debt and then ripped through your savings for your children's college education and all of your checking account and said, ''Yeah, just give me some more money and we'll solve the problem,'' would you do it? Absolutely not.

More than jobs, though, we're also working to save Medicare and Social Security, the commitments that we have made to the American people. So let's take a look here at the big picture. Here's a budget breakdown of where we're at right now. Look, your eyes will glaze over when we start talking about the trillions of dollars that we spend. But let's take a look at what you pay versus what you expect.

This blue part right here is on autopilot. No adults have come to the table to talk about where we're at today and how to actually save your Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid in this big blue part. We're doing that today, House Republicans, in balancing the budget. But this is what you expect from the Federal Government: your education, roads, bridges, a healthy environment, and what's mandated by the Constitution, our Armed Forces to protect us.

But this is where it gets really scary. All of this blue part here for Medicare and Social Security is what we take in. In other words, all of our cash on hand, if you will, the money that you pay the Federal Government every time you get a paycheck or pay your income taxes, this is all devoted to Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security. In other words, everything else—your education, the environment, our roads, bridges, ports, Armed Forces—all of that money to pay for that basically is borrowed. It's borrowed—or worse, just printed.

This is the sad reality that we're facing today. But with Republican House leadership and working with Democrats who are actually willing to come to the table and compromise—and not just work with us, work for you—we can save Social Security and Medicare.

And by the way, when you hear Democrats or you see the videos of them throwing your grandmother off a cliff or telling you that Republicans just want to cut, cut, cut, no; this is about save, save, save. And in the words of a hip-hop band from my generation, Public Enemy: don't believe the hype.

House Republicans are working today for you. We're working to save Social Security and Medicare. We're working to save this economy and, ultimately, this country for you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and commemorate the 192nd anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

Like the American revolutionaries who fought for independence and established this great Republic we call the land of the free and the home of the brave, Greek freedom fighters similarly began an arduous struggle to win independence for Greece and its people 192 years ago on March 25.

The Greeks faced four centuries of Ottoman oppression, a David versus Goliath situation, if you will. Beginning their revolution on March 25 was no coincidence. This was the holy day dedicated to the mother of God, Theotokos; and as such, they had their champion, their savior, and their protector by their side. As Archbishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese, ''Eleftheria i Thanatos''—Liberty or Death—became their battle cry.

As is true in our own country, the price of freedom was great, with brave men and women fighting for God and country in the hope of a better world for future generations.

Our Greek brothers sacrificed much for their independence, and there are many stories which I could share to demonstrate the heroism they exhibited. Most Greeks will remember that of Athanasios Diakos, legendary hero, priest, patriot, and soldier who led 500 of his men in a notable stand against 8,000 Ottoman Turk soldiers. While Diakos' men were wiped out and he fell to enemy hands which tortured him before his death, he became the image for Greeks to give all for love of faith and homeland. May his memory be eternal, Mr. Speaker.

The revolution brought independence to Greece and emboldened those who still sought freedom across the world. It proved a united people, through sheer will and perseverance, can prevail against tyranny. And it is a sentiment which can still be found among Greeks today.

Greek soldiers served alongside Americans in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. They've always been our allies, Mr. Speaker, and continue to be today.

This week, the joint naval exercise Noble Dina is expected to conclude. And for the 3rd year, the navies representing the United States, Greece, and Israel have come together to engage in maritime evacuations and search and rescue drills, a symbol of the ongoing and growing friendships between the countries.

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The lessons the Greeks taught us in 1821 continue to provide strength to victims of persecution throughout the world today. By honoring the Greek struggle for independence, we reaffirm the values and ideas that make America great.

Each time I perform my constitutional duties, I am doing so in the legacy of our American forefathers and the ancient Greeks. As Thomas Jefferson once said, ''To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves, American colonists, out of gothic darkness.''

We celebrate Greek Independence Day to reaffirm the common democratic heritage we share. And, as Americans, we must continue to pursue this spirit of freedom and liberty, which characterizes both great nations.

Zito i Ellas. Long live Greece.

TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN ANDREW S. WHITSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate an exceptional naval officer, Captain Andrew Shepard Whitson, at the completion of 30 years of distinguished naval service, culminating as the Director of the U.S. House of Representatives Liaison Office for the Department of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

I'm honored to commend Captain Whitson's achievements and recognize his service and devotion to our great country.

A 1983 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, Captain Whitson earned his wings in 1985 and was designated a naval aviator. He sailed around the world, flying the F–14 Tomcat and F/A–18 Hornets. He's served in five fighter squadrons, participating in multiple combat operations during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was also recognized as the ''East Coast Fighter Pilot of the Year'' in 1997.

Captain Whitson served as the executive officer and commanding officer of the Bounty Hunters of Fighter Squadron Two, leading them through two deployments aboard USS *Constellation* (CV–64), including the combat operations in Iraqi Freedom. In 2009 and 2010, he served as the commander of Carrier Air Wing 17.

Captain Whitson is retiring after 30 years of honorable service to this Nation. His professional success would not have been possible without the support of his wife, Tracy—I've had the privilege of getting to know Captain Whitson and his family—and his lovely daughter, Alexandra. Their shared sacrifice is a credit to their personal character.

I wish Captain Whitson continued success and fulfillment as he transitions to civilian life after three decades of exceptional service to our country. His loyal dedication to duty reflects the highest standards of naval service.

I hold him in high personal regard and consider it a privilege to call Captain Whitson my friend. And I'm delighted that he and his family call Virginia's Second Congressional District their home.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my fellow colleagues this morning join me, all