

Congress. I wish both Jack and Joseph many years of continued success and a happy retirement. Perkasio and Morrisville Boroughs will miss both their chiefs.

#### REAL SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, it's a new year, it's a new beginning, it's a new Congress.

This 113th Congress will let us seize the opportunity to start with a clean slate. We must put aside partisan politics and labels to come together for the good of the American people.

Our seniors, our children, our families are looking toward Congress to take meaningful action on critical issues that were left unresolved in 2012, such as the fiscal cliff and the debt ceiling. Our Nation is looking for a path forward.

I didn't come to Congress to simply talk the talk. I came here to walk the walk for my constituents, for California, and for this great Nation. Today is a new day that calls for new ideas, collaboration, and real solutions for the American people.

Yesterday, I also had the pleasure of joining nine of my congressional colleagues across the aisle at a bipartisan No Labels "Meeting to Make America Work."

We addressed the partisan gridlock in Congress that has slowed progress for the American people. It's high time we find compromises that will lead to real solutions to the real problems facing our Nation.

Today I call on all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in this effort. Let's make America work.

#### MARKING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, January marks National Mentoring Month, during which we will celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, giving all Americans the opportunity to answer Dr. King's important question, "What are you doing for others?"

Today I would like to recognize an exceptional Minnesota organization that has become known as a national model for excellence in mentoring and service. The mentoring partnership works with hundreds of Minnesota organizations to pair up mentors with mentees and help strengthen relationships and build stronger communities.

Every child deserves a mentor. As Fortune magazine recently pointed out, the number one indicator of success for a child is a good relationship with a caring adult. They provide care and support, advice, and words of en-

couragement. Dr. King often spoke of his mentors, and likewise became one himself to many Americans.

Let's use this day of celebration on Martin Luther King Day and National Mentoring Month as an opportunity to become a mentor or simply thank those that may have served as a mentor to yourself.

#### READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the House just finished the reading of the Constitution. And that's fine. It's a majestic document, greatest of its kind, and it's never bad to read it.

It's one thing to read it and it's another thing to really understand it. And to understand it you've got to understand the court decisions and how the courts have interpreted the Constitution.

The courts have recognized the Constitution as a living evolving document and that it's not perfect. Congress had to pass an amendment to formally abolish slavery. It took the Supreme Court in the Topeka Board of Education v. Brown case to abolish Jim Crow, the stepchild of slavery and a great stain on this country's history.

Thanks to *Roe v. Wade* women have a fundamental right to make medical decisions about their own bodies, a right that continues to be threatened by this Congress. And while the Constitution grants great freedoms, the courts recognize that they come with reasonable limitations.

The First Amendment gives us freedom of speech but doesn't allow us to yell fire in a theater or to libel someone.

And the Second Amendment, while it gives you the right to bear arms, has limitations as well. You can't carry a gun on an airplane or in a courtroom, and we need to remember that.

So just reading the Constitution is one thing, but understanding is another. I hope we will understand it and live it and see that we have a more perfect union.

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#### PACIFIC MARINE ENERGY CENTER

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I'm here today to share with my colleagues yesterday's very exciting announcement of the first utility-scale, grid-connected wave energy test site in the United States, which I'm proud to say is going to occur in my district in Newport, Oregon.

The Northwest National Marine Energy Center, based at Oregon State University, will be constructing the Pacific Marine Energy Center to test energy generation potential and envi-

ronmental impacts of these wave energy devices.

NNMREC, established in 2008, is a partnership between Oregon State University and the University of Washington and is one of only three U.S. Department of Energy-supported marine renewable energy centers. In addition to the Department of Energy, this work is supported by my State of Oregon, the Wave Energy Trust, and other private and public agencies.

NNMREC's selection of Newport as the site will not only benefit the community of Newport but, frankly, the entire Oregon coast and will set a course for Oregon and the Nation to be one step closer to energy independence.

I am also very proud of Oregon State University and their continued leadership in this area. I would be very remiss if I didn't give a shout out to the incredible work done by Belinda Batten, director of NNMREC, and Annette von Jouanne, professor at Oregon State University, and all the faculty and students in the Wave Energy Department at OSU. Their tireless efforts are the reason we're able to celebrate this achievement today.

#### REAUTHORIZE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the 113th Congress will not only need to work to further strengthen our country's economic well-being; we will also need to find solutions to make sure that all Americans are treated fairly and equally. That's why it is critical that Congress pass the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization.

Since its inception, this act has always been bipartisan. Last April, the Senate passed a strong bipartisan reauthorization bill. Unfortunately, the measure failed in the House, but it must pass in the 113th Congress. The safety and security of American women should never be politicized and never has been so in the past.

It is my hope that we can put the politics of the last election aside and get down to the business of legislating sensible policy for the American people. We must reaffirm our commitment that women in the United States are offered all necessary legal protections.

#### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS COAL INDUSTRY

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the southern Illinois coal industry, which had a record year last year—the best in decades.

Southern Illinois is blessed with abundant natural resources like coal that provide good jobs and support our