

going to spend their money. For the first time in 35 years, no budget was offered.

Meanwhile, the Democrats are spending almost \$2 for every \$1 the Federal Government collects. That puts a drag on the economy and kills jobs.

The American people have had enough. It's time to end the one-party monopoly in Washington.

□ 1020

#### TAX CUT EXTENSIONS

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, this Democrat will tell you what we intend to do. We have heard a lot of conflicting opinions during the past week about whether to extend the tax cuts for those at the top of the ladder. It is difficult to break through the clutter. But what is clear in this basic argument is it's about fairness and the type of tax system that we want to create.

A recent analysis shows at various income levels both the cumulative benefit of tax cuts and the 2011 benefit, if we extend the tax cuts to everyone. Since 2004, those earning \$10,000 have received \$335 in total tax benefits. And next year they can look forward to an additional \$5 if we extend the Bush tax cuts. Now, for someone earning more than \$7 million, we will note that they have enjoyed more than \$2 million in tax benefits since 2004. And next year they can look forward to \$339,000 in tax cuts if we extend the tax cut system that President Bush offered as-is.

Five dollars versus \$339,000? It's a basic question of fairness. The tax code should treat working families better.

#### HONORING HINSDALE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MARK JOHNSON

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with heavy heart to mourn the loss, in my hometown, of the Hinsdale Fire Department's Deputy Chief Mark Johnson. Mark's family, his fellow firefighters, and the community of Hinsdale are grieving his unexpected loss, but we are also celebrating his life as a dedicated public servant.

In 1986 Mark joined the Hinsdale Fire Department and has since served as a firefighter, lieutenant, captain, and finally deputy chief. He was driven, committed to the job, and a mentor for many young firefighters. His colleagues remember him as someone you could always count on and a selfless, positive person to be around.

A seasoned veteran with the fire department, Mark dedicated his career to saving lives and rescuing people from harm's way. He will be truly remembered as a hero. In addition to his work, he was loved and respected by all

who knew him. The community of Hinsdale has really lost one of our own. I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife, Cheryl, and his son, Matt.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INDEMNIFICATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in working with 26 Oregon National Guard members who have filed a lawsuit against defense contractor KBR, I discovered these Oregon veterans have a compelling case that, while serving in Iraq, KBR's negligence resulted in their poisoning by hexavalent chromium, a very potent carcinogen. In the legal proceedings, KBR recently revealed the existence of a still-classified contract clause that could shift the cost of all the damages and court fees onto the Department of Defense and, of course by extension, the U.S. taxpayers.

I vowed to fight to end a contracting flaw that can shield contractors from their own reckless behavior and removes incentives for them to operate responsibly. Today I will introduce legislation that will set important long overdue limits to indemnification agreements and to correct this problem with congressional oversight of the defense contracting process. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this legislation before the end of the session.

#### EXTENDING THE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about this tax debate, it needs to be less about politics and more about doing what's right for the American people. On January 1, everybody's taxes are going to go up \$3.9 trillion overall. The lowest tax bracket goes from 15 percent to 25 percent. A family of four, \$1,540.

Most importantly, everybody is talking about jobs and the economy. It's the number one issue in our area. We have 13 percent unemployment. They are looking at raising taxes on small business. They create 70 percent of the jobs. I know personally that it will have a huge impact, as someone who was an employer for 30 years and created thousands of jobs.

We are in the worst recession since the Depression. We don't need a tax increase today. We need to take the politics out of this and do everything that we can in the best interests of the American people. We need to extend all the tax cuts.

#### AWARDING THE PURPLE HEART

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, a recent investigation has found that the Department of Defense has been denying Purple Heart medals for soldiers and marines who were injured by IEDs in Iraq. Some of these awards were denied because the injured troops received only "minimal medical attention."

Mr. Speaker, if you are serving our country and you are injured by the enemy, you are entitled to a Purple Heart, period. It is not something subject to interpretation by a Pentagon bureaucrat. It is not something that can or should be denied based on small print or technicalities. It is utterly outrageous that veterans who continue to pay for this sacrifice with lasting effects of brain trauma are being denied this recognition because they don't have the "right" kind of injury. These men and women are defending our country, and when they suffer an injury at the hands of the enemy, we owe them. We owe them appropriate recognition in the form of a Purple Heart.

#### STOP JOB-KILLING TAX INCREASES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we must stop these job-killing tax increases. House Republicans have been listening to the American people. Unemployment near 10 percent is one of their chief concerns. So why are Democrats allowing both Chambers to adjourn without stopping this massive \$3.9 trillion tax increase that will hurt small businesses and kill more jobs? Our friends across the aisle can adjourn the House this week and walk away from their responsibility to govern, or Speaker PELOSI could allow a full and open debate on tax increases before this House is adjourned. We want an up-or-down vote now. We can't allow the American people and small businesses to continue to face this uncertainty.

We were elected to serve the people in our districts, not to put our personal political gain ahead of our constituents' welfare. Let's vote before we adjourn to extend tax cuts for all Americans. No family and no job-creating small business owner should face a tax increase on January 1.

#### REMEMBERING THE AID WORKERS LOST IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of 10 brave women and men who were killed in a tragic attack in northern Afghanistan in August, and to express my support for the resolution by the gentleman from Pennsylvania which we will consider here today.