

integrity that all residents should expect from their newspapers.

As a newsman, Steve challenged the status quo while giving all sides a fair shake. Steve also played a vital role as a journalist on the national stage by reporting how economically important the S. S. Badger, the last of the Great Lakes ferries, was not only for Ludington, but also for the entire State of Michigan, the Great Lakes, and even Wisconsin.

Frankly, they don't make them like Steve anymore.

Steve, thank you for your countless hours of hard work to ensure residents of northwest Michigan had accurate and reliable reporting.

I hope you will be able to enjoy spending time with your grandchildren while still providing a thoughtful column for the Ludington Daily News now and again. Thanks, my friend.

NEW JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT ON GENDER PAY IN- EQUALITY

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week I released a new report by the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee about the effects of the gender pay gap on women and families in America. This report on gender pay inequality is the most comprehensive, up-to-date report on the gender pay gap.

A typical woman working full time and year-round is paid only 79 cents to the male dollar. This adds up to a loss of roughly \$10,800 per year, and it compounds over a lifetime to roughly a half a million dollars in less pay than a man because of the pay gap.

Over a lifetime, this jeopardizes a woman's retirement because the lower pay results in a lower pension, lower Social Security, lower savings, and contributes to the fact that women over 75 years of age are twice as likely as their male counterparts to live in poverty. Millions of women, children, families, and husbands are hurt by unequal pay for equal work.

Let's finally make equal pay a reality by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act and finally putting women into the Constitution for equality.

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, with education and opportunity, women can transform a society. This is true all around the world, but especially in America, where women still have untapped potential.

As a society, we must do a better job of showing girls they can be whatever they want to be and making sure they

have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

That is why, on June 11, my office will hold southern Arizona's first ever Congressional Young Women's Leadership Program. This one-day event provides young women currently in high school with the opportunity to meet and interact with successful women from southern Arizona who hold leadership roles in a variety of fields.

Quite simply, this program is about encouraging young women to be fearless, dream big, and let nothing stand in their way.

The deadline for applications, which can be found on my Web site, mcsallyhouse.gov, is May 9.

I encourage high school girls throughout the Second Congressional District to take advantage of this unique opportunity and apply at my Web site.

□ 1215

FUNDING FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, as a mathematician, it is my pleasure to discuss recent developments in the topic of prime numbers. Historically, it was assumed that prime numbers were randomly distributed in the sense that any large section of consecutive integers would have an equal number of primes ending in 1, 3, 7, and 9.

Prime numbers are used in generating pseudo random numbers, found in all sorts of applications, and in some methods of encryption. Heck, even the lowly cicada insects only emerge after a prime number of years to avoid regularly appearing predators.

Recently, Dr. Soundararajan and Dr. Lemke Oliver, both of Stanford University working under NSF funding, discovered that consecutive prime numbers have preferences for the digits they end in. For example, consecutive primes don't like having the same digit, while primes ending in 9 prefer to be followed by primes ending in 1. We must provide funding to the National Science Foundation to investigate this and other important mathematical questions.

CONGRATULATING MID-AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mid-America Science Museum in my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas, for being awarded the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Mid-America has not only made a difference in the lives of local families, but it has impacted generations of Ar-

kansans. The museum's focus on bringing science education to the masses in a fun way has made it a leader in the State and Nation.

Mid-America's recent expansion continues its mission, bringing science to life for generations to come. The museum's 2016 national medal confirms what we in Arkansas have known for many years—that Mid-America is a world-class museum, providing world-class educational experience to Arkansas' next generation.

LET'S GET BACK TO DOING AMERICA'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, when House Republicans came to power, they promised to effectively govern on behalf of the American people. But instead, over the last 5 years, House Republicans have majored in obstruction, minored in dysfunction, and pursued a degree in legislative malpractice.

House Republicans are responsible for painful sequestration cuts, responsible for a 16-day government shutdown that cost the American people \$24 billion in lost economic productivity, responsible for constantly undermining the full faith and credit of the United States of America, and are now responsible for the failure to deliver an on-time budget.

The American people have had enough. It is time to invest in transportation and infrastructure, invest in education and job training, invest in technology and innovation, and abandon the reckless efforts of House Republicans to obstruct any progress on behalf of the American people. Let's get back to doing their business.

WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from the United Nations where there is a special session on the drug problems. This is a serious and complex issue, but the war on drugs, where we have spent over \$1 trillion, has been an abject failure.

Drugs are still readily plentiful in the United States, the cost is down, and we have caught hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Latin American countries in the crossfire. Yet, the United States is on the sidelines here. There are countries that are stepping forward for reform, for harm reduction, trying to deal with the death penalty. Yet, the United States is trying to balance out the reformers of seeking a middle ground between them and Iran and China and Russia.

