years of being a Multi Award Winning Sales Executive, in two industries ... in working over 40 years without interruption I have been collecting unemployment benefits for two years. I'm pressed to tell you how many resumes and contacts I've made, competing with men and women in their 20's, 30's, 40's.

This has taken a huge toll on my life as you can imagine ... my condo is for sale and I'm being audited by the IRS ... my health has deteriorated and I didn't have health insurance for the past two years.

For too many Americans, unemployment benefits are the difference between having a roof over their head, or sleeping on the street; having food to feed their kids, or skipping dinner; seeing a doctor, or living with chronic illness.

As a great nation, we have an obligation to provide a lifeline to these fellow citizens. It is incumbent on us a a decent society.

I have cosponsored legislation to extend unemployment insurance through the end of 2012. I have also cosponsored legislation to help the so-called "lame ducks" by extending the length of federal benefits by an additional 14 weeks, to 113 weeks total.

But Congress must do more. My constituents need more than a safety net. They need jobs.

According to a recent report by the Washington Post, this Republican House is on track to be last productive first session in 20 years. In a full year, Republicans have yet to pass a single bill to create a single job.

The Republicans' refusal to take up measures to help restart our economy—like President Obama's American Jobs Act—is all the more reason that we must extend these essential unemployment benefits. I urge my colleagues to stand up for the unemployed Americans who are facing catastrophe through no fault of their own and vote now to extend this critical lifeline.

☐ 1920

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MACK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I think there are a lot of people back home who are watching this debate unfold, and more importantly, are watching the Congress and the administration. And, you know, I think a lot of people at home probably the first thing they're saying is we have to pay for a tax cut. Think about that. What we're saying is, what Washington is saying is, we have to pay for a tax cut. Well, whose money is it? Government doesn't make money. It's people's money. Yet somehow up here in Washington we keep saying we have to pay for a tax increase. It's that hardworking family that has earned that money. It is not Washington's money.

And people try, I think are disgruntled with the notion that somehow the paradigm in Washington is we have to pay for a tax cut. It's their money. Something is very wrong here, and this body is part of the problem.

Let's put out the facts: facts, not spin. Government money doesn't exist. That's a fact. It's the people's money. Here's another fact. If there are projects that can be cut, they should be cut. They shouldn't be traded like futures in the stock market. If we believe that we ought to extend the payroll tax cut extension, let's extend it. Let's stop playing games about moving money around from one program to another or keeping a bucket of projects or programs that we can save to cut at a time to bargain for something else.

It's time that we get serious, and the American people are saying they've had enough. They've had enough of what they're seeing here in Washington.

Let me say this one more time. Pitting American against American is un-American and outrageous and deserves the condemnation of each and every one of us in this Congress. This is not the America we know and love. We the people deserve better.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REED). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, thank you for joining me this evening to talk about a very special group of veterans, the Navajo Code Talkers. Tonight, my colleagues and I are going to share their stories and highlight the amazing accomplishments of this group of warriors. Their contribution to the Allied effort during World War II is widely credited with winning the Battle of Iwo Jima and making major gains in the Pacific.

During the early months of World War II, Japanese intelligence experts broke every code the U.S. forces devised. The Japanese were able to decode and intercept communications with ease. To combat this, increasingly complex codes were initiated that sometimes took hours at a time simply to decipher one message. Guadalcanal in 1942 was a turning point for the Allied military forces, who realized that the military communications needed a new direction, and new inspiration.

Fortunately, an innovative citizen named Philip Johnston had the answer. As the son of a Protestant missionary, Johnston had grown up on the Navajo Reservation and was one of 30 non-Navajos fluent in the unique Navajo language. He realized that since it had no alphabet and was almost impossible to master without exposure, the Navajo language was a perfect code to form a nearly impenetrable military code. In 1942, Johnston completed an impressive demonstration of the Navajo language to the Commanding General of the Pacific fleet headquartered in San Diego. He was then given permission to begin a pilot program, and I would like to submit his letter dated March 8, 1942, for the RECORD.

HEADQUARTERS, AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, PACIFIC FLEET, CAMP ELLIOTT, San Diego, CA, March 6, 1942

Subject: Enlistment of Navaho Indians.

To: The COMMANDANT, U.S. Marine Corps.

