

Environmental Affairs and successfully led the Water Replenishment District of Southern California in its efforts to protect our air and water quality from pollution and contamination.

Her devoted leadership and unyielding commitment to public service and the people who live and work in Los Angeles were simply remarkable and will be sorely missed.

We have lost a dear friend. She was my colleague. She was a gracious, tireless woman who was a role model to all of us who truly strive to make a difference in this Earth as long as we live.

We'll miss you, Lillian.

FIGHTING TO PROTECT MONTANANS FROM EPA OVERREACH

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, Montanans tell me every day how the EPA's ever-changing rules are preventing them from hiring new workers or forcing them to foot the bill for unreasonable compliance costs. In fact, one Montanan said, you know, the EPA must stand for the Employment Prevention Agency.

The EPA's out-of-control regulatory overreach costs hardworking American taxpayers billions of dollars and thousands of jobs every year and all-too-often is put into place with a lack of oversight or public input.

The Energy Consumers Relief Act is an important step in making the EPA accountable to the American people. This bill blocks the implementation of rules that harm the economy and ensures that before the EPA finalizes any rule costing more than \$1 billion, it informs Congress of the rule's impact on the economy and on energy prices.

Another important bill, the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act, brings much-needed regulatory certainty to job creators and helps keep energy costs low by taking the power out of the EPA's hands and returning it to the States where it belongs.

These commonsense proposals will help keep energy costs low for American families, protect thousands of good-paying jobs, and ultimately ensure that the EPA's accountable to the American people.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. We're in this together. We're not on our own. We're in this together. That's how Americans think: we're in this together.

Except that the Tea Party ideology that's running the Republican majority would have us revert to some time before the Civil War, when we're on our own, we're not in this together. They'd love to turn the clock back as far as it can go.

Example: let's have interest rates rise on our students. Forget about making sure that the best investment we could do in our students is to keep those interest rates low.

Let's talk about the farm bill. Couldn't get it passed, except let's jettison a whole bunch of people whose nutrition is serious to all of us. Forget about food stamps. People have gotten rich overnight. Let's get rid of those things.

Energy and the environment. Let's forget about the environment and let's forget about the sun, the wind and biofuels. Just focus only on gas and coal. Those have got to be part of it, but let's forget about things that have happened newly.

We're in this together. Abraham Lincoln said, of the people, by the people, for the people. We're working for the people. We need to remember we're all in this together.

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HONORING MR. ROBERT DAVIES

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a brave Arizonan. Robert Davies, from Golden Valley, Arizona, truly met the definition of "hero" by coming to the aid of his elderly neighbor. Mr. Davies and his fellow neighbor, Paul Bissonette, responded to a neighbor whose home was on fire, saving the 92-year-old woman stuck inside. Mr. Davies risked his own safety by jumping through a broken window into the smoke and pulling the woman into position near the window where she could breathe. Receiving help from an off-duty fireman who arrived on the scene, Mr. Davies was able to lift the woman through the window to safety seconds before the building was taken by the flames.

Mr. Davies says this was something that anybody else would have done. But he actually did it. While I appreciate his humility, I thank him for his display of bravery and courage in the face of danger. I am pleased to recognize Mr. Robert Davies today, before this great body, for his act of heroism.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I want to urge my colleagues not to bury their heads in the sand. Wake up. Climate change is real, and it's already affecting the Earth in profound ways.

The scientific consensus is clear: human activity is causing our planet to warm to dangerous levels.

Scientists agree that higher temperatures are raising sea levels and driving

severe weather patterns that threaten our economy and our way of life. Unpredictable and destructive weather patterns are making it harder for farmers to grow crops, while rising sea levels threaten our coastal cities and beaches from sea to shining sea.

Here in Congress, the majority refuses to even acknowledge that we have a problem, while the rest of the world seems to understand that it's the moral imperative of our time.

I urge my colleagues to put politics aside, listen to the science, and come together and begin to help prevent the worst effects of climate change.

PROTECT SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, for the 89 percent of employers in America with fewer than 20 employees, there's an ever-present fear that they may be sanctioned or even put out of business for a violation of any one of the seemingly endless array of Federal regulations.

