

years is that lower marginal tax rates have not led to particularly impressive economic growth, labor markets or revenues. Growth was actually more impressive back when marginal tax rates were higher.

The verdict is in. We need to reform our tax code now, for the sake of fairness, and for the sake of our economy. We cannot continue to fight tooth and nail for special interests, for the sake of justifying unprecedented cuts to everything from education to health care to infrastructure to public safety. We cannot protect the wealthy few at the expense of tens of millions of low-income and working-class families.

There is no excuse for this. We can, and we must, do better.

We all know we'll have to make hard choices to come to an agreement. But my Democratic colleagues also know that we must do all we can to preserve our economic progress, create jobs, and preserve programs that serve struggling families. We must reduce the deficit—but we must do it while adhering to basic principles of fairness and morality.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11:30 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11:30 a.m.

□ 1130

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 11:30 a.m.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Joe Pool, First United Methodist Church, Rockwall, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, creator of all things, author of all life, and giver of all grace, You have brought us to this time through the blessings of Your hand, and we remember that we do not work alone, serve without Your spirit, or act without Your guidance.

Open Your heart to us as we depend on You for wisdom beyond ourselves, discernment that fulfills the cry of need, and strength for the challenges we face.

May we be about Your work of justice and mercy, security and peace, comfort and provision. Forgive us our shortcomings. Create in us Your will and way. Write these upon our hearts so that we might serve You as we serve Your people.

We invoke the recognition of Your sustaining and guiding presence at today's session and beyond. Accomplish in us the work of Your hands. May we be worthy of all that is entrusted to us this day.

In Your most holy name we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COBLE 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.

#### RECOGNIZING GUEST CHAPLAIN DR. JOE POOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to again recognize our guest chaplain, Reverend Dr. Joe C. Pool, pastor of my home church, my home town, First United Methodist Church of Rockwall, Texas.

Reverend Pool's ministry spans more than 30 years in north Texas and includes serving as associate pastor in Dallas and as pastor in Irving and Gainesville prior to serving in my home town of Rockwall.

Reverend Pool earned a bachelor of arts degree from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and earned both a master of theology degree and a doctor of ministry degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He has been a long-time member of the executive board and the Mentor Pastor Program at Perkins.

Over the past quarter of a century, Reverend Pool has led mission trips to the Appalachian region, Mexico, and the Navajo Nation. He has been involved in hurricane recovery and rebuilding efforts throughout Texas and Louisiana through Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina, and Rita. Active in community service, he was selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America three times and also was selected for inclusion in Who's Who in America.

Reverend Pool is blessed by his wife, Becky, and their three children—Candace, Corey, and Amanda. And Rockwall is in turn blessed by this minister and his family. Reverend Pool is known as a wonderful preacher, a great teacher, a close friend of mine and friend of many, and may God continue to bless his life and his ministry for many years to come.

I'd be remiss if I didn't also tell you—or perhaps warn you—that he and PETE SESSIONS were roommates at the university.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further re-

quests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### AGE NOT AN ISSUE FOR BASEBALL'S JACK MCKEON

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Jack McKeon resides in Elon, North Carolina. And in 2003, he became the oldest manager to win a World Series championship, having defeated the New York Yankees. Jack was recently recalled by the Florida Marlins and now finds himself in the Marlin wheelhouse again, this time as the second oldest manager to manage a Major League team.

Jack responded when people questioned his age. He said, "Experience should not be penalized." And Trader Jack further said, "I'll probably be managing when I'm 95."

From one octogenarian to another, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we extend hearty good wishes to Jack McKeon for the remainder of this season and until he is 95 years of age.

#### PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Emily Gordon and Dylan Burke, young advocates in the fight to cure type 1 diabetes.

Emily and Dylan are making a significant impact on the research for diabetes, and their work will benefit future generations. That's because they are both delegates representing Rhode Island in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Children's Congress gathered here in Washington this week, and they are with us on the floor today.

Emily, of Lincoln, Rhode Island, and Dylan, of Newport, Rhode Island, are working to raise public awareness of the critical need for diabetes research to eliminate this disease. Diagnosed at 17 months old, Emily has known diabetes for most of her life and doesn't view herself as different from other children. And Dylan has seen firsthand some of the complications of type 1 diabetes since his father also has the disease.

The work that Emily and Dylan are performing during the Children's Congress is critical to the nearly 26 million Americans who have diabetes. I commend and congratulate them for overcoming great obstacles to work towards a cure that will improve and save lives in generations to come.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members not to address guests on the floor of the House.

## STIMULUS FAILURE

□ 1140

(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, some may wonder why the nearly \$1 trillion in government stimulus spending failed to hold down unemployment or reinvigorate our economy. Phillip Greenspun, owner and operator of a helicopter company in Boston, understands why government doesn't efficiently spend the public's money. In a June 16 blog post, he relates his maddening experiences with Federal bureaucracy.