Enclosures: (A) Brochure by Mr. Philip Johnston, with maps. (B) Messages used in demonstration.

1. Mr. Philip Johnston of Los Angeles recently offered his services to this force to demonstrate the use of Indians for the transcription of messages by telephone or voice radio. His offer was accepted and the demonstration was held for the Commanding General and his staff.

2. The demonstration was interesting and successful. Messages were transmitted and received almost verbatim. In conducting the demonstration messages were written by a member of the staff and handed to the Indians to dictate in their tribal dialect and the Indian on the other end would write them down in English. The text of messages as written and received are enclosed. The Indian telegrapher did not know any military terms in their dialect so it was necessary to give them a few minutes before the demonstration, to improvise words for devote, affair, anti-tank gun, etc.

3. Mr. Johnston stated that the Navaho is the only tribe in the United States that has not been infested with German students during the past twenty years. These Germans, studying the various tribal dialects under the guise of art students, anthropologists, etc., have undoubtedly attained a good working knowledge of all tribal dialects except Navaho.

For this reason the Navaho is the only tribe available offering complete security for the type of work under consideration. It is noted in Mr. Johnston's article (enclosed) that the largest tribe but the lowest in literacy. He stated, however, that 1,000—if that many were needed—could be found with the necessary qualifications. It should also be noted that the Navaho tribal dialect is completely unintelligible to all other tribes and all other people, with the possible exception of as many as 200 Americans who speak the body of the dialect. This dialect is thus equivalent to a secret code to the enemy, and admirably suited for rapid, secure communication.

4. It is therefore recommended that an effort be made to enlist the services of Indians for this force. In addition to linguistic qualifications in English and their tribal dialect they
In the battle for Iwo Jima, in the first 48 hours alone they coded over 800 transmissions with perfect accuracy.

While the true heroism of these brave warriors is known today, sadly, the Code Talkers had to return home after the war without a hero’s welcome as they deserved. Ironically, the code was such a precious asset to the U.S. military that it was classified and had to be kept secret. While the code was declassified in 1966, it took years to properly decorate the veterans. In 2001, nearly 60 years after they created their legendary code, the Navajo Code Talkers finally received their well-deserved Congressional Medals of Honor.

Today, only one original Code Talker remains, but the tradition lives on. A delegation of the Four Corners States will attempt to recognize these warriors one by one and give us their thoughts during this hour.

I would like to recognize my good friend from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for arranging this Special Order. This is something that we in Arizona and anywhere in the Western part of the United States should be very proud of in and that this recognition, as the gentleman mentioned, came far too late and has been far too little, given the amount of the impact that the Navajo Code Talkers had in World War II.

So I'm pleased to be here and to lend my voice to recognition. As the gentleman mentioned, only one of the original Code Talkers is still living. So I think it's important that we recognize others who carried on this code and tradition and helped out in this way.

This was a group, as we mentioned, of many Navajos, Native Americans, who volunteered for the armed services in World War II. That was, as the gentleman said, very successful. It was the only code that remained unbroken.

And one of the most amazing aspects of World War II is how these people came together, and the gentleman mentioned, the young kids in their teens and others, and volunteered for this effort. It's even more remarkable when we note that many States did not permit Native Americans to vote until the 1950s. Yet the Code Talkers were Teresa. They wanted to help their country.

It's fitting that we honor this group on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the start of World War II, because they had such an integral part of ensuring that brutal war came to an end. I want to thank my colleague from Arizona and others who have come here for putting together this timely tribute to make sure that these individuals are recognized for the impact that they had on ending the war and to ensure that this world remains free.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman. I would like at this time to acknowledge my good friend from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN).

Mr. LUJAN. I thank my colleague from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) for bringing us together tonight as we get a chance to visit and celebrate heroes that are amongst us, whether it's in spirit or body, as we are still so fortunate to have Chester Nez with us, one of the original 29 as well.

I think it's important that we recognize the Navajo Code Talkers. I have a few excerpts of articles that have been written around the country that capture some stories recently in the Frontieras Desk. An author by the name of Laurel Morales captured the story of Chester Nez. It starts like this: "Growing up in New Mexico, Chester Nez and many of his fellow Navajo were punished for speaking their language."

