

TRIBUTE TO MERLE REED POST  
124

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 3, 2010*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Legion Merle Reed Post 124 of Delano, California on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of their charter. In honor of this momentous occasion, the Post will celebrate at the Past Commanders and Past Presidents of the American Legion Family dinner on December 4, 2010 at the Legion Hall in Delano, California.

The roots of the American Legion in Delano began with John Robertson Quinn, a World War I veteran from Delano, California. After finding that the nearest American Legion Post was located in Bakersfield, California nearly a day's drive from his home, John Robertson Quinn organized an American Legion Post in Delano to ensure local veterans had a site to gather closer to home. The Post was named Merle Reed Post 124 in memory of Private Cyrus Merle Reed, United States Army, who was the only soldier from Delano, California killed in action during World War I. Merle Reed Post 124 received its charter on September 17, 1920. John Robertson Quinn served as the first Post Commander, and was later elected to serve as American Legion State Commander in 1921. John Robertson Quinn was also elected as the first National Commander from the State of California and west of the Mississippi River in 1923.

After years of meeting at several locations throughout Delano, John Robertson Quinn's family donated the property at the corner 8th Avenue and Kensington Street in Delano, California to the Post for a building. The first Merle Reed Post 124 building was completed in 1924. American Legion National Commander John Robertson Quinn dedicated the building in June 1924 during an official visit to his home Post. Today, the American Legion hall in Delano still hosts many American Legion activities and serves as a hall for community purposes.

Merle Reed Post 124 has continued to be an integral part of the Delano community since its inception, and is the only veterans' organization in the Delano area. Currently the Post has 110 members and continues to grow and attract new members through its active participation in community service. The Merle Reed Post 124 Legionnaires, as well as the Merle Reed Post 124 Auxiliary, chartered in 1921 and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron, chartered in 1999, share the positive attitude that has made this veterans' organization strong and responsive to the needs of the veterans in North Kern and South Tulare County.

Each year, the Post participates in the Annual Memorial Service at North Kern Cemetery in Delano. Merle Reed Post 124 has sponsored over 100 high school juniors to attend California Boys State, where participants learn the functions of our government. In addition, the Post participates in community events and festivals, always providing a positive image of our veterans. For years, Merle Reed Post 124's 1917 Hinckley Army Truck and 1921 Model T Ford Car have been crowd favorites in local parades.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing American Legion Post 124 and its members on its 90th anniversary.

I also ask that you join me in honoring its membership for their service to their community and its veterans, and for their commitment to the ideals of the American Legion.

#### THE DEFICIT

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 3, 2010*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss one of the most important issues facing our country today: the deficit. We all acknowledge that our current path is unsustainable. Revenue is at its lowest level in 60 years. Continuing with trillion dollar deficits year after year is an untenable position. The interest alone on this debt is over \$400 billion for FY2010.

However, I have the privilege of serving in this House for the distinct purpose of looking out for the most vulnerable in our society. I represent Milwaukee, which is the fourth most poverty stricken nation in the country. Looking down the road, it is clear to me that if we make permanent \$3 trillion in Bush era tax cuts it will be those families that don't even have enough tax liability to benefit from that policy who will pay the consequences.

Consider this: the annual deficit for 2010 is approximately \$1.3 trillion. Simply adding an additional \$3.7 trillion over the next decade, which will be the total bill when we enact all of the Bush tax cuts, is completely irresponsible. I know for a certainty that if we continue down this fiscal path we will be forced into a position in which programs such as homelessness prevention, school lunches for the poor, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, unemployment benefits, and even Medicare for the elderly will be slashed. I simply cannot stand by and help advance that agenda.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 3, 2010*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 596 on H. Res. 1745, on Ordering the Previous Question, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding & expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 597 on H. Res. 1745, on Agreeing to the Resolution, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding & expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 598 on H. Res. 1638, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, supporting the goals and ideals of National GEAR UP Day, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 599 on H. Res. 1598, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, expressing support for the designation of the month of October as National Work and Family Month, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 600 on H. Res. 1598, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as amended, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children with Special Needs should be established, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 601 on H.R. 6469, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, to amend section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to include a condition of receipt of funds under the child and adult care food program, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 602 on S. 3307, on Motion to Recommit with Instructions, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 603 on S. 3307, on Passage, the Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 604 on H.R. 4853, on Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment, Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2010, Part III, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 605 on H. Res. 1313, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, Expressing support for designation of May as "Child Advocacy Center Month" and commending the National Child Advocacy Center in Huntsville, Alabama, on their 25th anniversary in 2010, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 606 on H. Res. 1737, on Agreeing to the Amendment offered by Mr. Butterfield of North Carolina Amendment, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 607 on H. Res. 1737, on Agreeing to the Resolution, In the matter of Representative Charles B. Rangel of New York, I am not recorded because I was absent because I was giving birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."