

Go Army.

TAX REFORM AND CUTS TO THE WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise against H.R. 1, the so-called Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and its effects on our veterans.

H.R. 1 would cut the successful work opportunity tax credit, a Federal credit available for employers to incentivize them to hire veterans.

In 2016, there were 453,000 veterans that were unemployed nationwide—16,000, alone, in Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, today, on their behalf, I call on my Republican colleagues to find solutions that do not sacrifice those who have sacrificed enough.

House Republicans have suggested that the work opportunity tax credit, at a cost of \$1 billion, is simply too expensive to keep in place. However, I cannot help but wonder why the same is not said about repealing the estate tax, a \$269 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

My Democratic colleagues and I are taking a different approach by founding the Reinvesting in Our Returning Heroes Task Force. Instead of hurting, we are helping veteran businessowners and veterans who need jobs.

Mr. Speaker, my father is buried in Arlington. He was a Korean war veteran. He said that the American GI only asked of his country what he was prepared to give, and that is his best.

Mr. Speaker, this tax cut is not our best.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL FIRESTINE ON RECEIVING BRUNING AWARD

(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, I rise today to congratulate Michael Firestine as he receives the prestigious Bruning Award from the American Bankers Association Center for Agricultural and Rural Banking.

Mike Firestine's leadership and outstanding dedication to providing credit and financial guidance to farmers, ranchers, and rural businesses is well known in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has been an agricultural banker with the same bank for more than 35 years.

Mike began his ag banking career in 1978, with the Lebanon National Valley Bank, which later merged with Fulton Bank, where Mr. Firestine is currently a senior vice president.

Over the course of his career, Mike has helped scores of young farmers establish themselves in the industry. His counsel and advice propelled many to success.

In many ways, Mike has stayed true to his roots. He was born and raised in a small town in Pennsylvania, where his grandfather was a dairy farmer. He runs a family farm, where he produces pumpkins and other crops and raises Hereford cattle.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mike Firestine on this tremendous achievement and an outstanding career in agriculture.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, here we are again, mourning the senseless loss of life from yet another terrible mass shooting.

Last Sunday, at their church in Texas, 26 more Americans were cut down by a gunman. The oldest was 77 years old. The youngest was 17 months old.

This is just a few weeks after Las Vegas endured the deadliest shooting in our country's history and in the backdrop of ongoing violence in cities, towns, and homes across the country that claims an average of 93 lives each and every day.

The response from this Chamber is deafening silence.

Mr. Speaker, how can we face this epidemic without even a debate?

I am open to any commonsense idea to make progress on this issue, from universal background checks to limiting access to high-capacity magazines and military-style assault weapons.

I have introduced legislation to help prevent theft from the Federal Firearm Licensees, expand background checks, and close purchase monitoring loopholes.

I know there is no one single solution, but we cannot allow this epidemic to continue without even a discussion on what we can do. Together, we have the opportunity to save lives.

I urge my colleagues to act.

HONORING VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's veterans.

Saturday is Veterans Day, a time to recognize our bravest men and women who answered the call to defend our great Nation against our enemies. Words are not enough to say thank you for everything you have endured and sacrificed on America's behalf.

As a fellow veteran, and on behalf of the good families of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, I want to convey my appreciation to you and your families.

Many of us have seen the perils of war and conflict. Many have been in-

jured in the line of duty, and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice before the altar of freedom.

Because of this display of sacrifice, future generations may enjoy the blessings of what our country stands for: the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve alongside such brave men and women.

So, veterans, we are a free nation because of the bravery of you and your families. Happy Veterans Day, and God bless you.

GOP TAX PLAN

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the chorus of Americans across the country who are gravely concerned about the reckless Republican tax plan.

Middle class families in my district know that this plan won't help to get them ahead, and it is not because they are doing the math wrong. The plan throws a buffet full of enormous tax cuts for multinational corporations and billionaire real estate investors, and it leaves hardworking families to fight for table scraps.

Tens of millions of middle class families will ultimately face a tax hike, and the repeal of the State and local deduction raises taxes on many families in my district in California.

For example, in Orange County, my constituents deduct an average of \$6,500 a year using the SALT provision. This proposal sends them a bill.

Republicans are asking my constituents to pay more, only to let companies that expand overseas pay less. That simply doesn't make sense.

I urge all of my colleagues, especially my neighbors in California, to reject this tax hike on middle class families.

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THANKING OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize and thank our veterans. We will all be doing that this coming Saturday on Veterans Day. They sacrificed so much and we are so glad to have them here to be able to celebrate and thank them.

I recommend that everybody please take part in the events that you have in your community. Go to the parades, go to the barbecues, and take a minute to thank a veteran.

Things we can do around here as legislators are like we did this week with several pieces of legislation, helping veterans with VA so that they would have more access for telemedicine, which makes technology more available and provides better doctors for diagnosing veterans and giving them what they need.

The VICTOR Act considers the travel veterans have to take to go for transplants. Wouldn't it be better for them to be closer to home instead of traveling long distances so they and their families can get the care they need and have the access they need locally?