You talk about a language as they were pulled away from learning, so many of the young Navajo across the country, and the importance of what they were able to accomplish during World War II. In the words of Major Howard Connor of the 5th Marine Division, he talked about the Japanese and how they were so effective at cracking codes, how they couldn't crack this one.

Mr. Nez goes on to say that he and his fellow Code Talkers first developed an alphabet, as you described, Mr. Gere. by using various sounds to represent letters of words, as you talked about—submarine: iron fish; besh-lo: iron fish; and hummingbird: dah-heh-thi-hi to talk about fighter planes. It's amazing how when we talk about—submarine: iron fish; besh-lo: iron fish; and hummingbird: dah-heh-thi-hi to talk about fighter planes. It's amazing how when we talk about their language. Nez hopes Navajo children learn the story of Code Talkers so they understand just how critical it is to learn their own language.

And thank you for bringing us together, Mr. GOSAR, this evening to help celebrate the history of our Code Talkers, as it wasn't until Senator BINGMAN moved legislation back in 2000 to be able to give honor to our original heroes, the least, and their families—with gold medals, and silver medals to the others that were also trained to go on.

So I think this is an example of a few stories that we'll be submitting and sharing this evening to be able to celebrate the lives and stories and the history, especially on today as we remember Pearl Harbor and all the sacrifice.
and all the families we lost that day and so many brave soldiers as well.

Thanks for bringing this tonight. I look forward to many stories and continuing to share many of the articles that we’ve been able to find capturing the history and personal stories of our friend, our heroes, the Code Talkers from all throughout New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico.

At this time I would like to recognize my good friend from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Thank you. I appreciate the bipartisan nature in which we do this. These are truly American heroes who have made a difference in our lives and something we should all be proud of and never forget. I worry as do this. These are truly American heroes from New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah.

They were recruited into the Marine Corps. Mr. Holiday was born in 1924 on a Navajo reservation near the Monument Valley area, just outside the Four Corners area. He was a Navajo Code Talker. He served in the United States Marine Corps 4th Marine Division, 25th Regiment, the H&S Company. We’re fortunate to still have him here with us in our presence today.

Mr. Holiday was in the Navajo Code Talkers, and as you have talked about before, Code Talkers transmitted tactical messages by telephone and radio in the Dine language. It was a code the Japanese were never able to break and was very instrumental in our war efforts.

At a young age, Samuel and his brothers hid from government agents who came to send Navajo children to boarding schools. Mr. Holiday said he was ultimately caught and forced to attend a boarding school where he was not allowed to speak his native language. As he said, “One of the hardest times I had was learning to talk English. I would hide cookies in my pockets to pay the older boys to teach me English. Whenever they”—the school instructors—“found out I had talked Navajo, they made me scrub floors, scrub walls. I spent much of my first year scrubbing the wall.”

Mr. Holiday attended the school until he was 18 years old and he was recruited into the Marine Corps. Mr. Holiday served in the Pacific theatre from 1943 to 1945 in Saipan, Tinian, Kwajalein, and Iwo Jima.

From Mr. Holiday: “A lot of time they sent us where it was a very dangerous spot, and I sent messages. They didn’t know we were Navajo Code Talkers using Navajo language.” The very language he was punished for using in his boarding school was suddenly a major asset to the United States Marines.

Mr. Holiday remains active with the Navajo Code Talkers Association. He’s traveled throughout most of the United States conducting presentations about the Code Talkers and about his life experiences before and after the war. I was very pleased to see that Mr. Holiday was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal, something he was very worthy of, obviously.

It’s interesting to me that the Navajo Code Talker Program was actually a secret until after the war and was not declassified until 1962. It was another 14 years before the Navajo Code Talkers were recognized by the United States Government. In fact, in December of 1982, President Ronald Reagan recognized the Code Talkers for their dedicated service, unique achievement, patriotism, resourcefulness, and courage.

August 14, 1982 was proclaimed National Navajo Code Talkers Day. I think President Reagan did the right thing. I think it’s something that all Americans—I want my kids and people in Utah and across the Nation to recognize the contributions and sacrifices that these people made. They truly made a difference in our lives; instrumental in the war.

I appreciate this time to be able to recognize their achievements and help to our country.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman from Utah.

I would like at this time to recognize my friend, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH).

