

BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD 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.

SECURE OUR NATION'S TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest threats to our national security is the vulnerability of our Nation's technology infrastructure.

In this age where everything is becoming wired, computers oversee our bank accounts, military system, electric grid, communication systems, dams and power plants, air traffic control systems, and countless other vital parts of our society. These systems are attacked every single day. The fact is one of these systems is likely being attacked right now.

The President has said that securing our Nation's networks is a priority for his administration. However, I am concerned that, while Congress was away in August, two of our government's top cybersecurity officials resigned, and we still have no cybersecurity coordinator within the White House.

We must regain focus, fill these vacant high-level positions and implement a plan to secure our networks before an attack does irreparable harm to our Nation.

TWO REFORM AMENDMENTS

(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, during the August recess, I held four of the largest townhalls in the history of South Carolina: 1,700 in Columbia; 1,500 in Lexington; 1,500 in Beaufort; and 1,200 in Hilton Head. These were passionate events, full of honest patriots, and nearly 95 percent want us to work together for health insurance reform but not for a government takeover. During these events, I explained two health care bill amendments which were adopted.

The first was to exempt and protect TRICARE from the proposed mandates already included in the bill. TRICARE serves 9.4 million active duty members, National Guard and Reserve members, veterans, their families, and survivors. The second amendment urges Members of Congress who vote in favor of a government-run option to enroll in the program themselves. If it's good enough for the American people, it's good enough for Congress.

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

THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT MUST STOP DENYING THE RIGHTS OF THEIR PEOPLE

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 3, the Vietnamese police arrested blogger Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh.

This arrest followed an earlier arrest of two other Vietnamese bloggers. Fortunately, Quynh was released on Sunday. However, there was one condition for her release, and that was that she had to stop blogging. In order to be released from jail, she had to give up her freedom of expression, and I believe this is unlawful and is absolutely unacceptable.

The Vietnamese Government continues to deny their people's fundamental rights, and this must be stopped. Vietnamese citizens have the right to advocate their views whether it's on the Internet or in public protest.

For that reason, I have introduced House Resolution 672, calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release these imprisoned bloggers and to respect Internet freedom. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor House Resolution 672.

GAZA STUDENTS AND THE HOLOCAUST

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in Gaza and the West Bank, the U.N. Relief Works Agency operates hundreds of schools, many of them controlled by Hamas-approved teachers' unions. When the U.N. considered adding the Holocaust to the history curriculum, Hamas wrote a vicious letter, denying the events and refusing to let their children hear about one of the most well-documented, horrific events of the 20th century.

Sadly, in typical fashion, U.N. officials have backed off their pledge, effectively ceding control of curriculum to Hamas.

It is hard to imagine that there can be a lasting peace agreement in the Middle East when the party that controls the Gaza Strip steadfastly denies even well-known facts. Hamas teaches the children of Gaza outrageous lies about Israel; and, unfortunately, the U.N. does little to combat this disinformation and hate speech.

It is far past time for the U.N. to take a stand against the hatred of Hamas extremists by ensuring that history is no longer distorted. Peace will only come when the children of Gaza are no longer taught that Israel has no right to exist.

IT IS TIME TO CHANGE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out in favor of my constituents, like Jim from Green Bay, who says that every citizen should have health care: I have no insurance. I'm 60 years old.

It is time to fix that problem in a bipartisan way.

I am speaking out today for Sally from Kaukauna, who says: Our prescriptions cost \$1,000 a month. This is a very big issue for our family.

Well, Sally, hope is on the way. We have to pass legislation that allows the people to negotiate for lower prescription drug costs, to guarantee that if you're a citizen you should be in the risk pool, and insurance companies, well, they ought to be processing paper, not practicing medicine.

It is time to change our health care system and to move towards a market-based system that really works for everybody and that guarantees for every citizen that, if they have an opportunity, they should have it at the lowest price. Every business entity should show us their prices and then accept as payment in full the lowest price that is accepted from anybody else.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN TENNIS PLAYER MELANIE OUDIN

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous achievements of 17-year-old American tennis player Melanie Oudin.

Melanie was born on September 23, 1991, in Marietta, Georgia, where I reside; and she captured the heart of America with her inspiring performance at the 2009 United States Open.

Melanie entered the United States Open as the youngest player in the top 100, numbered 67—the number three American behind Serena and Venus Williams. This was Melanie's second U.S. Open, and she played incredibly well. Melanie ousted the number four seed, the number 13 seed and the number 29 seed before losing in the quarterfinals to the number nine player. This series of wins comes on the back of her performance at Wimbledon this summer where she made the fourth round.

Melanie's sneakers, pink and yellow with the word "believe" stamped on the heel, sum up her attitude about life and sports, and she has shown all of us what can be achieved if you only work hard enough.

I know that I and the other residents of Marietta, Georgia, are proud to call her one of our own; and we look forward to watching her continued rise in the sport of tennis and in life.

