

Because of his failed leadership on this and other scandals like Operation Fast and Furious, I have called on Eric Holder to resign. The buck has to stop somewhere. It's time for the Obama administration to come clean with the American people.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT ADDS PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, this week, we will vote on the National Defense Authorization Act. As we debate this important legislation, we must keep in mind the deeply troubling problem of sexual assault within our military.

The vast majority of men and women who are in our armed services serve us with honor and distinction, but their dedication is undermined by those who commit sexual assaults. Last year, nearly one out of every 16 Active Duty women reported having been the victim of an unwarranted sexual contact. This is a deplorable situation.

Last week, in a truly bipartisan manner, the Armed Services Committee produced a bill that we will debate today. It prohibits the dismissal or reduction of guilty verdicts in sexual assault convictions. It makes sure that those who are found guilty of these heinous crimes will be discharged from the military, and adds other important protections for victims of sexual assault.

As leaders, we have a duty to protect those who protect us.

#### UNACCEPTABLE VIOLATIONS OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

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

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, "Those who give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Ben Franklin uttered those words several hundred years ago, but his warning is still relevant today.

Reports that the National Security Agency has been monitoring the phone records and Internet activities of ordinary citizens should concern every American.

The President has said that these surveillance programs don't involve listening to people's phone calls or reading their emails. Americans want to believe their President. Yet his tax agency lied about targeting conservative groups and his Justice Department spied on reporters who were just doing their job.

As a Nation, we would be wise to heed Ben Franklin's advice and make sure that there is a bright line between acceptable counterterrorism activities

and unacceptable violations of our fundamental rights.

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#### WARRANT OFFICER MULLEN

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

Mr. CARNEY. I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from my home State of Delaware.

Last week, I joined the family of Warrant Officer Sean Mullen at Dover Air Force Base to witness the dignified transfer of his remains.

Sean, whose family resides in Dover, Delaware, was killed earlier this month in Afghanistan. He was on his sixth tour of duty. He leaves behind his wife, Nancy, and a life full of service, loyalty, and courage.

As I stood with Sean's mother, Mariam, through her tears, she asked me to do one thing. She said, "Let the people know what these men and women go through. Let them know what they do for their country."

That's why I'm here on the floor today—to do what this Gold Star mother asked me to do, which is to remember the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have volunteered out of a sense of patriotism and selflessness to put themselves in harm's way in service to their country.

So to Sean Mullen and to his heroic brothers and sisters in arms who have given their lives to protect ours, I stand here today to say thank you, and may God bless you.

#### ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. COTTON. Today, I want to highlight another potential IRS abuse, namely, unfair audits of adoptive parents who filed for the Adoption Tax Credit.

We've all heard about the abuse of conservatives, Christians, and other groups, but fewer people know the alarming story of families who use the Adoption Tax Credit to offset some of the high costs of adoption.

According to the IRS' own Taxpayer Advocate Service, 90 percent of those who filed for the Adoption Tax Credit last year were flagged for additional review. Nearly 70 percent were audited, but only 1½ percent of adoption credit claims were disallowed in the end. By contrast, only 1 percent of all tax returns are audited.

Adoptive parents are loving, selfless Americans who are simply trying to provide a safe and loving home for kids in need. An adoption is a reflection of the boundless compassion of our country, and it helps save innocent unborn lives that may otherwise be ended by abortion.

We should do all in our power to encourage adoption, not to discourage it

through bureaucratic runarounds. I urge the Congress to get to the bottom of this unfair treatment of adoptive parents.

#### ARMY SERGEANT MARIBEL MANRIQUEZ RAMOS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to honor Sergeant Maribel Manriquez Ramos, a resident of my district who was laid to rest this past week.

Her dedication was displayed in her many promotions, commendations, and medals earned during deployments to imminent-danger areas like Korea and Iraq. Sergeant Ramos served her Nation with both duty and honor both at home and abroad. Back home, she was set to receive a degree in criminal justice from Cal State Fullerton this May. During her enrollment at the university, she served as an inspiration to other veterans in the pursuing of their dreams through higher education.

Unfortunately, our heroic Sergeant Ramos died at the age of 36. She is a hero because of the way she lived her life. She lived a life of honor and service both as an Army sergeant and as a community leader.

To her family, I convey the deepest sympathies from all of the community. May she never be forgotten.

#### JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue that matters to all Americans—jobs and economic growth. The story got buried with all the breaking news of last week; but last month's job numbers are in, and they aren't good.

On the surface, the U.S. economy adding 175,000 jobs might sound like good news; but look deeper, and you'll see troubling indicators for our economy. Manufacturing actually lost 8,000 jobs in total. This recovery is so weak by historic standards that it has produced 4 million fewer jobs than any other recovery since World War II.

Madam Speaker, this isn't real recovery. If we are going to improve this economy and create jobs, we need less government and more freedom. Every day, House Republicans are seeking solutions to grow the economy. Let's make life work for families across the country, and let's expand opportunities for everyone without expanding government.

#### ENDING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

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