As the manager of his company, he must administer a random drug test to employees. As the only employee, he must surprise himself with a drug test. As the manager, he must take a course on giving drug tests. As the only employee, he must take a course on his rights regarding drug tests. Mr. Greenspun notes that all of these requirements and steps don't just cost him money, but cost the Federal Government since FAA employees must ensure all of these requirements are met. It's just a small illustration of how the government manages to make the simple complex and hurt both businesses and taxpayers. It's just another reason why we need a smaller, less expensive Federal Government so that our private sector can grow again.

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 BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO REPEAL  
CLEAN WATER ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, up to today, I was concerned that my friends on the Republican side were only trying to defeat great Democratic programs of the 20th century. Medicare, which will be celebrating its 46th birthday next month, is one of the great laws that have been passed in this House, and yet it's in danger. Medicare as we know it is in danger.

Social Security passed in the thirties, one of the great social advances of the 20th century under President Franklin Roosevelt, but also endangered—all Democratic activities and Democratic Congresses. But today I saw there was a bipartisan effort to destroy the work of the 20th century. In the Transportation Committee, a bill coming to this floor is going to try to end the Clean Water Act. So it's bipartisan.

Richard Nixon passed the Clean Water Act. I'm a history buff, and I think Richard Nixon should be known not just for Watergate, but for clean water. I hope they don't repeal Richard Nixon's signature achievement, the Clean Water Act.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON  
FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, international competitiveness is critical to revitalizing America's economy. That is why it is so imperative that we move forward three free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Passage of these FTAs will not only improve our relationship with these countries but will also create new trade and jobs for America.

Make no mistake—creating jobs and growing the economy are the most important issue today facing America. The U.S. International Trade Commission reported that passage of these free trade agreements could create as many as 250,000 American jobs. In Florida, we have 14 deepwater seaports that generate over \$65 billion in economic value to the State. These trade agreements will only enhance that figure.

It is time that we get serious and start competing in the global marketplace. That time is right now.

## RESPECTING SENIORS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, our seniors need Medicare. As we prepare to celebrate its 46th anniversary next month, history shows Medicare has been one of the most successful health care programs in our Nation. Seniors rely on it. But my Republican colleagues, sadly, want to end Medicare as we know it.

Missouri's own Harry Truman conceived of Medicare and was the recipient of the first Medicare card in 1965 as it was signed into law by LBJ. At the time, 40 percent of American seniors over 65 lived at or below the poverty level. Now, more than 40 million seniors in America are enrolled in Medicare, including 1 million Missourians, and the poverty rate for seniors has dropped to only 10 percent.

The Republican plan is to reopen the doughnut hole, double seniors' medical expenses, and give insurance companies the power to ration care. We cannot let this happen. Everyone agrees we must make serious cuts to lower our debt, but we have to take a balanced approach that doesn't threaten the fragile recovery or scapegoat American seniors.

I ask my colleagues to set our differences aside and have a serious conversation about our debt that respects what seniors need and deserve.

FINDING A CURE FOR DUCHENNE  
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

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

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Duchenne is a progressive muscle disorder for which there is no cure and affects boys disproportionately. According to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, the disease affects approximately one in 3,500 live male births. Conditions of the disease include deterioration of the muscle tissue, abnormal bone development, paralysis, and eventually death.

Earlier this year, my office was contacted by several families from my district whose young sons are living with Duchenne disease. Duchenne takes lives too quickly, but, due in large part to the research developments, there are three signs of hope.

Over the last 5 years, Congress has appropriated \$175 million to NIH for Duchenne efforts. In 2010, the NIH awarded three grants specifically to New Jersey institutions totaling \$874,000. Two of the grants were awarded to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey to explore treatments for congenital diseases, and the third went to TRIM-edicine for research of protein therapies for muscular dystrophy.

I hope these and other innovations bring us closer to finding the answers that we need to help and even cure Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

REDIRECTING RESOURCES FROM  
AFGHANISTAN TO AMERICA

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us, this Congress, to begin withdrawing both our troops and our tax dollars from Afghanistan. For now, it is important to still train the Afghan National Army, but we don't have to spend \$100 billion a year and keep over 100,000 troops in Afghanistan to help keep stability in that country.

We need to cut back our borrowing and our spending in Afghanistan in order to cut our debt and our deficit right here. But equally important, let's take that money that was slated for Afghanistan, and it is our tax dollars in the first place, and let's redirect it to the United States to protect Americans here at home with stronger homeland security. And all of the money we have spent in Afghanistan repairing bridges and roads and building schools and businesses, let's redirect this economic aid to the United States, because we need jobs here. Redirect our tax dollars from Afghanistan to help Americans and put them back to work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL  
C. OLIVIERI OF HOMER GLEN, IL-  
LINOIS

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1