by selfless devotion, a caring nature, and altruism. These traits carried over into his professional life, where Dan demonstrated an incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and his love of the country. His many achievements and qualities are a testament to Dan.

As a community, Dayton, Ohio, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base are forever indebted to him.

COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the day our Nation honors one of our greatest civil rights heroes. This is also a special year, as Martin Luther King Day coincides with the inauguration of our first African American President, Barack Obama.

While just one man, Dr. King made an extraordinary difference in all of our lives. And while he, himself, was silenced, his dream lives on and serves as an inspiration that every person can indeed make a difference.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Dr. King reminds me often of the Flint sit-down strikers of the 1930s in my hometown who also stood up to the injustices that they saw. Their efforts helped create the labor movement and made our country a better place, as did Dr. King.

Mr. Speaker, no matter our political differences, we can all unite on Monday to fulfill Dr. King's dream. This Martin Luther King Day, let's honor the man who continues to inspire us all.

COMMENDING MISS MONTANA ALEXIS WINEMAN

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexis Wineman. This 18-year-old from Cut Bank, Montana, represents my State as Miss Montana, and she recently made history, not only as the youngest participant in this year's Miss America competition and the recipient of the People's Choice Award, but as the first young woman in the competition's history to have been diagnosed with autism.

Alexis stands as an example for all Montanans of what it means to overcome obstacles and to help those in need. She's worked to spread awareness of autism so that we can all gain a better understanding of those affected by it.

Alexis recently said, and I quote:

We cannot cure what is not a sickness, but we can begin to understand autism and help those with the condition to unlock the potential that lies within all of us.

I'm grateful for the work that she's done to increase the understanding of autism, and I'm very proud that she calls Montana home.

□ 1210

NO LABELS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, all of us know that the 112th Congress was one of the least productive legislative sessions in our history.

Even as our country faced significant challenges, partisan posturing and po-

litical brinksmanship dominated the debate in Washington and created an unprecedented level of gridlock that kept real work from getting done.

As we begin the work of the 113th Congress, it is critical that both Democrats and Republicans commit to working with their colleagues across the aisle and putting the long-term interests of our country ahead of their own short-term political goals.

That's why I have decided to join a group of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans in an organization called No Labels as a problem-solver which will meet regularly to build trust and cooperation between members of both parties and get Washington back to a place where Democrats and Republicans working together is the rule rather than the exception.

We need leaders in Congress who are serious about finding solutions to the challenges we face both at home and abroad.

I am convinced that there is no challenge so great that we cannot solve by working together, and No Labels is offering a venue for Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to do exactly that. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

TIME TO TACKLE WASHINGTON'S SPENDING ADDICTION

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the first time in this Chamber to urge the President and Congress to get serious about addressing the out-of-control borrowing and spending that is jeopardizing the American Dream for our children and grandchildren.

The President has said that the debt ceiling debate is not the time to tackle Washington's spending addiction and has called for more taxes, more spending and more borrowing in return for any future spending reforms. Yesterday he said, "We can't finish the job of deficit reduction through spending cuts alone." But the last Congress already raised taxes. Now it's time to tackle Washington's binge spending.

The fundamental question to be answered in the upcoming debate is whether Washington should take more than it already confiscates from hard-working, taxpaying Americans. The answer is no. Washington doesn't tax too little. It spends too much.

Mr. Speaker, the new freshman Republican Members of the House are holding a Special Order after today's legislative business to highlight the urgency of the upcoming debt ceiling debate. I hope as many of my colleagues who can will join this effort and explain to the American people why we owe it to our children to stop spending and borrowing and start controlling our debt.

NEED FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE 113TH

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, with a new year comes a new Congress, new and returning Members, and new opportunities to work together to do the work the American people sent us here to do. Americans have been very clear about what the priorities of Congress should be. At the forefront of these priorities is to get people back to work and to revitalize our economy.

There is no doubt there has been some progress. Thirty-four consecutive months of private sector job growth is evidence of that. However, with 12 million people still unemployed, more must be done.

If Congress is serious about addressing the deficit, then we must have a plan—such as the Make It in America agenda—to create jobs. Job creation leads to deficit reduction and is necessary for a full economic recovery.

I am confident that with a new year will come a renewed focus to do the work of the American people. It is really time to put aside the dysfunction of the 112th Congress and to come together to address the problems facing our Nation.

HONORING CHIEF JACK JONES AND CHIEF JOSEPH GURA

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two chiefs of police from my district, both of whom are retiring after many years of dedicated service to the district: Chief Jack Jones from Morrisville Borough and Chief Joseph Gura from Perkaskie Borough.

Chief Jones has served in law enforcement for the past 45 years. After three decades of service, he worked his way up to become chief in Morrisville in 2003. Jack knew the Morrisville community inside and out and has been loved by those who live there. Upon his retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Chief Gura has spent 33 years in the Perkaskie Borough police force. During his three decades, the borough's force has grown from eight officers to 18. Chief Gura has dealt with everything from bears to undercover narcotics investigations and even spent a brief time working for the Olympics. For years, Joseph has not only portrayed a top of the line work ethic but has also displayed great pride, integrity, and courage.

Both of these public servants have devoted their lives to making the community a safer place to live, work and raise a family. I am honored to speak on their behalf today, and I am proud to represent them in the United States