

in 1929, we started our greatest depression. I think we have had more recessions and more downturns in the economy since the Federal Reserve was created than we ever had in the entire history of our country before that system was created.

I'm not saying that it is a bad system or that it's wrong to have some type of Federal Reserve system, but it certainly is one that deserves more attention from the Congress. And surely, it is one that has too much secrecy and too much power in this day, and at least the Congress needs to look into it more than it has since that system and that board was created.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day.

As we begin the 15th year since that terrible day, we ask Your blessing once again upon the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson. We ask as well Your protection for the entire Capitol Police corps, who mourn the loss of their brothers in uniform. Thank You for calling them all to their lives of service.

Please hear our prayers for the Members of this assembly upon whom the authority of government is given. Help them to understand the tremendous responsibility they have to represent both their constituencies and the people of this great Nation of ours. This is a great but complex task. Grant them as well the gift of wisdom to sort through what competing interests might exist to work a solution that can best serve all of the American people.

Finally, give each Member peace and equanimity. And give all Americans generosity of heart to understand that governance is not simple, but difficult work, at times requiring sacrifice and forbearance.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCINTYRE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE ACTED, PRESIDENT REMAINS AWOL ON SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, defense sequestration is a very real danger that will threaten our national security, put our brave men and women in uniform at risk, and destroy up to 1 million jobs across our country. Sadly, the President avoids action on this extremely important issue.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK McKEON has recently been quoted in Politico saying:

We're overdue for guidance from the administration on how they interpret the law and plan to implement sequestration mechanically.

Last May, House Republicans voted to prevent sequestration by passing legislation which replaces these drastic defense cuts while maintaining a strong national defense. Additionally, one week ago today, the House passed the Sequestration Transparency Act with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 414-2, which holds the administration accountable for these cuts. I urge the President and Senate to act before it's too late and hundreds of thousands of hardworking Americans lose their jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

IT'S TIME TO HOLD FEDERAL RESERVE ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. On a day Congress will decide whether to audit the Fed, The Washington Post reports that the New York Fed "did not communicate in key meetings with top regulators

that British bank Barclays had admitted to Fed staffers that it was rigging Libor," the index which sets interest rates worldwide.

The Fed wants to be spared a full audit. They want monetary deliberations private. Then they use that privacy shield to keep irregularities from regulators and from congressional view, exposing investors and consumers to massive losses.

Of course the Fed wants to continue a system where there is no transparency, no accountability, where they can cover up manipulations of markets and interest rates. But should we endorse this system? When things fall apart, who do the banks come to clean up the mess? Congress.

The Fed creates trillions of dollars out of nothing and gives it to banks; Congress is in the dark. The Fed sets the stage for the subprime meltdown; Congress is in the dark. The Fed takes a dive on Libor; Congress is in the dark. The Fed doesn't tell regulators what's going on; Congress is in the dark.

It's time to bring the Fed into the sunshine of accountability. Vote for the audit.

NIGERIAN TERRORISM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to recent attacks by the Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria. Attacks in Nigeria's Plateau state on July 7 and 8 left 198 families displaced, 88 people dead, and 187 houses burnt.

On July 8, during the mass funeral for the victims, they were attacked. Two serving members of the National Assembly—Gyan Dantong and Gyang Danfulani—were also killed. Boko Haram took credit for the attacks, stating in their release that Christians "will not know peace again" if they do not accept Islam.

Madam Speaker, these attacks are acts of terrorism performed by a terrorist group against innocent Christians. It's time the State Department labels Boko Haram for what it is—a foreign terrorist organization. We must not be afraid to identify and confront attacks of terrorism wherever they might be.

Our prayers are with the innocent victims as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

FLIGHT SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING SAFETY REFORMS FROZEN

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2009, Flight 3407 crashed into a house in my district, killing all

the passengers and an individual in his home. Out of that devastation, there was a spirit that actually united this Congress in enacting flight safety and pilot training rules that would have prevented the crash. The families never gave up and are eagerly awaiting the final implementation of those potentially life-saving rules.

Sounds like a happy ending, doesn't it? And yet this week, because the House Rules Committee refused to allow my amendment to protect those specific rules, we are at risk of losing all those hard-fought, bipartisan safety reforms.

With the so-called "Regulatory Freeze Act," these reforms would simply die. Some who voted for them in the past now call them job killing. I call them people saving.

Listen, I know we need to end overburdensome regulations on small business and farmers—I get it. But there's a commonsense way to do it. But to freeze all government regulations—all of them—regardless of the health and safety of our citizens is over the top even for this town. This only proves that Washington is broken and we need to fix it. This country deserves a better Congress.

