

over \$21 trillion, with a T. When we allocate that to each man, woman, and child, it is \$64,600—Mr. Speaker, \$64,600 for every man, woman, and child.

We are this far in debt because of irresponsible governing and a lack of political courage, regardless of which party has been in control in recent years.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its long-term budget outlook last month. It showed that the Federal debt held by the public will approach 100 percent of our gross domestic product within the next 10 years if we keep heading down this path.

Sadly, this Congress has chosen to continue this irresponsible, unsustainable fiscal course. It is irresponsible.

The tax cut legislation that our Republican colleagues rammed through Congress last December is projected to add over \$1.45 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years and \$2.2 trillion to our national debt. Some estimate that it will even be more. This is unsustainable.

That is an additional \$2.2 trillion that our children will have to pay unless we do something different. We cannot ask future generations to carry the weight of our shortsighted decisions and political cowardice. Not only is it unfair, but it is just plain wrong.

Yes, reining in our spending will be hard. It is always hard and difficult to make choices. We will get attacked by other political organizations and interest groups who dislike or disagree with our choices, but that is why we are here.

This happened in 2012, when the House had the opportunity to address the rising debt and deficit and supported a budget resolution by my colleague and good friend Congressman JIM COOPER from Tennessee. The resolution was similar to the recommendations made by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission, and it would have reduced our debt by over \$4 trillion over 10 years. It would just start to bend the curve. I stood with Congressman COOPER and 36 other House Members who supported the resolution, and a lot of groups attacked us.

President Kennedy, many years ago, wrote a book called "Profiles in Courage," in which he wrote of individual Members of Congress who made politically tough choices. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of those political profiles in courage in Congress these days, sadly.

We were sent here to serve the American people, even when faced with difficult choices. We are not sent here to do the easy thing. We are sent here to try to do the right thing and to come together in a bipartisan fashion. That is the only way you are going to get these things done.

We must find the political courage to make the tough choices and create smart and fiscally responsible policies that will have real and lasting effects in reducing our national debt. This will

require, again, that Democrats and Republicans work together, which is, in itself, sadly, too often in rare supply these days.

But if we don't put our partisan bickering and electoral fears aside long enough to do what is right for America, then when will we?

If we don't make decisions now to get the Nation's fiscal House in order, the programs on which Americans rely—important programs that most of us support like Social Security, like Medicare—will be impacted.

Mr. Speaker, on this day in 1974, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act became law. Forty-four years ago, the 93rd Congress came together to pass this law to strengthen our budget authority and to increase the capacity to make informed and independent decisions regarding America's budget to, in essence, put our fiscal house in order.

I stand here today, 44 years later, calling on the 115th Congress to use that information and capacity that we now have to make these difficult choices and have the political courage to put our Nation's fiscal house back on a responsible path. It is what our country needs; it is part of America's future; and, my fellow Americans, it is the right thing to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend J. Josh Smith, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Bogart, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father,

We pray this morning the words of Psalm 67: "God be gracious to us and bless us and cause Your face to shine upon us that Your way may be known on the Earth, Your salvation among all nations."

Father, we humbly acknowledge today how much we need You, how we depend on You for everything.

We acknowledge in desperation how much we need Your grace, wisdom, favor, and blessing.

And although You have already blessed us beyond measure, we unashamedly ask You for more of Your blessing, not for our benefit alone, but that through us and through every decision that is made in this place, all people and all nations might come to

know Your love, grace, kindness, mercy, and salvation.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who died so that those who trust and follow Him might live forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND J. JOSH SMITH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Reverend Josh Smith as our guest chaplain here at the U.S. House of Representatives, and I greatly appreciate his leading us in prayer this morning. He has been serving in ministry for nearly 20 years.

Josh has faithfully dedicated his life to the Gospel and currently serves as senior pastor of my home church, Prince Avenue Baptist Church in the Athens, Georgia, area.

In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in cross-cultural studies, a master of divinity, and a doctorate of ministry in expository preaching, he has worked to spread God's Word on both a national and international level.

As a pastor myself, it gives me absolute pleasure to recognize Josh for his spiritual leadership and guidance.

I also welcome, today, his wife, Andrea, to the people's House; and we send our best wishes to their five children, Lily, Gracie, Josie, Annalee, and Josiah, back home in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Smith for leading us today and opening this session in prayer. It is my deep privilege to not only be a member of his church, but also be a co-laborer with him for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for his outstanding spiritual leadership to the Athens community and the world abroad.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO). The Chair will entertain up

to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE NEXT SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump has made an excellent selection of Judge Brett Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court. The Aiken Standard lead editorial today is correct: "Brett Kavanaugh the Right Choice for Court."