Mr. HEINRICH. I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona for pulling us together from around the four corners to honor the quiet valor of all the Navajo Code Talkers.

Today, some six decades since their service during World War II, only one of the original 29 Code Talkers, Corporal Chester Nez, survives. And I am incredibly proud of Corporal Nez, who at the age of 90 resides in my congressional district in Albuquerque with his son Mike, his daughter-in-law Rita, and their children.

Corporal Nez’s story is much like the hundreds of Code Talkers who followed in his footsteps. He grew up on the Navajo Nation to parents who grew corn and pinto beans, kept goats and sheep. And he grew up in a time when Navajos were sharply mistreated and disenfranchised. And here he grew up to be able to vote in our own elections in places throughout the Southwest. Yet in 1942, at the age of 18, he sprung into action and he joined the 382nd Platoon in a role that is largely credited with saving thousands of American lives.

Along with the other 28 original Code Talkers, Corporal Nez developed a code from their unwritten language. You can find the code’s explanation today in the index of his autobiography. And whether in artillery, tanks, aboard ships or in infantry, the Code Talkers played a vital role in some of the worst battles in the Pacific theater, communicating battlefield codes that were never, ever broken by the enemy. Their contribution was essential to the war that, unlike their counterparts, many of them were forced to serve straight through the war with no breaks for rest or trips back home. And today, we widely recognize that their service helped turn the course of World War II.

Yet because of the sheer secret of their role and the possibility that they would be called back for the same duty in the future, the actions of the Code Talkers weren’t declassified until 23 years after the war ended. And it wasn’t until 55 years later that they were bestowed with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor and Silver Medal.

To the young people of the Navajo Nation for whom Corporal Nez’s quiet valor is a remarkable example, I encourage you to carry on his legacy by keeping the Navajo language alive and well for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Navajo Nation takes such pride in these heroes. And on behalf of all of us who owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service, I’m proud to recognize the courage, service, and bravery of all the Navajo Code Talkers, and especially Corporal Nez of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for that.

I would now like to acknowledge my good friend from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Thank you, Congressman GOSAR. For all of us, we truly appreciate you organizing this.

When you consider today is the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and the entry into World War II of so many of us who grew up with family that had served, there’s many heartbreaking stories. But when we reach out and learn more about the Code Talkers story, it’s one of the great moments of pride for those of us from Arizona.

When you consider there were—my understanding is there were about 400 native Americans who served, but the 27—was it 27 or 29?—Mr. GOSAR. Twenty-nine.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Twenty-nine from Arizona, I’ve had the pleasure over time of meeting some of them. I also know, as Arizona now is about to begin celebrating its 100th anniversary—and I have, actually, it’s a little bit of a silly photo, but there is actually a smaller version of this on my wall in my office. A few months ago we had our very first celebration of beginning the 1-year celebration of our Centennial, and we were featured our Navajo Code Talkers. It is something that many of us from the West are very, very proud of. And it was also that little moment where if
you ever want to be a little humiliated, have them try to teach you to speak a few Navajo words, and then the giggling begins on how badly you pronounce it.

But for anyone who is listening, the Navajo Code Talkers have actually built a foundation and they actually have a wonderful Web site that has data and stories. It is navajocodetalkers.org. I encourage anyone to reach out and grab some of that information. These are powerful stories of incredible service to our country in a time of great need with a very unique skill and talent.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona for organizing this.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

I want to take a few moments and honor one of our own in Arizona who just recently died. It is my humble privilege to honor Allen Dale June, one of the original 29 Code Talkers. He died just last week, on September 20, 2010 at the age of 91. He passed away of natural causes at the Veterans Hospital in Prescott, Arizona, which is in my district. He is survived by his wife and 10 children and was buried in Kaibeto, in the heart of Navajo reservation.

June, who attained the rank of sergeant, received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2001 along with other members of the original Code Talkers. When he died, Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates said, ‘‘The Navajo Nation lost a great warrior. His unique service to his country brought positive impacts to the Navajo Nation Council, and they actually would come to play.

As we pointed out earlier, in the words of Major Howard Connor, if it were not for the Navajos, the marines never would have taken Iwo Jima. It’s a great night to be here to celebrate, and I thank you for bringing us together.

