

New Hampshire, providing thousands of steady jobs and millions of dollars in economic opportunity for the Granite State annually.

Unfortunately, increasing and constantly evolving government mandates are threatening to put an end to this very historic industry.

At a time when our Nation's job creators are already struggling to add jobs, increase revenue, and compete with cheaper international companies, the last thing that we should require of them is to spend their already limited time and resources on adhering to pages and pages of costly Federal regulations.

It is my charge to fight for regulatory relief and to strengthen New Hampshire's commercial fishing industry, which for so long has been an essential part of the New England tradition.

This remains one of my top priorities, and I will continue to work tirelessly in a bipartisan fashion with the New England region to preserve this industry, which is so essential to our Granite State.

□ 1215

SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Republicans released their budget, which is a roadmap of their priorities and their values. Just as has been the case for the past few years, it comes as no surprise that this budget will squeeze hard-working American families and make them, again, work harder and get less.

One of our priorities must be to end the across-the-board sequestration cuts that have strangled our investments in national priorities like education, research, and innovation. Unfortunately, this GOP budget goes further and jeopardizes national security by keeping sequester cuts on our military and our defense needs.

Sadly, the past few months of Congress have been nothing more than continued giveaways to special interests and the wealthy and pandering to the most extreme voices, the Tea Party voices in Congress.

Today, the Democrats released our budget. This is a budget that works for hard-working Americans. It protects national security. It gives Michiganders and families all across America the tools they need to buy a house, to send their kids to college, and to save for a decent retirement.

We have got to put away these fights.

WPSU-TV CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, Penn State University's public television station, WPSU-TV, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

On March 1, 1965, WPSU transmitted its first broadcast signal from atop Penfield Mountain, and viewers for the first time watched "Saludos Amigos," an introductory Spanish class aimed at schoolchildren across central Pennsylvania. Since that initial broadcast, WPSU has dedicated itself to informing and engaging central Pennsylvania communities and beyond.

More recently, WPSU has looked to make a global impact by expanding its documentary production. WPSU-TV has produced several award-winning projects, such as "Telling Amy's Story," which has reached more than 6 million people through on-air broadcasts, online, and at various community events.

Mr. Speaker, today, WPSU-TV reaches approximately 515,000 households in 29 counties through cable, satellite, and over-the-air delivery.

As a graduate of Penn State University, I am so proud of all that WPSU-TV has accomplished, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing them for 50 terrific years.

VETERANS MEDICAL ACCESS ACT

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to serve our veterans as well as they have served us and our country. That means a lifelong commitment to their health and well-being.

Veterans who are severely disabled or blinded after they return home are eligible for medical care at VA specialty rehabilitation clinics, where we can improve their quality of life and independence; but, too often, veterans cannot afford the cost of the trip.

The Blinded Veterans Association of America estimates that, even though these VA clinics have long wait lists, one of four beds is empty because veterans who need care cannot afford to pay for transportation for their care.

That is why I have introduced the Veterans Medical Access Act, legislation to reimburse blinded and severely disabled veterans for travel expenses in Ventura County and across the country so they can access the lifesaving and life-changing care they need.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this critical legislation.

TRAILBLAZER BETTY WALL

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

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month, which we celebrate as a

nation each March, and to pay respect to those women across the generations who have been trailblazers in so many ways, including in our military.

In 1944, one such remarkable woman was blazing trails in the skies over what is now Nellis Air Force Base, which is in my district. Betty Wall, whom I had the opportunity to speak to yesterday, was one of those Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II.

When a skeptical male pilot would climb into her aircraft for training, she treated him to an introductory flight he would never forget. As she put the aircraft through its incredible combat maneuvers, the guy in the backseat had no choice but to marvel at her skill and expertise, on par with the men who were allowed to go into combat.

In 2010, Ms. Wall and her fellow WASPs received the well-deserved honor of the Congressional Gold Medal. Now, decades later, she has been followed by many other female pilots who continue to break barriers and lead the way.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I call on us as a nation to pay tribute to these amazing women during the month of March.

LIFTING DEFENSE AND NONDEFENSE BUDGET CAPS

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, as the House begins to prepare to discuss the next year's fiscal budget, we need a budget that supports hard-working Americans, not one that puts our families in jeopardy.

