

their injuries. However, the cutoff at 1952 is arbitrary because no serious mitigation was undertaken until 1976.

Madam Speaker, those workers should also be eligible for just compensation. I am working with our Senators to urge the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to meet with these workers, hear their stories, and finally grant them eligibility for just compensation.

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, President Obama's failed economic policies have brought us more than 41 months of consecutive record unemployment. My State of Mississippi and the Nation are starving for jobs. In Mississippi, we like jobs and we want more jobs, not less.

However, this President has been AWOL, absent without leadership, when it comes to protecting and providing for our economic and national security, both of which are under assault by this President and the "do nothing" Democrats in the Senate.

What keeps me up at night is the fear of sequestration. Sequestration, if allowed to go into effect, is irreversible, irresponsible, and will cost America 1 to 2 million jobs. Sequestration will affect every community in every State in the Nation for the worst.

Our economic and national security are symbiotic of one another. We must have a strong economy to provide for our national defense, and a strong military to protect our economy. The American people do not want this administration to harm our economic and national security any more than it already has. Stop sequestration now.

I say to the President, it is time to lead, follow, or get out of the way.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DONNA OTTAVIANO

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a superb public servant, Dr. Donna Ottaviano, who has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Town of North Providence since 1981.

Families in North Providence have benefited greatly from Dr. Ottaviano's experience, dedication and leadership. The entire school district, including faculty, staff, students, and parents, are sad to see her leave.

Access to a quality public education is a cornerstone of ensuring that our

country and my home State of Rhode Island will succeed in the years ahead. Making sure our young people have access to the best education possible is critical.

I know that Dr. Ottaviano's vast experience, extraordinary dedication, and professionalism will serve her well in her new position with the East Bay Educational Collaborative and benefit Rhode Island schools from Newport to Woonsocket.

I congratulate Dr. Ottaviano on her new appointment, wish her well, and thank her for her dedicated service.

SOUNDING THE ALARM ON SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. RIGELL. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues this morning to sound the alarm of a serious threat facing our country, one that has been addressed by this body and now awaits action by the Senate and the President. It is not an external threat, but one that is totally within our control. Known as sequestration, this sharp severe cut to our defense budget can and must be stopped.

The warnings from the Secretary of Defense and each of our service chiefs must be heeded. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, described it this way. He said the cuts would do "severe and irreversible damage" to our Navy.

Madam Speaker, where is the President's outrage at this prospect? Where is his leadership in his role as Commander in Chief?

The House passed legislation which would stop the cuts. My amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act requires the Senate to address it head-on.

Madam Speaker, we've led. I truly believe that we've taken action to stop the cuts. The irrefutable truth is that the same is not true of the Senate and the administration.

Now, we have time to do what is right, but that time is short. I call on the President and the Senate to do what is right: to lead, to lead by example, to bring us together as a nation to stop the cuts. We must look to the future and shape the future, not look behind us.

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JOBS AND TAXES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the American people need a tax plan that will help grow the middle class and create jobs right here in the United States.

The American people want jobs to take care of their families. Sadly, the

Republicans are holding the tax breaks for 98 percent of Americans hostage so that they can prevent millionaires and billionaires from paying their fair share of taxes. The Bush tax cuts for the ultra rich have failed to create any new jobs. They must be allowed to expire. Instead of working together on a bipartisan tax plan to strengthen our economy, Republicans are pushing for a plan to balance the budget on the backs of seniors and the middle class and to end Medicare as we know it by turning it into a private voucher system.

Congress must stop protecting billionaires at the expense of Medicare and the middle class. Let's work together. Let's work together on a bipartisan plan that will cut taxes for 98 percent of Americans, that will protect Medicare and that will create jobs right here in the United States.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARSON BAIRD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as cochair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I rise to recognize Mr. Carson Baird on his retirement from Penn State University's Learning Factory.

Carson Baird's background in motorsports started in racing while he proudly served in the United States Army. Following his service, he went on to hold the International Motor Sports Association Championship, three manufacturer championships, and three driver championships, having raced in classics such as the 24 hours of Daytona and the 24 hours at LeMans.

Since 1994, Carson Baird has served as supervisor of the Learning Factory, supporting the mission to bring the real world into the classroom by providing engineering students with hands-on experience through industry-sponsored projects. Carson Baird helped oversee an expansion of the Learning Factory that doubled its size, and in 2006, he was part of a team honored with the National Academy of Engineering's Gordon Prize for "Innovations in Engineering Education."

Carson Baird has applied his motorsports background to assist nearly 700 students on 150 projects that span 13 majors and engage students in five colleges.

I commend Mr. Carson Baird on his vision and dedication to tomorrow's engineers, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS WEEK

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, as founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I rise to commemorate