

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.

In the first Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the many missions they have faced in the past two decades, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen have defended our great Nation from those who wish to do us harm.

On this Veterans Day, I submit to our men and women: Your service is not over and your mission is not complete. Now, more than ever, your country needs you. Stand up. Tell your story. The next generation needs to hear from you. We are forever grateful for your service.

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OPPOSE THE TAX BILL

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, the simple truth is that the rich are getting richer in degrees unparalleled in human history in this country, the poor are getting poorer, and the middle class are getting crushed.

And now our Republican colleagues have offered a proposal to the Congress of the United States to make it worse. The fact is that, under the Republican tax bill, the upper 1 percent will be getting a \$1.7 trillion tax deduction. At the same time, independent reports tell us the middle class will be getting—millions of them—will be getting an increase in their taxes, and we will be passing on \$1.5 trillion in debt to our children and our children's children.

Mr. Speaker, this tax bill is a scam. It is traditional old-fashioned trickle-down economics that has never worked and has been the ruination of every great economy in every great country in the world. We have to oppose it and stop them from succeeding in this tax scam.

GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, before I go back to the great State of Texas today, I just want to say happy Veterans Day to our men and women who have sacrificed and served so bravely.

I want to say, from all those who I represent in west Texas, thank you for giving up your day so that we could have our tomorrow. You represent the very best of our American values, and we are the most powerful, the most prosperous, and most generous Nation in the world. We are the most free Nation in the history of the world because of you.

God bless our veterans and God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to salute our veterans and to indicate to all of them that they are truly heroes walking amongst us.

I want to thank all of the armed servicemen and -women for their selfless dedication to the protection of this Nation every day, putting on the uniform unselfishly and standing in the gap.

I think it is also important to note the many families who are also a part of this freedom.

And let me acknowledge the 21.6 million brave men and women who are veterans of our Nation's military service: 30,000 of them in the 18th Congressional District.

But I want to take a moment—and I will be speaking about this tomorrow and on Saturday, Veterans Day, about POWs and MIAs. I want to salute Congressman SAM JOHNSON from Texas and Senator JOHN MCCAIN from Arizona, both of whom suffered injuries, whom you can even see now in the United States Congress, during their time as a POW. I honor them, and I hold them in high esteem.

And to the families of the MIAs from all of the wars, I want to say to them that we continue to pray for your loved ones.

As a sponsor of eight pieces of legislation and 35 pieces of legislation that I cosponsored to make lives of veterans better, today I salute you and say happy Veterans Day. God bless all of you, and God bless this free Nation, the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and risked their lives to defend our freedoms and way of life.

Veterans are truly heroes walking among us.

I want to thank all of our armed servicemen and women for their selfless dedication to our protection every day.

Each Veterans Day, Americans come together to remember those who have served our country around the world in the name of freedom and democracy.

The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable.

Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are freedom's foundation.

Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, Coast Guardsmen and women, and the National Guard and their families, our country would not live so freely.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 here in the 18th Congressional District.

21.6 million brave men and women are veterans of our nation's military service.

Nine in ten military families believe the public does not understand or appreciate their sacrifices.

We use Veterans Day to show our veterans and military families how important they are to us and how grateful we are for them each and every day.

November is National Caregivers Month to show our caregivers how grateful we are for them.

It is only fitting that we thank those caregivers who serve our military today.

5.5 million spouses, parents, children, and other loved ones care for our wounded warriors and 15 percent of caregivers spend 40 plus hours a week providing care for our military families.

As a Senior Member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I care deeply about our veterans.

In this Congress alone, I have sponsored 8 pieces of legislation and cosponsored 35 pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our veterans and their families.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind.

As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.

This day and every day, let us honor their service with actions that fulfill our commitment to our troops, their families, and our veterans—and that are worthy of our grateful nation.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I just want to start out echoing what my friend, Congressman RICK NOLAN, was saying: We should not be about the rich getting richer.

There are different strategies to try to accomplish fairness in a free country. If it is truly free, people are going to have to have the opportunity to fail as well as succeed. The only other alternative is the government kills any incentives to be more productive and just says: We are going to flatline everybody across the board, no matter how much you produce.

We have seen, over and over throughout history, that never works. Income redistribution never works. You kill the incentives. And, as I was told back in the summer of 1973, in an exchange program at the Soviet Union, by a bunch of farmers who were sitting in the shade mid-morning in the middle of the summer, I asked—and I tried to use my best Russian: When do you work out in the field? I couldn't tell what was cultivated and what wasn't. It all looked terrible.

They all laughed. I thought maybe I had translated something wrong. But one of the farmers, in Russian, said: I make the same number of rubles if I am out there in the field, or in the Sun, or here in the shade, so I am here in the shade. That is why socialism doesn't work.

So there have been many different strategies that have been utilized