MOUNTAIN HOME BOMB SQUAD GLOBAL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mountain Home AAA 11-year-old baseball team for winning the Global World Series Championship earlier this year.

During the 4-day, 24-team tournament, the Mountain Home Bomb Squad suffered a first round loss, but went on to win six straight games. In the championship game, they defeated the Missouri Wildcats 10-1. This championship is a great source of pride for the entire Mountain Home, Arkansas, community.

I'd like to commend the team manager, Dr. Eric Arp, and Coaches Tony Dibble and George Sitkowski for their leadership on the 11-and-under Global World Series Championship. Additionally, I would like to recognize players Garrett Steelman, Austin Mize, Clayton McManess, Luke Dibble, Sam Arp, Bradley Ludwig, Austin Helms, Luke Jackson, Jordan Anderson, Will Sitkowski and Luke Kruse for their leadership as well.

Now that the Bomb Squad has brought a Global World Series trophy home to Mountain Home, I have no doubt that the players will set new, even higher goals to achieve.

Congratulations once again to the Mountain Home Bomb Squad and the entire Mountain Home community for their Global World Series victory.

□ 1210

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Ms. CHU. Few things are as sacred as the right to vote. Generations have fought, bled, and died so that you and I can have a voice in our democracy. This is why we must guard against measures that take this away, like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which prohibited all Chinese immigrants from becoming naturalized citizens so that they would not be able to vote. It lasted 60 years, until 1943, preventing people who'd lived in this country for decades from exercising their voices.

Laws like this, poll taxes, or literacy tests, should be a thing of the past in America. Every U.S. citizen, no matter what their background, should have access to the polls. But today, State governments across the country are enacting laws making it much harder for as many as 5 million Americans to vote, requiring, for instance, photo IDs for grandmothers who voted for years but no longer drive.

When barely half of Americans vote, we should not be erecting more barriers to democracy. We should be removing obstacles. We must protect the right to vote.

WHY FOCUS ON RED TAPE?

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, on Monday I hosted a jobs fair in the western suburbs of Chicago with several of my colleagues. Over 1,500 jobseekers showed up.

I've visited with more than 100 northern Illinois business owners since I entered Congress. In each factory tour and office visit I ask: What would it take for you to create one more job, just to hire one more person? The answer is always the same: Cut red tape.

The reality is 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs come from small businesses. Red tape throws an unfair burden on small businesses and paralyzes job creators. It has led to the least number of business start-ups in decades.

There's a reason we focus so much on rolling back red tape here in the House. It's jobs.

GROUP A STREP INFECTIONS

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of group A strep infection. A series of tragic events within my district have brought this pressing health situation to my attention. One of my constituents, Stephen Sweetman, a dedicated fireman, contacted my office after the deaths of his mother and his 2-year-old son.

Sean died just days after originally presenting with invasive strep A symptoms last February. After flying to New York for Sean's wake, Mr. Sweetman's mother died of group A strep infection just 14 days after her grandson. Both were originally misdiagnosed with a stomach bug.

While medical diagnosis presents enormous challenges, especially for rare diseases, I am deeply concerned with the medical misidentifications which led to these terrible deaths. Recently, several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee asking that we focus on this issue.

I hope that we can come together to raise awareness for group A strep infections.

OBAMACARE COSTS—CBO CONFIRMS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office came out with its report yesterday, their latest analysis of the President's health bill, and what it confirms is there are flaws in the law.

CBO reports that this \$1.6 trillion program will cost individuals and businesses \$5 billion more than was initially estimated. CBO says that the health premiums that they already predicted would increase by \$2,100 now will increase even more. CBO estimates that 11 million people who currently have employer-based coverage will simply lose their health plan.

The President said we could keep our coverage, but under the law, employers are dropping coverage, and premiums are simply increasing, which drives up the cost of health care for everyone. And remember, historically, the CBO greatly underestimates their analyses.

We need to repeal this law and replace it with commonsense solutions that simply increase competition in the marketplace and places the consumer, not the government, in charge of health care.

GRANT AFFECTED STEEL WORKERS ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, an alarming number of former employees at Bethlehem Steel in western New York are now suffering from cancer and other diseases due to radiation exposure as a result of having unknowingly worked with and around uranium during the Cold War.

After a multiyear fight, and thanks to the determination of workers and their families, those who were employed at the site from 1949 to 1952 are eligible for \$150,000 in compensation for