

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

Congress. I wish both Jack and Joseph many years of continued success and a happy retirement. Perkasio and Morrisville Boroughs will miss both their chiefs.

REAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, it's a new year, it's a new beginning, it's a new Congress.

This 113th Congress will let us seize the opportunity to start with a clean slate. We must put aside partisan politics and labels to come together for the good of the American people.

Our seniors, our children, our families are looking toward Congress to take meaningful action on critical issues that were left unresolved in 2012, such as the fiscal cliff and the debt ceiling. Our Nation is looking for a path forward.

I didn't come to Congress to simply talk the talk. I came here to walk the walk for my constituents, for California, and for this great Nation. Today is a new day that calls for new ideas, collaboration, and real solutions for the American people.

Yesterday, I also had the pleasure of joining nine of my congressional colleagues across the aisle at a bipartisan No Labels "Meeting to Make America Work."

We addressed the partisan gridlock in Congress that has slowed progress for the American people. It's high time we find compromises that will lead to real solutions to the real problems facing our Nation.

Today I call on all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in this effort. Let's make America work.

MARKING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, January marks National Mentoring Month, during which we will celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, giving all Americans the opportunity to answer Dr. King's important question, "What are you doing for others?"

Today I would like to recognize an exceptional Minnesota organization that has become known as a national model for excellence in mentoring and service. The mentoring partnership works with hundreds of Minnesota organizations to pair up mentors with mentees and help strengthen relationships and build stronger communities.

Every child deserves a mentor. As Fortune magazine recently pointed out, the number one indicator of success for a child is a good relationship with a caring adult. They provide care and support, advice, and words of en-

couragement. Dr. King often spoke of his mentors, and likewise became one himself to many Americans.

Let's use this day of celebration on Martin Luther King Day and National Mentoring Month as an opportunity to become a mentor or simply thank those that may have served as a mentor to yourself.

READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the House just finished the reading of the Constitution. And that's fine. It's a majestic document, greatest of its kind, and it's never bad to read it.

It's one thing to read it and it's another thing to really understand it. And to understand it you've got to understand the court decisions and how the courts have interpreted the Constitution.

The courts have recognized the Constitution as a living evolving document and that it's not perfect. Congress had to pass an amendment to formally abolish slavery. It took the Supreme Court in the Topeka Board of Education v. Brown case to abolish Jim Crow, the stepchild of slavery and a great stain on this country's history.

Thanks to *Roe v. Wade* women have a fundamental right to make medical decisions about their own bodies, a right that continues to be threatened by this Congress. And while the Constitution grants great freedoms, the courts recognize that they come with reasonable limitations.

The First Amendment gives us freedom of speech but doesn't allow us to yell fire in a theater or to libel someone.

And the Second Amendment, while it gives you the right to bear arms, has limitations as well. You can't carry a gun on an airplane or in a courtroom, and we need to remember that.

So just reading the Constitution is one thing, but understanding is another. I hope we will understand it and live it and see that we have a more perfect union.

□ 1220

PACIFIC MARINE ENERGY CENTER

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to share with my colleagues yesterday's very exciting announcement of the first utility-scale, grid-connected wave energy test site in the United States, which I'm proud to say is going to occur in my district in Newport, Oregon.

The Northwest National Marine Energy Center, based at Oregon State University, will be constructing the Pacific Marine Energy Center to test energy generation potential and envi-

ronmental impacts of these wave energy devices.

NNMREC, established in 2008, is a partnership between Oregon State University and the University of Washington and is one of only three U.S. Department of Energy-supported marine renewable energy centers. In addition to the Department of Energy, this work is supported by my State of Oregon, the Wave Energy Trust, and other private and public agencies.

NNMREC's selection of Newport as the site will not only benefit the community of Newport but, frankly, the entire Oregon coast and will set a course for Oregon and the Nation to be one step closer to energy independence.

I am also very proud of Oregon State University and their continued leadership in this area. I would be very remiss if I didn't give a shout out to the incredible work done by Belinda Batten, director of NNMREC, and Annette von Jouanne, professor at Oregon State University, and all the faculty and students in the Wave Energy Department at OSU. Their tireless efforts are the reason we're able to celebrate this achievement today.

REAUTHORIZE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the 113th Congress will not only need to work to further strengthen our country's economic well-being; we will also need to find solutions to make sure that all Americans are treated fairly and equally. That's why it is critical that Congress pass the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization.

Since its inception, this act has always been bipartisan. Last April, the Senate passed a strong bipartisan reauthorization bill. Unfortunately, the measure failed in the House, but it must pass in the 113th Congress. The safety and security of American women should never be politicized and never has been so in the past.

It is my hope that we can put the politics of the last election aside and get down to the business of legislating sensible policy for the American people. We must reaffirm our commitment that women in the United States are offered all necessary legal protections.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COAL INDUSTRY

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the southern Illinois coal industry, which had a record year last year—the best in decades.

Southern Illinois is blessed with abundant natural resources like coal that provide good jobs and support our