

over \$21 trillion, with a T. When we allocate that to each man, woman, and child, it is \$64,600—Mr. Speaker, \$64,600 for every man, woman, and child.

We are this far in debt because of irresponsible governing and a lack of political courage, regardless of which party has been in control in recent years.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its long-term budget outlook last month. It showed that the Federal debt held by the public will approach 100 percent of our gross domestic product within the next 10 years if we keep heading down this path.

Sadly, this Congress has chosen to continue this irresponsible, unsustainable fiscal course. It is irresponsible.

The tax cut legislation that our Republican colleagues rammed through Congress last December is projected to add over \$1.45 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years and \$2.2 trillion to our national debt. Some estimate that it will even be more. This is unsustainable.

That is an additional \$2.2 trillion that our children will have to pay unless we do something different. We cannot ask future generations to carry the weight of our shortsighted decisions and political cowardice. Not only is it unfair, but it is just plain wrong.

Yes, reining in our spending will be hard. It is always hard and difficult to make choices. We will get attacked by other political organizations and interest groups who dislike or disagree with our choices, but that is why we are here.

This happened in 2012, when the House had the opportunity to address the rising debt and deficit and supported a budget resolution by my colleague and good friend Congressman JIM COOPER from Tennessee. The resolution was similar to the recommendations made by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission, and it would have reduced our debt by over \$4 trillion over 10 years. It would just start to bend the curve. I stood with Congressman COOPER and 36 other House Members who supported the resolution, and a lot of groups attacked us.

President Kennedy, many years ago, wrote a book called "Profiles in Courage," in which he wrote of individual Members of Congress who made politically tough choices. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of those political profiles in courage in Congress these days, sadly.

We were sent here to serve the American people, even when faced with difficult choices. We are not sent here to do the easy thing. We are sent here to try to do the right thing and to come together in a bipartisan fashion. That is the only way you are going to get these things done.

We must find the political courage to make the tough choices and create smart and fiscally responsible policies that will have real and lasting effects in reducing our national debt. This will

require, again, that Democrats and Republicans work together, which is, in itself, sadly, too often in rare supply these days.

But if we don't put our partisan bickering and electoral fears aside long enough to do what is right for America, then when will we?

If we don't make decisions now to get the Nation's fiscal House in order, the programs on which Americans rely—important programs that most of us support like Social Security, like Medicare—will be impacted.

Mr. Speaker, on this day in 1974, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act became law. Forty-four years ago, the 93rd Congress came together to pass this law to strengthen our budget authority and to increase the capacity to make informed and independent decisions regarding America's budget to, in essence, put our fiscal house in order.

I stand here today, 44 years later, calling on the 115th Congress to use that information and capacity that we now have to make these difficult choices and have the political courage to put our Nation's fiscal house back on a responsible path. It is what our country needs; it is part of America's future; and, my fellow Americans, it is the right thing to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend J. Josh Smith, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Bogart, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father,

We pray this morning the words of Psalm 67: "God be gracious to us and bless us and cause Your face to shine upon us that Your way may be known on the Earth, Your salvation among all nations."

Father, we humbly acknowledge today how much we need You, how we depend on You for everything.

We acknowledge in desperation how much we need Your grace, wisdom, favor, and blessing.

And although You have already blessed us beyond measure, we unashamedly ask You for more of Your blessing, not for our benefit alone, but that through us and through every decision that is made in this place, all people and all nations might come to

know Your love, grace, kindness, mercy, and salvation.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who died so that those who trust and follow Him might live forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIANFORTE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND J. JOSH SMITH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Reverend Josh Smith as our guest chaplain here at the U.S. House of Representatives, and I greatly appreciate his leading us in prayer this morning. He has been serving in ministry for nearly 20 years.

Josh has faithfully dedicated his life to the Gospel and currently serves as senior pastor of my home church, Prince Avenue Baptist Church in the Athens, Georgia, area.

In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in cross-cultural studies, a master of divinity, and a doctorate of ministry in expository preaching, he has worked to spread God's Word on both a national and international level.

As a pastor myself, it gives me absolute pleasure to recognize Josh for his spiritual leadership and guidance.

I also welcome, today, his wife, Andrea, to the people's House; and we send our best wishes to their five children, Lily, Gracie, Josie, Annalee, and Josiah, back home in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Smith for leading us today and opening this session in prayer. It is my deep privilege to not only be a member of his church, but also be a co-laborer with him for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for his outstanding spiritual leadership to the Athens community and the world abroad.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO). The Chair will entertain up