Lastly, I will mention the Veterans Crisis Line Study Act. When a veteran is in crisis, when a veteran is contemplating suicide, as happens so much these days—20, 22 veterans per day giving up—we need to have the Veterans Crisis Line Study Act in place to better modify the crisis line to be effective for them; so that there is someone there so they can have immediate help to get through that time.

These are some of the things we can do for veterans as we wish them a happy Veterans Day and thank them for their service. God bless them.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, they are at it again. Corporate lobbyists and billionaires are spending whatever it takes to get their way in this town and avoid paying their fair share in taxes. Meanwhile, working people who play by the rules are getting crushed by healthcare costs, childcare expenses, housing payments, and student loan debt.

What is the Republican solution for this problem?

A \$1.5 trillion tax cut for millionaires and billionaires, and a tax increase for tens of millions of hardworking families.

This bill is a scam. Republicans are throwing a wealthy five-star banquet for the wealthy and well connected, and saving a few crumbs that fall from the table for the hardworking middle class.

Democrats know that American people deserve a better deal. That is why we are fighting to build an economy that ensures better jobs, better wages, and a better future; create 10 million new full-time, good-paying jobs; invest in rebuilding our crumbling roads, bridges, and schools; lower costs for everything from prescription drugs to childcare; and break up corporate monopolies that are raising costs and reducing choices for working families.

Republicans might be fine with the status quo that benefits the wealthy and powerful special interests. We know the American people deserve better—better jobs, better wages—for a better future.

RECOGNIZING DONALD AND SHARON CAMPBELL

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

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Donald and Sharon Campbell,

who have actively volunteered for more than a dozen years at the Valatie Ecumenical Food Pantry, a ministry of the Ichabod Crane Clergy Association in Columbia County.

With Don serving as chairman from 2006 to 2017, the leadership of these two honorable individuals has enabled the food pantry to serve hundreds of families in northern Columbia County. Utilizing grants, community donations, local farms and markets, the Campbells have truly supported their less-fortunate neighbors, enabling those folks to better support their families and loved ones.

Don and Sharon's efforts extend beyond the food pantry, aiding many other charitable pursuits in our community. We thank them as well as the volunteers of the Valatie Ecumenical Food Pantry for their gracious service to our Columbia County community.

THANKING ALL VETERANS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, all gave some, and some made the ultimate sacrifice. This Saturday is Veterans Day, a day we pause to honor the brave men and women from our communities who have served our country. Veterans represent the best in America. Veterans embody loyalty and honor by always putting their fellow soldiers and country before themselves.

Veterans prove this determination in getting the mission done. This country has made a promise to every person who puts on that uniform. You stand for us, and we will stand for you. Their mission was protecting us. Our mission in Congress is to protect them.

To all of our vets, thank you for your service. Thank you for serving our country.

DOJ FALSE CLAIMS ACT ISSUE

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Department of Justice to impose a moratorium on its practice of using the False Claims Act to demand settlements from America's mortgage brokers for perceived violations in the loans these lenders made under the Federal Housing Authority's mortgage insurance program.

Simply put, intentional efforts to defraud the Federal Government should be prosecuted and pursued to the fullest extent of the law. However, as the FHA has worked to provide further clarification on the law, the Department of Justice has, unfortunately, focused their efforts on attacking honest mortgage brokers, lenders, and first-time home buyers for infractions as small as a clerical error or a small technical mistake.

The FHA, in conjunction with HUD, is close to finalizing a taxonomy that

would allow for a specific and transparent penalty to be imposed for a specific violation of the FHA application loan process. But as Brian Montgomery, the nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Housing, told the Senate Banking Committee last week, the Department of Justice has stepped in front of the FHA. We should correct this circumstance.

PEOPLE VOTED BASED ON PRINCIPLES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I got buoyed in a little dance step in my walk, not because of partisan politics, but because people in America voted. They voted throughout the Nation and they made sizeable changes, not even on partisan politics, but what I love, about principles. Principles of rejecting divisiveness, the misinterpretation of the Constitution, and the wonderment of this Nation is what these voters stood for.

I also believe they recognize that they wanted direction that really worked for them. If we pass the tax bill, they didn't want it to be a tax scam where millions of middle class Americans would pay an increase in taxes or they couldn't deduct their medical expenses or student interest rates.

The vote yesterday was for a new direction, not for any of us to take it for granted, but for us to recognize that it is time now for the American people to lead. I am so grateful for the democracy of this Nation and for the values of the American people. They made a difference yesterday. Thank you for voting.

POLAND CELEBRATES 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on November 11 in this year of 2017, the nation of Poland will celebrate its 99th anniversary of independence.

To commemorate this historic event as well as to recognize the values the United States and Poland have shared since the 1700s, I rise along with my fellow co-chairs of the House Poland Caucus to introduce this bipartisan resolution.

As early as 1791, Poland adopted the first constitution in Europe based on America's Democratic principle of liberty. Poland became the first nation in Europe to outlaw serfdom. As a result, Poland was tragically removed from the map of Europe for over a century-and-a-quarter, divided and split between three imperial powers: Russia, Prussia, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Nevertheless, valiant Poles did not give up their values, but they kept