

I am proud to have this man as a fellow Montanan, and I am honored to recognize his extraordinary life. May we always remember Jack's story and those of all our Nation's veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DARREN DRAKE

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of 32-year-old Darren Drake from New Milford, New Jersey, whose promising life was cut short in last month's tragic and senseless act of ISIS-inspired lone-wolf terror in Manhattan.

Darren was one of our best and brightest, and a son of New Jersey through and through. A hardworking project manager at Moody's and a lifelong Jets fan, Darren earned more than three degrees from New Jersey universities. Not only was he driven and accomplished, Darren was also a committed public servant, serving as president of the New Milford School Board.

Darren was beloved. It was intensely moving to see so much of the North Jersey community come together at his wake and funeral last week and this week.

To his parents, Jimmy and Barbara, and everyone whose life he touched, I want to express my deepest condolences. Darren's death is our profound loss. He packed more into his years than most do in a lifetime. His life enriched our lives beyond measure.

No act of terror will ever be able to diminish the bright and burning love he had for his home, my State, and our country. I will spend my days here fighting terrorism at home and abroad in Darren's honor.

May God rest his soul.

HAPPY 242ND BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

(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, tomorrow marks the 242nd birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

In today's own unpredictable world, the Marines are as important and essential now as ever before.

I am proud to have a member of the Marine Corps serving in my Washington office as a legislative fellow. Paul Camacho achieved the rank of staff sergeant during his service from 2000 to 2008. He is a native of Philadelphia and served as a field artillery cannoner.

At one point, Paul was the youngest marine in the entire Marine Corps, an achievement that is celebrated each year during cake-cutting ceremonies.

To Paul and all those who are part of "The Few. The Proud. The Marines," I say happy birthday and thank you for

your service. Thank you to all who have served in one of the most respected fighting forces in the world.

Mr. Speaker, it was President Ronald Reagan who said "some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." Happy birthday.

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PROTECTING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, study after study has shown that illegal voting is extraordinarily rare and voter fraud is almost nonexistent.

Instead of spending taxpayer money chasing after mythical claims of voter fraud, the Federal Government must address actual threats to our electoral system. It is imperative that the Federal Government protect the integrity of our elections, but the administration seems interested in only chasing voter fraud unicorns.

The real threats to our democracy are voter suppression, cybersecurity, weaknesses, and foreign meddling.

To protect the integrity of our elections, we must expand voting rights for all Americans, we must modernize our voting systems, and we must appoint an independent commission to investigate foreign meddling in the electoral system before the 2018 Federal election.

SALUTING ALL WHO DEFEND OUR GREAT NATION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, we salute all those who have defended our great Nation and served in uniform. We say a profound thank you for so bravely offering yourself and your services for the betterment of our Nation.

Whether part of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, you have served and sacrificed greatly to secure the freedom we enjoy here at home. Your commitment to duty and to serve a cause bigger than yourself commands our respect. You continue the greatest traditions of responsible citizens in this Republic, and you are a role model for younger generations of Americans.

To the families who have sacrificed alongside our veterans, we say thank you. You provide the love and care necessary for our servicewomen and -men to continue their honorable work.

I am honored to serve the veterans in my hometown community, in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and across the Nation. Our gratitude is enduring, our support for you steadfast. We have your back.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Republican tax plan and to highlight another devastating proposal in it.

The Republican tax plan proposes to eliminate the medical expense deduction. Eliminating this deduction could raise taxes on nearly 9 million people, including cancer patients and their families, seniors, and those with disabilities and chronic health plans.

Currently, people with high healthcare costs can deduct medical expenses that exceed 10 percent of their total income. Let me give you an example.

If you are a retiree living in southern California suffering from multiple sclerosis and you live on \$75,000 a year annual pension, you could write off \$70,000 a year in medical expenses, giving that person a tax break of about \$20,000. Removing the itemized medical deduction would spell financial disaster for that person.

Now, half of those claiming the deduction have an income below \$50,000 per year. So just think about how devastating losing this deduction will be.

I can't stand idly by while my Republican colleagues put forth a tax plan that takes money from the sickest and neediest among us in order to give tax cuts to corporations and the top 1 percent of earners. This is a bad bill.

SALUTING VETERANS

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute all veterans on this day.

As veterans, you may forever and eternally take your place amongst the unbroken line of patriots who have stepped forward, whether voluntarily or drafted, with youth and rigor and bravery for your Nation, for your family, and for the soldier on your left or right.

On this day, we bestow honor upon you for once standing the watch.

Because of the standard you have set, future generations will continue to serve with pride in our American heritage and be willing to preserve its providential promise, willing to uphold our God-given inheritance as free people, and they shall fight for freedom, whatever the cost, with dogged persistence and with an iron will handed down from your legacy.

Happy Veterans Day, and may God lift you up, and may He always bless these United States.

HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker: "Let us strive to bind up our Nation's wounds, to care for him who have borne the battle, his widow, and his orphan."

Those words were declared by President Abraham Lincoln at his second inaugural address where he set out our Nation's obligation to our veterans.

On the eve of Veterans Day, I rise to honor our heroes, the men and women who served our Nation, and remind us of our responsibility to those, our veterans.

Now, in my district, on the central coast of California, nearly 30,000 veterans live in that area, an area imbued with military history, from the former Fort Ord to the many military installations that are on Active Duty now, to the men and women who have served in our community and kept the security of our country safe.

It has been those servicemembers and their families who have not only served, but stayed in our community, who have fulfilled that obligation by serving those who served us. Now we have a healthcare clinic, the VA-DOD General Gurley health clinic; we have the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery; we have the Veterans Transition Center; and we have a Veterans Treatment Court.

On this Veterans Day, we not only want to thank our veterans for their service, but we recommit ourselves to serving those who served us.

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Veterans Day, which is Saturday, November 11. On this Veterans Day, I know all Tennesseans join me in honoring the brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

There is no greater sacrifice than to lay your life on the line for your family, friends, neighbors, and country. We must remember the great debt that we owe our veterans and members of the armed services who fight to maintain our freedom.

To all those who have lost loved ones to war, we join you in honoring their remarkable service. Their courage is what makes the United States of America the greatest nation on Earth.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much on our behalf, so it is our duty to ensure that their sacrifice ends when they come back home. I promise to always fight to protect our veterans and active servicemembers.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL GIVING TAX BREAKS TO MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, let's put rhetoric aside when it comes to the Republican tax bill. This is a bill that gives tremendous tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires while it hits the middle class.

The facade of it may look like middle class people are getting a tax break, but when you add on all the deductions that they will now no longer be allowed to take, it is a negative for the middle class.

The government is always accused of giving you something in one hand and taking it back in the other hand. A classic bait and switch, that is what this bill is about.

In my home State of New York, which is a high tax State, people will no longer have the ability to deduct State and local taxes or deduct mortgage interest to the degree that they have now.

So when you add it all up, what does it do?

Higher taxes for the middle class, lower taxes for millionaires and billionaires like our President—a classic bait and switch.

When you talk about New York, New York is a donor State. We give more money to the Federal Government than we get back, and this is just hitting New York in the head again.

We should be protecting the middle class and letting people who can afford to pay more, millionaires and billionaires, pay more, not the other way around.

Finally, whatever happened to the fiscal responsibility of the Republican Party? This blows a hole in the deficit—\$1.75 trillion.

OPPOSING SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING IN GULF OF MEXICO AND WEST COAST OF FLORIDA

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

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have been in the oil and gas business for many, many years, and the drilling business. I have been out to drilling rigs offshore, and I have been to platforms offshore. I have interests, now, in several countries that do oil and gas, but I must vigorously and relentlessly oppose any move towards seismic testing or offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and along the west coast of Florida.

Our west coast of Florida is highly developed with residential development and so are our bays. We can't tolerate the kinds of work boat, tank farm, and infrastructure necessary to service offshore rigs, because it is not just about the rigs.

This is a picture of work boats going from Grand Isle, Louisiana, out to the many, many rigs offshore the south Louisiana coast. This is a picture of work boats. This is what goes back and forth to offshore rigs every day.

Here is another one.

We don't have room for these things in our bays. We don't have time to see these things going off our coast, ruining the view that our tourists get.

Here is one last one. That is a cable tower putting down moorings, the big round metal moorings that these boats tie off on. We don't have room for those moorings in our rivers and bays. So, for that, I again want to oppose any move towards offshore drilling in the southwest Florida coast.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK BEATON

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Jack Beaton, a loving husband and father from Bakersfield, California.

Jack traveled to the Route 91 music festival with his wife, Laurie, to celebrate their 23rd wedding anniversary. Jack died a hero, shielding Laurie from the gunfire.

Laurie said Jack made her feel loved every single day. He was also a loving father to his two children. He always had a smile on his face and was a kid at heart.

Jack was known as a hard worker who was always willing to give someone a helping hand. He was the type of person who had literally given someone the shirt off his back. His children's friends said that he, Jack, was a role model to them both as a father figure and as a best friend.

I would like to extend my condolences to Jack Beaton's family and his friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a nation, we find ourselves in seemingly uncertain times: instability in North Korea, terrorism throughout the world, and divisiveness on so many fronts. Yet across our Nation, young men and women continue to step up to serve when their country needs them most. They serve our great Nation willingly, honorably, and without bias.

In the 1940s, when an unprecedented attack on American soil led us into the Second World War, our brave men and women in uniform stood up to defend our Nation.

In the 1950s, when our country faced the spread of communism to Korea, it was our veterans who were there.

In the 1960s and 1970s, when the United States was brought into the war in Vietnam, knowing there would be no hero's welcome when they came home, our men and women were steadfast.