That is not what the United States should be doing. We should be involved in reform. We should minimize the danger that is a result of misguided practice. We can deescalate this and make

a difference for people around the world and, in fact, do a better job of dealing with the drug problem in America.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, 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 April 20, 2016 at 9:26 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 2722.

That the Senate passed S. 2755.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

IRS OVERSIGHT WHILE ELIMINATING SPENDING (OWES) ACT OF 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 687, I call up the bill (H.R. 4885) to require that user fees collected by the Internal Revenue Service be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 687, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-50 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 4885

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "IRS Oversight While Eliminating Spending (OWES) Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. DEPOSIT OF IRS USER FEES INTO GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section 3 of title I of Public Law 103-329 (26 U.S.C. 7801 note), under the heading "ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS-INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE", is amended by striking "The Secretary of the Treasury may spend" and all that follows through "and thereafter:" and inserting the following: "Any fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury and shall not be expended by the Internal Revenue Service unless provided by an appropriations Act:"

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The last proviso of such section is amended by striking "and how they are being expended by the Service".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to fees collected after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative day in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4885, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The IRS OWES Act is about protecting the American taxpayer, those who elected us to represent them, from an IRS proven incapable of best serving their interests.

President Thomas Jefferson said: "When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty."

Right now, the people of Missouri's Eighth District fear the IRS. They fear an unjust audit, political or religious targeting, and, most recently, they fear spending an average of 8 hours to complete their tax returns. That is simply not right.

This bill is about liberating the folks of Missouri, along with all Americans, from the IRS. It is about making the IRS beholden to them and not the other way around. And it is about exerting our Article I authority of the power of the purse of Congress, making sure that unelected bureaucrats are not spending taxpayer money improperly and unwisely.

A Democrat Congressman from the State of Missouri once said: "I come from a State that raises corn and cotton, cockleburs, and Democrats. And frothy eloquence neither convinces, nor satisfies me. I'm from Missouri; you've got to show me."

The IRS has not shown this body, they have not proven to the Missourians whom I represent, and they have not proven to the American people that they are responsible stewards of user fees. Through user fees, the IRS collects almost \$500 million. It is nothing but a slush fund.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we filed the IRS OWES Act. It provides Congress and the American public with greater oversight in how the IRS is spending valuable taxpayer resources.

As is, the IRS collects various user fees that sit in an account where they can spend the money without Congressional approval. In the past, the IRS dedicated significant amounts of its collected user fees to improving the

services provided to taxpayers who need assistance.

The IRS in the past few years has turned these fees into a slush fund, diverting this money away from serving the taxpayer and, instead, putting it towards whatever they want—in particular, the implementation of ObamaCare mandates, something Congress has specifically withheld funding for.

In 2014, the IRS allocated \$183 million in user fees to serving the needs of taxpayers. That is 44 percent of the entire slush fund. Yet, in 2015, the IRS allocated a mere \$49 million in user fees to help taxpayers. That is 10 percent. So in one year, they went from 44 percent of serving taxpayers to 10 percent in serving taxpayers, at their own discretion.

Just yesterday I asked the IRS Commissioner in a hearing whether it was Congress or the IRS that cut funding for taxpayer customer service. Here were my questions and his answers:

"In 2014, you appropriated \$183 million for taxpayer assistance; is that correct?"

The Commissioner said: "Yes."

I then followed up: "In 2015, you appropriated \$49 million for taxpayer assistance; is that correct?"

The Commissioner said: "That is correct."

I then followed up: "So it was your decision to cut taxpayer assistance by \$130 million; is that correct?"

The Commissioner of the IRS said: "Yes."

Instead of using those resources to grow taxpayer services, reduce wait times, and improve the public's interactions with the IRS, they are dedicating close to \$200 million on technology to help implement and track the ObamaCare mandates. It is no wonder that last year the Commissioner of the IRS would call the level of taxpayer services abysmal. That is simply unacceptable.

The pattern here is alarming. When the IRS has discretion, the agency uses that discretion in ways that harm Americans. It is the duty of the IRS to work for the taxpayers, not against them.

I encourage my colleagues to do the citizens they represent a favor and support the IRS OWES Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here is the story. Here are the honest facts.

Republicans have cut the IRS budget by close to \$1 billion over the past 5 years. This bill is just another budget cut, further reducing the IRS' budget by as much as \$500 million.

The consequences of these budget cuts for taxpayers are significant, as you can see from this chart. What has happened since 2011 is the appropriations have gone down and waiting times have gone up. The average wait is shown by this blue line. The dollars