The GOP budget ends Medicare as we know it; it cuts Pell grants; it decimates Head Start, and it doubles down on policies that put working families further behind. One thing that we all need to fear in this budget is the harmful, arbitrary budget caps on both our nondefense and defense programs. These caps hurt all Americans and make our military vulnerable.

Our military leadership has made clear that the budget caps are harming our national security. Michigan is an important northern border State, and at too many places, like at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan, our men and women in uniform face dramatic cuts to the critical training and equipment they need to defend our country.

We can't afford more unrealistic budget gimmicks or plans that just kick the can down the road. We need to take up a serious budget, which the Democrats will offer this week.

SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, according to the CBO, the House Republican budget's cuts to SNAP would drive the poorest working families deeper into poverty and would increase hunger in our communities.

The Republican budget would cut as many as 60 million people from SNAP, most of whom are working, and cuts of this magnitude would be tragic for millions of hard-working Americans and their families. Basically, the House Republican budget makes people work harder for less.

Today, the Democrats introduced an alternative budget, and this Democratic budget works for hard-working Americans. First, it makes it easier to own a home; second, easier to send kids to college; third, easier to have a secure and enjoyable retirement.

Once again, the difference between the two: House Republicans want Americans to work harder for less; Democrats, on the other hand, want to help hard-working Americans.

VETERAN SPOUSES EQUAL TREATMENT ACT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the LGBT veterans, who face discrimination by the very government they fought to defend, and I urge my colleagues to join me in ending this injustice.

Two years ago, DOMA was struck down, and most Federal benefits were effectively extended to legally married same-sex couples; yet an outdated law continues to bar access to VA benefits for LGBT veteran families in States that do not recognize marriage equality.

Our men and women in uniform do not serve in defense of a particular State, but of the United States. All veterans should have access to all Federal benefits, regardless of where they live, just as they do when they are in the military.

When President Lincoln laid out his vision for caring for veterans, he said we should support those "who shall have borne the battle." He didn't say anything about discriminating against some because of who they love.

Please join me in ending this injustice, and support the bipartisan Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act, which I will introduce tomorrow.

SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today against the majority resolution, which fails to repeal sequestration.

I am proud to represent not one, but two Army bases, Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground, as well as an Air

National Guard base at Martin State Airport. I am a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and am co-chair of the Army Caucus. I am the former ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

I have sat through hearing after hearing in which the leaders of our Armed Forces have all testified that, if sequestration is not repealed, it will make our country weaker against the threats that exist today, from terrorism to cyber, including the Russia-China threat.

These outdated spending levels are putting our national security at risk and are damaging our credibility throughout the world. The across-the-board cuts of sequestration take away all ability to make strategic decisions on the things we keep and the things we cut. Budgeting is the science of priorities, not cutting across the board.

We must ensure our Armed Forces and intelligence community have the resources they need to do their jobs around the world and to protect our country and our families. The alternative Democratic budget released today does that by repealing sequestration.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 24, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 24, 2015 at 9:18 a.m.:

Appointments:
Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 27, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 163 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 163

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 27) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025. The

first reading of the concurrent resolution shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. General debate shall not exceed four hours, with three hours of general debate confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour of general debate on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Brady of Texas and Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York or their respective designees. After general debate the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. All points of order against such amendments are waived. If more than one such amendment is adopted, then only the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall be considered as finally adopted. In the case of a tie for the greater number of affirmative votes, then only the last amendment to receive that number of affirmative votes shall be considered as finally adopted. After the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment and a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, the Committee shall rise and report the concurrent resolution to the House with such amendment as may have been finally adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and amendments thereto to adoption without intervening motion except amendments offered by the chair of the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I was looking around to see if folks were getting goosebumps as the Reading Clerk was reading the rule. I was. I think that if folks were honest with themselves, they would be getting some goosebumps, too, because we don't always have the most open of processes around here. It is hard. We have 435 of us. We all represent different districts, constituents that often have different hopes and dreams, different challenges that they face. It is not easy to craft a process that allows every Member of this institution to have a voice.