

HONORING CHERYL THIBODEAU WITH THE FRIST HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of New Hampshire's leading citizens, Cheryl Thibodeau of Portsmouth Regional Hospital. The hospital, serving the seacoast region of my State, awarded Cheryl its 2015 Frist Humanitarian Award for her service to the local community.

A nurse in the emergency ward, Cheryl is a consummate teammate to her coworkers, frequently going above and beyond the call of duty. Outside work, she donates her time as part of the Pease Greeters organization to welcome home returning troops at Portsmouth airport.

She is an active participant in Sarah's Ride, a charity that raises money for the Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Association. Also in her spare time, Cheryl lends her medical expertise and friendly bedside manner to others in need of home care and she teaches New Hampshire's young about the valuable profession she is engaged in.

It seems that everyone has something positive to say about Cheryl and her efforts to make our State a better place. I have seen up close what she and the fantastic doctors and nurses at Portsmouth Regional Hospital do and could not be prouder of her work.

DO YOUR JOB

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have brought us again to the brink of another government shutdown. Here we are, the last day of the fiscal year, and what we have before us today is a temporary, 2-month budget to keep the government open, basically kicking the can down the road, failing to take up the priorities of the American people, failing to bring any kind of a jobs plan, any kind of a plan to fix our roads and bridges in this country to put Americans back to work.

When I go home, I hear one thing over and over again, and I imagine other Members do, too. They tell us: Do your job. Do your job. You have had months to bring budgets to this floor. Do your job.

It is that simple. We may disagree on what the outcome looks like, but what we can't accept is the fact that the Congress of the United States fails to do the one thing that it is directed to do under this Constitution. Do your job.

This has gone on far too long. Democrats are ready to sit down and negotiate, to work together to try to come up with solutions to the big problems

we face, but we can't do it all by ourselves. We need a partner. Do your job.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor October as Special Operations Appreciation Month. The significance of October dates back to the roots of the first Special Forces service, aka the Devil's Brigade. This unit, like others—Scouts and Raiders, Rangers, and Naval Demolition Units—is where modern Special Operations Forces draw their roots.

We should also recognize the sacrifices of the families of these warriors. From my own experience, having served 23 years as a Navy SEAL and commander at SEAL Team 6, my wife, Lola, was oftentimes both mom and father. At one time during the war in Iraq, my wife, Lola, was at home with our two young boys while her husband, daughter, and son-in-law were all forward deployed.

Special Operations Appreciation Month is just as much about the heroes at home as it is the heroes abroad. I ask you today to please join me in supporting and recognizing October as Special Operations Appreciation Month. May God bless America and the troops that defend her.

DO THE BUSINESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, from the moment that House Republicans came to power, the majority has failed to do its job. They have consistently abdicated their responsibility to govern. They have consistently taken the American people on reckless legislative joyrides guaranteed to crash and burn. As former New York Knick Michael Ray Richardson once famously observed as his team's season was headed in the wrong direction, this ship be sinking.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans need to end their obsession with the Affordable Care Act, end their obsession with hurting immigrant families, end their obsession with Planned Parenthood. It is time to end sequestration, to fully fund the government, and get back to doing the business of the American people.

OUR NATION'S DEBT IS EATING US ALIVE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's debt is eating us alive, and

without changing our disastrous fiscal course, the CBO warns that our interest costs will exceed our entire defense budget in just 8 years.

For the first time in a decade, this Congress has adopted a budget to restore fiscal solvency. Having set that course, we now must stay that course. That is what the appropriations process is all about.

For months, Senate Democrats have blocked consideration of any of the appropriations bills we have sent them unless we discard the budget and put our country back on the road to bankruptcy.

Today we have reached the fiscal deadline. A temporary funding bill is necessary to keep the government open, and I would support it if the House and Senate leadership announced a timetable to complete our work and pledged to keep to that timetable. Without that announcement, a short-term CR simply continues us on an unsustainable course.

HUNGER TOUCHES EVERY COMMUNITY

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this September Feeding America's national network of food banks and hunger advocates took part in Hunger Action Month, yet here in Congress, as September comes to an end, I am not sure that Hunger Action Month ever began. Nearly 49 million Americans, including over 15 million children, live in food-insecure households. That is shameful.

Hunger touches every community—every community. In my own Florida district in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, about 15 percent of households are food-insecure. That is nearly half a million people who don't know where their next meal will come from.

Thankfully, the generosity of our community and the work of groups like Feeding South Florida help keep hungry families fed, but those with the greatest power to end hunger are right here in the United States Congress. As Pope Francis said to this Chamber just last week: The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts. Let's heed his words.

This week I will introduce the Food Security Improvement Act of 2015, a bill to ensure SNAP benefits reflect the real costs of feeding a family in need. I invite my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation. Let's mark the end of Hunger Action Month by taking action here in this House.

NATIONAL PEDIATRIC BONE CANCER AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Every year countless children are diagnosed with different cancers, altering their lives forever.

Fourteen-year-old Kaitlyn Jankovsky of Corpus Christi was diagnosed last year with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Although her cancer and treatment have been a challenge, Kaitlyn has shown great tenacity in her fight against cancer.

Our country should take inspiration from children like Kaitlyn and thousands of others living with cancer every day. It is why I have introduced H. Res. 102 to designate a day in September as National Pediatric Bone Cancer Awareness Day.

Today we wish Kaitlyn and all the other children living with pediatric cancer well. Treatment and survival rates for pediatric bone cancer have remained virtually unchanged for a quarter of a century. For Kaitlyn and other children, let's start changing that.

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a topic near and dear to my heart: sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell is an inherited blood disease where red blood cells are abnormally shaped, making it hard to deliver oxygen throughout the body, often causing extreme pain, damaging vital organs, and possible stroke.

I have seen these effects firsthand. My sister died from sickle cell just 2 weeks before her 27th birthday. I will never forget the many night trips to the emergency room to get care for her, since we didn't have health insurance.

Back then we didn't know much about sickle cell disease. Today medical treatment and research for sickle cell has evolved. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more people now have health insurance, but we must still support Federal efforts to fund additional research and treatment opportunities.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1807, the Sickle Cell Research Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act, which supports funding for advanced medical treatment and research.

My colleagues, please join me in recognizing September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month by supporting legislation to treat this disease and by keeping our government running so critical sickle cell research and treatment can continue at the National Institutes of Health.

SEQUESTRATION IS HURTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to how sequestration and the current dysfunction in the House is hurting the American people, our infrastructure, our education, our national security, and our veterans. Sequestration has caused a severe slowdown in our job growth in this country, especially as it affects the middle class.

We have seen reduction of job growth resulting in the potential loss of close to 800,000 American jobs. These are jobs my constituents in Baltimore County region desperately need. Just yesterday my staff met with a constituent from Owings Mills, Maryland, who was laid off from a defense contractor due to sequestration cuts.

The current fiscal year 2016 transportation and housing appropriation bill cuts TIGER grants, which are used to fund critical highway, transit, and important investments, by approximately \$400 million. That is less than the fiscal year 2015 level and \$1.2 billion less than the President's request. We need this transportation money for jobs. Our infrastructure is failing.

We cannot stay competitive without investment. Sequestration is not the answer. Continuing resolutions are not the answer. Passing the buck is not the answer. It is time for Congress to stop the nip-and-tuck tactics and make tough decisions about our priorities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.

Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.

Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.

Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.

Sec. 107. Extension of authority for DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

Sec. 108. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense–Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Sec. 109. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.

Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.

Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.

Sec. 303. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.

Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

Sec. 308. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.