The Protect Small Business Jobs Act offers a simple correction: if found to be in violation of a Federal regulation, a business is given a 6-month grace period to correct the problem. If the problem is corrected at the end of the grace period, the sanction is waived. This way, no business is permitted to ignore regulations on an ongoing basis, but small companies are given a chance to become compliant without being hit by devastating fines.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense approach to regulatory relief and pass the Protect Small Business Jobs Act.

RELEASE ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

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

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, across the world, people of certain faiths live in fear of government persecution every day.

Saied Rezaei, a leader of the Baha'i religion, used to advocate for gender equality and universal education in Iran. In 2008, he was arrested on false charges for propaganda against the Iranian regime and illegally establishing a Baha'i school. When Saied completes his 20-year sentence, his 16-year-old son will be a 31-year-old man.

That same year, Alimujiang Yimiti, also a husband and father, had his business shut down after Chinese officials accused him of preaching Christianity. He now faces 15 years in a Chinese prison and can only speak to his wife every couple months.

State-sponsored religious persecution will not be tolerated by the international community. Today, I join the

Defending Freedoms Project to call for the release of all prisoners of conscience.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an American hero, a true public servant in every sense of the word, and a man with whom Kansans are proud to share the Sunflower State as home.

Senator Bob Dole, a Russell, Kansas, native and proud Jayhawk, celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday, and has spent his entire life giving to make his country a better place for future generations. After courageously serving his country in World War II, Senator Dole continued to fight for the future of his country by serving in Congress, the Senate, and as a Republican Presidential nominee.

Like many Americans, I've been inspired by his exceptional leadership, his encouraging and positive personality, his quick wit, and his endless and selfless giving for his fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, as we wish Senator Bob Dole happy birthday, we look ahead toward many happy and healthy years with our great friend, and to a bright future in America because of the work of Senator Dole and the values and ideals he has personified and the qualities he has instilled in so many of us.

CELEBRATING SENATOR DOLE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to join my colleague, Mr. YODER, in honoring Senator Bob Dole on his 90th birthday.

I call my colleagues' attention to the fact that Senator Dole is really quite an extraordinary man and quite a legislator. He understood the importance of bipartisanship. He reached across the aisle and worked with Senator George McGovern on strengthening our antihunger social safety net. They made Food Stamps a better program. They championed WIC and school meals.

At a time when some of my colleagues are talking about destroying that bipartisan consensus on making sure that we combat hunger in this country, it is important to remember Senator Dole led, in a bipartisan way, to help the least among us.

I want to wish him a happy birthday and many, many more.

U.S. ENERGY EQUALS JOBS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the need for more homegrown American energy has never been greater. At home, our economy is still in a state of stagnation. Nearly 12 million of our fellow Americans are out of work. It's even higher among returning veterans from Afghanistan and Iraq. Abroad, volatile situations continue to erupt around the world.

We need an all-of-the-above, all-American energy strategy, not more red tape out of Washington, D.C. More American energy means lower energy costs for Americans and for all people in the United States, and that means more money left in your pocket. More American energy means a stronger economy as our energy sector is allowed to grow and expand. Simply put, more American energy means more American jobs, period.

Mr. Speaker, if we take care of ourselves, we can make Middle Eastern politics turmoil, and energy irrelevant.

And that's just the way it is.

COLLEGE COSTS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. The National Journal today noted that borrowing accounts for 18 percent of how the average family pays for college. They also noted that majors vary considerably in terms of their cost, such as social science being about \$28,000 and engineering around \$25,000.

What's notable is the starting salaries for a number of majors is so low that students cannot pay back their loans.

What is also noteworthy is the cost of the actual tuition itself. Since the 1970s, when data first began to be gathered, college tuition costs have gone up 1,120 percent, while inflation itself has gone up a little over 200 percent.

As we're talking about the cost of college, it is very important, Mr. Speaker, that we also call upon colleges themselves to be responsible for trimming costs and for guidance counselors and colleges to also look at how they are advising students to move forward in their careers. An important part of this argument is how students are saddled with a great deal of debt that they can't repay because they simply are not in a major in which they can earn money, and how colleges spend so much on a number of amenities that have little to do with education.

So I hope that universities, themselves, look at how they can trim their costs instead of continuing to raise tuition on the students, who then are faced with a lifelong burden.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2397, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2610, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 312 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 312

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read through page 157, line 2. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

(b) No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, the amendment described in section 2 of this resolution, and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution. All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules and against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 2. After disposition of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, it shall be in order for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer an amendment reducing funding levels in the bill.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an