"A judge's job is to interpret the law, not to make the law or make policy," writes Judge Brett Kavanaugh. The judge will apply the law as written and enforce the text, structure, and original understanding of the Constitution.

Judge Brett Kavanaugh's credentials are impeccable. He served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for 12 years. He has authored more than 300 opinions.

A graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, Judge Kavanaugh has clerked on the Supreme Court under Justice Anthony Kennedy and on the Third and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has taught at Yale, Harvard, and Georgetown.

Judge Kavanaugh has devoted his life to public service, and the Senate should confirm him quickly, as America, he, and his family deserves. The biased media will fail again as it smears the judge, making up more fake news and destroying its own credibility.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

AMBER ALERT NATIONWIDE ACT

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the AMBER Alert Nationwide Act.

I thank my colleagues from the other U.S. territories for their support as original cosponsors.

In 2003, Congress passed the PROTECT Act, establishing the national AMBER Alert system to mobilize the American public in cases of missing, abducted, and exploited children. However, this 2003 law did not provide for all of the U.S. territories to implement the AMBER Alert system. Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands are still not integrated into the national system.

Our AMBER Alert Nationwide Act would fix this by integrating Guam and all U.S. territories into the next AMBER Alert system and providing needed Federal support for local law enforcement.

This bipartisan bill would also optimize the system for the territories by authorizing Federal funding for

AMBER Alerts in major transportation hubs such as airports, maritime ports, customs checkpoints, and other ports of exits.

A truly nationwide AMBER Alert system must protect our missing, abducted, or exploited children in the U.S. territories. I urge our House colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

HONORING THE WARREN ZONTA CLUB ON 90 YEARS OF SERVICE

(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 honor the Zonta Club of Warren, Pennsylvania, as it celebrates 90 years of empowering women through service and advocacy.

Zonta International marks 100 years on the world stage this year, and the Zonta Club of Warren was one of the first clubs to be incorporated. The international service organization was founded in Buffalo, New York, with the mission of advancing the status of women.

The Warren Zonta Club has worked to improve the lives of women locally, nationally, and worldwide. Warren Zonta has worked with various community organizations throughout its 90-year history, and at its core, the club has worked to make Warren County a better place to live and work. The club spearheaded the local March of Dimes campaign for many years and worked with the Girl Scouts, the Salvation Army, and Warren General Hospital.

The word Zonta means honest and trustworthy and is derived from the language of the Native American Sioux.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the Warren Zonta Club the best as it marks 90 years of service, and I thank them for all of their contributions to Warren County.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE CINDY LEDERMAN ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, the Honorable Judge Cindy Lederman, upon her retirement from the Miami-Dade juvenile court.

Upon starting her work in a juvenile court in 1994, Judge Lederman quickly discovered a child welfare system in turmoil. She witnessed the voices of the children coming in and out of the court being lost in the maelstrom of domestic violence and endless custody hearings. Cindy campaigned to tie the science behind child psychology to the law, making it her mission to transform the system into one that focuses on the well-being of the children.

In her career, Judge Lederman has tirelessly and gracefully presided over

some of the most important cases of our State, including striking down the State's discriminatory gay adoption ban.

Mr. Speaker, Cindy has my appreciation for her transformative impact on the Miami-Dade children's court. Her retirement marks the end of an era, and she leaves an impressive legacy. I truly wish Judge Cindy Lederman all the best in the next chapter of her life.

HONORING MELVIN FRANCIS FISHER

(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 today sadly but, also, in honor of the passing of a dear friend from Shasta County, Mel Fisher. Melvin Francis Fisher was born in Detroit, Michigan.

I first came to know Mel and his lovely wife, Kathy—what a character this couple was—during the first time I went to a Pearl Harbor survivors event in Shasta County in about 2002.

Mel joined the Navy in 1940 to follow in the footsteps of his father, who was a fighter pilot in World War I. He couldn't have known what the journey was going to take him to; so, indeed, when he was in Pearl Harbor aboard the USS *Whitney*, that was where they were attacked by the Japanese. His ship was responsible for shooting down two Japanese planes that day.

Mel later went on to serve on the USS *Indiana*, participating in military engagements in Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, and more.

In 2010, my family and I had the privilege of accompanying Mel, Kathy, and their family to the 69th anniversary commemoration of the Pearl Harbor attack. Indeed, that is something I will always treasure.

His military service was very distinguished, but his family remembers someone who gave back to his community in service. He loved to fish on and around Lake Shasta.

He peacefully passed away on Father's Day, surrounded by his loving family. He will be greatly missed.

It was an honor for me to know such a man as Mel Fisher, who served his family faithfully and his community with love and is loved by so many.

God bless you, Mel.

URGING CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE BRETT M. KAVANAUGH TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Senate to confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Trump considered many well-qualified judges and legal scholars for the High Court, and he selected the best of the best.