

Tonko	Wasserman	Wilson (OH)
Towns	Schultz	Wilson (SC)
Tsongas	Waters	Wittman
Turner	Watson	Wolf
Upton	Watt	Woolsey
Van Hollen	Waxman	Wu
Velázquez	Weiner	Yarmuth
Visclosky	Welch	Young (AK)
Walden	Westmoreland	Young (FL)
Walz	Wexler	
Wamp	Whitfield	

## NOT VOTING—16

Boyd	Hall (NY)	Rangel
Campbell	Larson (CT)	Rogers (MI)
Capuano	McCollum	Speier
Davis (IL)	Miller, Gary	Stark
Ehlers	Perriello	
Garrett (NJ)	Putnam	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1512

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on March 4, 2009, I missed two votes, that on H. Res. 195 (rollcall vote No. 95) and H. Res. 45 (rollcall vote No. 96). Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” for both H. Res. 195, Recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe, and H. Res. 45, Raising awareness and promoting education on the criminal justice system by establishing March as “National Criminal Justice Month.”

DESPITE OUR DISAGREEMENTS,  
WE ARE ALL STILL AMERICANS

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, many economic indicators show that our country is in her greatest time of need since the Great Depression, with too many citizens unemployed, losing their homes and their jobs, and they’re looking to us here in Washington for leadership.

I become increasingly alarmed when I hear the voice of divisive mainstream media hosts attempting to inspire others to join them in wishing failure upon our government, our elected President, and our country in crisis. To wish failure on our elected leaders is to wish failure upon our financial markets, our businesses, our workers, and our children.

Ironically, during the debate leading to the Iraq war conflict, many of the same “opinion leaders” suggested that anyone who held a contrary opinion to the President about going to war was somehow uninspired, unpatriotic, and even un-American.

I put my life on the line for this country along with my brothers and sisters in the military so such ill wishers could say whatever they wanted to. The minority’s wishing that President Obama fail is wishing that our Nation fails and inflames and ignites and divides our great Nation.

This is the time for a debate of ideas and solutions. In this great time of need, I reject extremism that divides our country, and we should all embrace a voice that unites us around a common thread: that despite all of our disagreements, we are all still Americans.

□ 1515

## TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. WATSON

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, my district, Gaston County and the City of Gastonia lost a great leader when they lost three-term City Councilman James L. Watson, who passed away this Wednesday.

“Slug” Watson, as he was known, became a great baseball player in youth and was always known as “Slug.” He was a great friend of mine and an early supporter of mine. He was an Army veteran, president of his own small business and a community stalwart. Citizens of West Gastonia had no greater friend and advocate than James Watson.

James was also an active member of his church, where he was a deacon. Upon his election in 2003, his constituents in Ward 6, the only area of Gastonia that overlaps with my congressional district, found themselves also served by a city councilman who had a passion for service and loved helping people. Slug showed us all perseverance. He ran three times for city council and lost, but he was elected three times after that.

James left his native Gastonia to serve our country in the Army and later went on to earn a degree in Small Business from the University of South Carolina.

Upon returning, he embarked on a successful business career with several firms, culminating in the founding of Watco of Gastonia, a parts company of which he was the President and Owner for the past 24 years.

Citizens of West Gastonia had no greater friend or advocate than James Watson. He was a stalwart in the community for decades. He served on the Shiele Museum Board of Trustees, The Gastonia Recreation Advisory Board, was on the first Executive Board of Gastonia Community Watch Association, was past President of the Hunter Huss High School Booster Club, and was a Shriner. He was also an active member of Maranatha Baptist Church where he was a former Deacon.

In politics, I learned a real lesson from James, that of persistence. He ran for City Council three times before he was victorious.

I want to extend my condolences to his wife of nearly 50 years, Carolyn,

and the entire Watson family, as well as the mayor and city council of Gastonia. We have all lost a true statesman and a great leader.

PUTTING THE COUNTRY BACK ON  
TRACK

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, as we start to debate the budget that was submitted last week, I think a lot of Americans all across the country and a lot of people here in this Chamber have some very serious concerns about the direction that this administration seems to be taking us in. This rampant spending and tax increases are dangerous to our country and our economy at a time when we are having trouble and difficulty all across the land.

The last thing we need is a \$1.4 trillion tax increase, over \$600 billion of which would fall on the backs of every small business owner in this country, and over \$600 billion in the form of a carbon tax, a tax on energy, that every consumer in this country would pay in higher utility rates.

This is surely not the time to be raising taxes to the tune of over \$1.4 trillion on the backs of small businesses and families across this country. We need to go in a better direction. We will be proposing that, and hopefully the administration will work with us to put us on a better path to get our country back on track.

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE RED COATS ARE COMING—  
THE RED COATS ARE COMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I should inform you that the Red Coats are coming! The Red Coats are coming! The United States Capitol once again has been invaded by the Red Coats. I am not talking about Prime Minister Gordon Brown who spoke to this assembly this morning. I am not talking about the fact that the British came and burned this building in 1814. No, not at all. But the Nation’s Capitol is simply being taken away from the American people.

The new Capitol Visitors Center, the CVC as they call themselves, opened its