

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, my Republican colleagues have put forth spending proposals that they assert promise savings. But deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and the discretionary budget really just shift those costs onto seniors and children. I have heard from hundreds of constituents urging opposition because, to quote a constituent from my hometown of Lowell, the impact would be “devastating.” This dangerous game has already cost private sector jobs in my district as contractors wait for Congress to pass a long-term budget.

Many in this body have proven willing to compromise to solve our debt crisis. We have already enacted \$10 billion in spending cuts as a show of good faith. But House Republicans continue to insist upon ideological policy changes that even some Senate Republicans say “go too far.”

It is time for this body to listen to the American public and reject ideological policies that would destroy Medicare as we know it, eliminate women’s health services like breast and cervical cancer screenings, and make it easier for polluters to contaminate our drinking water.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
CONNECTICUT’S HEROES

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember three brave men from my State who recently lost their lives in Afghanistan. PFC David Fahey of Norwalk was killed by an IED on February 28. Sergeant 1st Class Daehan Park of Watertown was killed by an IED on March 12. And Sergeant Frank Adamski of Moosup was killed in a firefight on March 29. March 29 was his 26th birthday.

These three men and 1,500 others have made the ultimate sacrifice in the battlefields of Afghanistan. And these three losses over 30 days is a big price to pay for a small State like Connecticut. These brave soldiers volunteered to put themselves in harm’s way, and they die heroes. I join my friends and neighbors in Connecticut in mourning the loss of these three men. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks, respect, and sympathies to their families during this difficult time.

PROTECTING COMPENSATION FOR
MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express the great concern that many of us have over the potential im-

pact a government shutdown will have on our men and women serving overseas. Recent Department of Defense memos have stated that in the event of a shutdown, our troops will be required to continue to serve our country, but they and their families will receive no compensation.

Madam Speaker, the House has passed H.R. 1, which would protect these military families from being left in the cold and would keep the government operating while making reductions in spending. As we wait for action on that legislation from the Senate, our troops and their families hang in the balance.

We cannot allow this Washington process to threaten the operational readiness of our military and dishonor the service of our soldiers. Our men and women in uniform are bravely putting themselves in harm’s way in service to our country. We cannot let them down. We owe this to our troops.

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, both sides here have agreed to serious budget cuts. The choice is between responsible cuts and extreme cuts that endanger our fragile recovery, cost jobs, and hurt seniors. And because Democrats are fighting to stop the Republican extreme cuts, Republicans are threatening to shut the government down.

Their proposal cuts investments in projects like high-speed rail by \$1.5 billion, which could have a serious impact on jobs in the St. Louis region I represent. And their proposal lacks the common sense and courage to end taxpayer giveaways to Big Oil, millionaires, and companies sending jobs overseas. But most shockingly, as the Wall Street Journal has noted, the proposed budget would drastically cut Medicare and Medicaid, throwing our seniors into crisis. The AARP has said the proposal would “deny vulnerable seniors access to long-term care and force deep cuts in quality and safety in nursing homes, leaving more seniors at risk.”

The Republican extreme cuts are not the solution. I urge my Republican colleagues to get serious. It’s time to roll our sleeves up and work together to solve the Nation’s problems, not create more problems by shutting the government down.

NOTES FROM THE
“WARSHINGTON” UNDERGROUND

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Here is a formula for the collapse of both our economy and our democracy: increase spending for the Pentagon by \$7 billion and ensure its budget for the rest of the fiscal year. Everything else gets cut \$13 billion and gets a budget for just 1 week.

Money for war in Iraq, war in Afghanistan, war over Pakistan, war in Libya—so many wars going on at the same time you could rename our town “Warshington.” Money for bombs; no money for books. Money for missiles; no money for new moms. Money for jet fighters; no money for crime fighters. Money for an empire that is as broad as our fears; no money for an America that is as large as our hopes. Just money for unnecessary wars.

We don’t want apocalypse now; we want peace now. We want jobs now. We want prosperity now. And we want the leadership to provide it now.

COMMEMORATING TWO POLISH
ANNIVERSARIES

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, today I rise to stand with the Polish people as they commemorate two horrific events on this Saturday, April 10.

First, the 71st anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, and the second, the first anniversary of the tragic airplane crash that killed 96 people, including the Polish President and top Polish officials.

The Katyn Forest massacre occurred during World War II in April and in May of 1940 while Poland was fighting a war on two fronts. The Soviet secret police brutally killed over 20,000 Poles whose bodies were later recovered in a mass grave at Katyn. Tragically, last year, as a delegation of Polish officials were en route to Katyn to commemorate the massacre, their plane unexpectedly crashed in western Russia, killing all aboard.

It was with great sadness that I heard the news after having had the great honor of meeting the Polish President Kaczynski in the past. His devotion to the Polish nation and the people were immeasurable.

Madam Speaker, the Polish people over the past year and through the course of history have been unwavering in their resilience and patriotism in the face of adversity. Their courage is admirable and inspiring. On this day, we stand in solidarity as they commemorate two occasions of great loss.

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REPUBLICANS SHOULD BE
ASHAMED

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, you can tell a lot about a person by how they treat our seniors and how they treat our children. According to the 2012 budget, House Republicans do not value our seniors nor our children. They want to privatize Medicare and undo Medicaid. They will burden already cash-strapped States, and place