I would like to submit into the RECORD an article from the Santa Fe New Mexican, dated August 29, 2010, also capturing the story telling and talking about Mr. Chester Nez, as well as the article, ‘‘The Last of the Navajo Code Talkers,’’ by Laurel Miller, which was listed in the Frontiers Desk.

[From the SantaFeNewMexican.com, Aug. 29, 2010]

AN ORIGINAL CODE TALKER KEEPS TALE ALIVE OF MEMBERS OF ELITE NAVAJO MARINE UNIT

(From Felicia Fonseca)

ALBUQUERQUE.—Tourists hurry inside a shop here to buy books about the famed Navajo Code Talkers, warriors who used their native language as their primary weapon.

Outside, on a walk sheltered from the sun, nine of the Code Talkers sit at a table auto-graphing the book, the old man now. They wear similar caps and shirts, the scarlet and gold of the Marine Corps, and turquoise jewelry.

One of these men, who signs his name as Cpl. Chester Nez, is distinguished from the others. Below his signature, he jots down why: 1st Original 29.

Before the Code Talkers were recruited from the Navajo Nation to join the elite unit, 29 Navajo were recruited to develop the code—based on the then-unwritten Navajo language—that would confound Japanese military cryptologists and help win World War II.

Of the Original 29, only three survive. Nez is one.

The Code Talkers took part in every aspect of the Navajo Code Talkers, the original 29:

Charlie Y. Begay.

Mr. LUJAN. Royal L. Begay.

Mr. LUJAN. John Ashi Benally.

Mr. GOSAR. Wilsie Bitsie.

Mr. LUJAN. Case S. Brown.
and were threatened at gunpoint until a Marine lieutenant cleared up the confusion, his son, Michael, said.

"Of course Dad couldn’t tell them he was a Code Talker,” Nez’s son said.

The Code Talkers had orders not to discuss their roles—not during the war and not until their mission was declassified 23 years later. In 1991, Nez traveled aboard the same plane to Washington, D.C., to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The recognition, which they didn’t receive when they were there, propelled them to a sort of celebrity status, along with the release of a movie based on the Code Talkers the following year.

The name on television, rode on floats in parades and were asked to speak to veterans groups and students.

Nez threw the opening pitch at a 2004 Major League Baseball game and blessed the presidential campaign of John Kerry. Oliver traveled with other Code Talkers as guests of honor in the nation’s largest Veterans Day parade in New York last year.

When residents of Longmont, Colo., heard that June and his wife did not have a permanent home, they raised money to buy one for the couple.

The last three survivors of the Original 29 don’t live on the Navajo Nation, where they are celebrated with a tribal holiday. They wonder about each other, but it’s unlikely they’ll reunite again.

After World War II, Nez volunteered to serve with the Marines during the Korean War and retired in 1974 after a 25-year career as a painter at the veterans hospital in Albuquerque.

June, 88, has spent the past few weeks in and out of hospitals in Wyoming and Arizona, and requires round-the-clock care. His third wife, Virginia, calls herself “the charm” and the protector of an endangered species.

She’s a walking promotion for him and the Marine Corps, yet she’s careful of how much she says because he thinks it is unwise bragging.

Oliver’s wife, Lucille, echoes similar sentiments about her husband. Oliver displayed few reminders in what, until earlier this year, was his home on the Yavapai Indian reservation in Camp Verde, Ariz.—a few framed pictures, a Marine cap above his bed-room window and a U.S. flag above the doorway.

“Just went the past behind him, I guess,” she says.

Oliver, 87, speaks audibly but his words are difficult to understand. His hearing is impaired, but it’s unlikely they’ll reunite again.

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He recovered from his injuries on a hospital ship at sea after refusing to be sent home to the U.S. because he wanted to be part of the invasion of Japan, should that be necessary.

Back home, Werito settled in Denver where he served as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He paused away in 1983 and is buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Colorado.

Werito was posthumously awarded the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor in 2002. His widow, Rose, and children Michelle and Miguel, attended the ceremony in Window Rock, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation.

I thank Mr. Werito for his courage in fighting a brutal enemy in the Pacific. The Code Walkers of all tribes are a special class of brave warriors who deserve our continued recognition.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and December 8 on account of a family matter.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1541. An act to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership.

S. 1636. An Act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:


4177. A letter from the Management and Budget ACT to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4178. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions;