

It would dramatically slash the social safety net by privatizing Medicare, turning Medicaid into a block grant program, and cutting SNAP benefits.

With cuts like these, Mr. Speaker, everyone gets left behind and our economy only gets weaker.

Instead, our budget should present a blueprint toward prosperity.

Our government should be investing in programs that strengthen our economy, grow our middle class, lift people out of poverty, and help more Americans achieve the American Dream. This budget fails on all these fronts and should be rejected.

AZERBAIJAN TRAGEDY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the tragic events that began on February 25, 1992 in the Azerbaijan town of Khojaly in the Nagorno Karabakh region.

On that fateful day Armenian forces began a brutal attack on the 7,000 Azerbaijani citizens of Khojaly. During the attack 613 Azeris were killed, 1,275 were taken hostage, and 487 were seriously injured. Of the dead 106 were women and 83 were children. Many of those killed were first brutally tortured.

In blatant disregard of four UN Resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia continues to occupy Khojaly and surrounding territories. The occupied area constitutes twenty percent of Azerbaijan.

The Minsk Group, comprised of the United States, France and Russia, works with Armenia and Azerbaijan to reach a peaceful settlement to no avail. Nothing can change the tragedy that occurred at Khojaly but with a peaceful settlement and the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories, what remains of the 900,000 Azeris displaced from the entire conflict can return to the land they call home and rebuild their lives.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the victims of this tragedy and do all we can to further the Minsk Group's efforts so there is a peaceful resolution and the people of Nagorno Karabakh can return home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGIZE EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the Energize Emerging Opportunities Act. My legislation simply requires the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to harmonize their rules for general solicitation and marketing with rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, passed by the House and Senate and signed into law in 2012, directed the SEC to provide

an exemption for general solicitation and marketing for companies. My legislation simply corrects an oversight and harmonizes the rules of the CFTC with the SEC.

This alignment will allow companies to provide information to the public and enhance opportunities to grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is in a fragile state, any hurdle, fee, or foreign advantage, will cost the U.S. economy valuable jobs. It is time we act to remove barriers that hinder growth and unleash the economic engine in this country.

My legislation will clarify and harmonize the CFTC and SEC rules so emerging companies will have a clear understanding of the rules and the ability to fully participate in growing the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Energize Emerging Opportunities Act, in order to ensure clarity in the rules.

HONORING RAYFORD GUZARDO

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of Mr. Rayford Guzardo of Nederland, Texas. Mr. Guzardo is a remarkable and respected member of our community on the Texas Gulf Coast. His life and career exemplify a selfless and tireless commitment to his family, community, and to our great nation. This weekend, Mr. Guzardo will gather with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to celebrate a life of what is rightly called a member of our greatest generation.

Rayford Guzardo was born on April 6, 1924 in Nederland, Texas. He enlisted in the United States Air Force after the start of World War II, after he served in Italy. He flew heroically as a tail gunner on a B-24 "Liberator", and bravely weathered a year's captivity as a prisoner of war when his plane crashed during a mission over Hungary. Upon returning home from his military service, he married his lovely wife, Virginia, in 1949. Together, they built a family and a business in Nederland. Never opposed to honest, hard work, Rayford labored long hours as the owner of the family business; a local feed store that supplies the Jefferson County community with everything from livestock feed and garden necessities, to knowledge and know-how which he offered with traditional southern hospitality. Rayford has dedicated his life to family, community and to the Lord, our God. He has spent the past 90 years setting an example of courage, honor, loyalty and kindness to which we can all aspire.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Rayford Guzardo on this milestone. I thank him for his outstanding service to our nation. I am proud to join his friends and family in celebrating his 90th year, and I wish him continued health and happiness.

HONORING MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JOEL D. ROGERS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Gunnery Sergeant Joel D. Rogers, who will retire this year from the United States' Marine Corps after 28 years of outstanding service to our country.

Upon completing recruit training, Private First Class Rogers attended Marine Corps Engineer School specializing in the Journeyman Electrical Equipment Repair Course. He completed training before being assigned to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve at Engineer Maintenance Company in Omaha, NE.

In January 2003, Master Sergeant Rogers deployed to Iraq serving as the Maintenance Chief of Combat Service Support Company-146 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following his tour overseas, Master Sergeant Rogers was assigned to the Pentagon serving a vital role as a Congressional Liaison to the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

After serving at the Pentagon, Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers returned to Omaha and Offutt Air Force Base as a Protocol Action Officer before later serving as a Legislative Liaison for U.S. Strategic Command. As a member of the legislative staff, Sergeant Rogers served a crucial role interacting directly with members of Congress.

As a civilian, Rogers finished 24 years with the State of Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services before retiring in 2012 as an Administrator. He is an alumnus of Bellevue University where he holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services Administration and a Master's in Organizational Leadership.

In November 2012, Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers assumed his current role as Action Officer of Command Protocol. In this role, he coordinates and assists in visits for the command's various distinguished visitors including members of Congress, military and civilian leaders, as well as foreign government officials.

Rogers and his wife Felicia, who serves as my District Director, have seven children and live in Papillion, NE. Three of their sons have followed their dad's lead in serving our country by also enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. Rogers and his family are outstanding members of our community and this past November received the Community Service Award from Heartland Family Service, an award given to those exemplifying strong family life and community service in the Omaha area.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers is the recipient of various personal decorations including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Master Gunnery Sergeant Rogers for his outstanding service to our country and in particular, Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM KADUCE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Adam Kaduce for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Adam Kaduce is a Greater Des Moines native through and through. Raised in Urbandale, Adam began making his mark on the area at just 13-years-old by starting a lawn care business with his brother, Michael. Mr. Kaduce's business sense, work ethic, and intuition have only grown from his humble beginnings as he has become a proud Drake Law School graduate working in his current role as a Commercial Real Estate Manager with R&R Realty Group. Outside of his professional career, Adam is an adjunct professor at Drake University and serves as a member of the Urbandale Economic Development Advisory Board, the Capitol City Connection, and the Urbandale Education Foundation. In all aspects of his life, Mr. Kaduce is an example of service, hard work, and Iowa values that our state can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Adam in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Kaduce for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Adam on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

SAVE AMERICAN WORKERS ACT
OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2575, the Save American Workers Act. This bipartisan legislation is urgently needed to address yet another poorly-conceived provision of Obamacare that will harm American workers and further slow economic growth.

Under Obamacare, "full-time" work is defined as a 30-hour work week—a quarter less than the traditional 40 hour work week. Because the law imposes certain penalties on businesses based upon their number of full-time employees, many businesses are forced to move a number of their employees from full-time to part-time work. This is a dangerous and fundamental change that will result in less hours and lower paychecks, affecting millions of Americans who plan their budget around the traditional 40-hour work week.

We cannot continue down a path that disincentivizes full-time employment, yet this is exactly where we are headed. While part-time work is a great option for many, it should not be the norm for those who have the desire and ability to work full-time. There is a serious problem when the government creates a complicated regulatory maze that increases inefficiency and incentivizes businesses to reduce their full-time workforce. As a Chicago Tribune editorial stated, "[p]art-time work does become a problem when Washington tilts the balance of incentives against full-time work. Not only will Obamacare raise costs for the government, it stands to make one of the most competitive features of the U.S. economy—a flexible labor market—less efficient. One more reason to rewrite, or halt, Obamacare."

Obamacare was sold to the American people with affordability as its centerpiece. We were promised time and time again that "if you like your plan, you can keep it," and "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor." Instead, reports of sticker-shock and mass cancellations of plans have been the norm. Many are finding that their preferred doctor is now out-of-network and thus out of their coverage. A recent survey conducted by the Associated Press found that many of our nation's world-class cancer hospitals are off-limits to those with certain insurance carriers.

Now, in addition, workers are seeing their hours cut and their paychecks lowered. A recent study by the Hoover Institution found that 2.6 million workers are vulnerable to work hour reductions under 30-hour work week definition—with women and low-income Americans especially vulnerable. Last August, a township in my district cut the hours of 25 employees due to the new definition. My colleagues and I continue to hear from our constituents from both sides—those who cannot afford to keep full-time workers, and those who have had their hours reduced.

Last July, the leaders of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), and UNITE HERE sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi warning that Obamacare could "destroy the foundation of the 40 hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class." The letter states that "[t]he unintended consequences of the ACA are severe. Perverse incentives are already creating nightmare scenarios." Further, "[n]umerous employers have begun to cut workers' hours to avoid this obligation, and many of them are doing so openly." They stressed the same point we have stressed here today: "[t]he impact is two-fold: fewer

hours means less pay while also losing our current health benefits."

This commonsense legislation we are voting on today will simply restore the definition of full-time employment to its traditional 40 hour work week. I have long believed that the federal government must play an appropriate role in providing a health care safety net for those in need of support. That goal can be achieved without the burdensome rules, regulations, and definitions imposed by Obamacare such as the one addressed today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT WALTER H. RICHARDSON, USAF, RETIRED

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Chief Master Sergeant Walter H. Richardson, USAF, Retired, who passed away on March 29, 2014. Walt, who built his life "on three pillars of faith, hope, and love," was dedicated to his country, his community, his family, and above all, the Lord. I am privileged to honor a truly remarkable man and American hero.

Born and raised in Pensacola, Florida, Walt joined the Armed Forces to serve his country and help provide for his family. His career in the Armed Forces spanned thirty years and included service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Walt was an original member of the revered Tuskegee Airmen, training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in a variety of disciplines that would serve him well throughout his entire career. A few years ago, I had the honor of presenting Walt the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a Tuskegee Airman.

During his time in the military, Walt was one of over 1,000 enlisted men selected to integrate the Armed Forces. Walt's unwavering commitment to service and immense leadership skills were recognized when, while stationed at Dover Air Force Base, he became the first African-American to be promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the field maintenance squadron. He retired at the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant, as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commanding General of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Beyond his military service, Walt was an accomplished writer, whose personal memoir is titled *How Great Thou Art: A Black Boy's Depression-Era Success Story*, in addition to a dedicated member of the Northwest Florida community, who served as a deacon of St. Mary Parish in Fort Walton Beach for three decades. Walt was known throughout the Gulf Coast as a kind and warm-hearted man who was always willing to help his fellow citizens. To his family, he was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.