APPLAUDING CONGRESS FOR ITS PASSAGE OF THE AMERICAN RE- COVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

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

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the critical actions taken by this Congress to create jobs, to cut taxes, and to invest in America's long-term economic growth by passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

With the goal of creating and saving jobs, rushing relief to America's businesses and families and pulling our country back from the brink of catastrophe, the Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama in my home State of Colorado.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I was especially pleased to see that the Colorado Department of Transportation was prepared with shovel-ready projects that would have an immediate and positive impact on the lives of Colorado's businesses and families.

Since the passage of the Recovery Act, 576 jobs have been created or sustained through transportation projects alone in Colorado. These jobs have created a payroll of over \$700,000. Not only have these projects helped reduce unemployment, but they're improving the safety and efficiency of Colorado's highways. With interchange improvements and with the addition of shoulder and bike lanes, the Recovery Act is making Colorado a more multimodal and sustainable place to live.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE GUN- NERY SERGEANT AARON KENEFFICK

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Marine Gunnery Sergeant Aaron Kenefick, a Williamsville, New York, native who made the ultimate sacrifice earlier this month in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Kenefick followed in his grandfather's footsteps when he signed up for the Marines. Nothing made his grandfather prouder. He was twice named Marine of the Year, and was the Distinguished Honor Graduate at Fort Benning, assigned to Central Command. Just 2 days before he lost his life, Sergeant Kenefick earned a Purple Heart after being hit by shrapnel in a rocket attack.

I want to recognize the courage of Sergeant Kenefick's family: his father, Donnie; his mother, Susan; and his sisters, Jade and Jacquelyn, to whom he was extremely close. They will surely fill the coming days with stories about Aaron, including the Thanksgiving a few years ago when he was pushing to have dinner as quickly as possible because he wanted to get to the VA hospital.

He said, That's where the true heroes are.

Now Aaron stands firmly among our Nation's truest heroes. The example he has set and the sacrifices he has made will always be with us.

CONGRESS, LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF PASSIONATE AMERI- CANS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, across the country, tens of thousands of passionate, boisterous Americans have come to townhall meetings to make their voices heard to Members of Congress.

I welcome that expression of concern. Those concerns have touched a wide range of issues, but there is a common theme running through all of them, and that is that people feel they are not being listened to. While I understand the frustration, I think, maybe, the source of their frustration is not understood. It is that, no matter how loud we scream, there is still a torrent of money that is pouring into the political system on the other side that drowns out those voices.

So, as we debate health care and energy and the reform of our financial system, I hope those same passionate Americans will talk to Congress about the need to reform our campaign finance system, about the need to create public financing so that their voices, as passionate and as intelligent as they may be, are not drowned out by the huge amounts of money that we now see in the political system.

I think this is the cause for the future as the Supreme Court debates a decision which could make this even more compelling need more salient. We need to deal with this important topic.

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THE AMERICAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT—PAGE 2

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the American resistance movement has begun. It was seen in D.C. this weekend when over a million people came to show their displeasure with government. Their grievances: too much government spending, borrowing and taxing, too much bloated government, too much waste and irresponsibility in government.

This is not the 1960s violent antiwar protests led by radical draft-dodging college elites. These are families, working people, business owners, veterans, seniors and the backbone of the American spirit. These people have a stake in America and a concern about the future of a Nation they treasure and love.

Government beware, these people have engaged in that political fight and

are not about to give their country away to those who want to run roughshod over their lives and force more government intrusion upon them. These people don't like the atmosphere that disagreement with government is frowned upon.

This American resistance is not going away. People will not be dismissed and intimidated by those whose only answer to their valid concerns is to say they are "un-American." These Americans want government to listen, and we ignore them at our own peril.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of American workers have private health insurance. If you are among those with health insurance, do you really know what you have or what you will have in 5 years? Unfortunately, many people do not understand the limits of their insurance until they get sick.

Without health care reform, insurance companies will continue to deny coverage or increase rates because of preexisting conditions. They will continue to drop people when they get sick or water down coverage when it's needed the most, and they will continue to set caps on the coverage in a given year or over a lifetime.

If you watch your current policy very closely, read the fine print, the American people will see that they are paying more and more for less and less. For Americans with health insurance, these reforms provide stability, affordability, security and peace of mind. Americans should not have to wait for reform.

Congress must get it done this year.

LISTEN TO WHAT REAL AMERI- CANS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, after 16 listening sessions over August, I heard from thousands of Montanans about health care reform.

Today, I am here to report that away from the influence of powerful special interests and the spin of political operatives, this debate is very different. That's why it's so important to get out of Washington in order to hear Americans, our bosses, what they think.

We haven't yet seen a final bill in either the House or the Senate. Once we get a final bill, but before we vote on it, Congress should adjourn this body for 30 days, not for more vacation. Far from it, we need those days to return home to listen to what real Americans have to say about the new bill. Then we can vote.