

THE HAMP TERMINATION ACT OF
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 839) to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide new assistance under the Home Affordable Modification Program, while preserving assistance to homeowners who were already extended an offer to participate in the Program, either on a trial or permanent basis:

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Chair, last November, voters sent an unambiguous message in opposition to the surge in government spending.

Today, House Republicans are fighting to provide a surge protector.

In three short months, we have changed the conversation in Washington from increasing spending to cutting spending and by how much. We have made significant strides toward returning spending to more reasonable 2008 levels, and we are taking the scalpel to excessive regulation that is smothering the economy.

By lifting the ominous fiscal cloud that hangs over our businesses and job creators, we are laying the foundation for lasting growth.

Today, through our YouCut program, the American public has put another wasteful spending initiative on the chopping block.

In February 2009, the administration earmarked \$30 billion in TARP money to implement the Home Affordable Modification Program. This effort was intended to fight foreclosure and strengthen the housing market, but to quote the non-partisan Inspector General, it "continues to fall dramatically short of any meaningful standard of success."

HAMP was meant to help 4 million homeowners; yet only 521,630 loans have been modified under the program. To add insult to injury, HAMP suffers from high re-default rates and has left many borrowers worse off.

This legislation would save taxpayers up to \$29 billion by preventing the government from providing any new assistance under HAMP. It is a common sense way to put an end to the culture of waste we have been working to eradicate in Washington. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

A DAY IN HONOR OF ABIODUN OYEWOLE, "FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE LEGENDARY LAST POETS" AND ARCHITECT OF POETS HAVEN—OPEN HOUSE SUNDAYS @ 110 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a day in honor of Abiodun Oyewole, founding member of the legendary Last Poets and architect of Poets Haven—Open House Sundays @ 110 Morningside Drive.

On Sunday, March 27, 2011, Harlem's beloved National Black Theater hosted and joined the community of Black Diasporan Artist and Poets to celebrate and honor the legacy of Abiodun Oyewole and his most prized institution, "Open House Sundays @ 110 Morningside Drive," a true rendition of free art, expression, and family love.

Abiodun Oyewole, a founding member of the legendary and original spoken word group, The Last Poets, has for over 30 years opened his living room every Sunday, feeding his fellow artists food for thought, body and soul. Sunday's participants would gather at Poets Haven to celebrate each other, eat delicious foods, and gravitate to the elders. For many aspiring and renowned artists and poets, this is home, a place where one can help oneself to salmon croquettes, grits and home fries. In his living room you can find griots, storytellers and poets sharing their work with people who have an appreciation for the arts and yearn to be around love and expression of Black Consciousness.

Shortly after the assassination and murder of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with the changing domestic landscape came the New York City-hip group called The Last Poets. They used obstreperous verse to chide a Nation whose inclination was to maintain the colonial yoke around the neck of the disenfranchised. Their name, "The Last Poets," is taken from a poem by the South African revolutionary poet Keorapetse Kgositsile, who posited the necessity of putting aside poetry in the face of looming revolution. "When the moment hatches in time's womb there will be no art talk," he wrote. "The only poem you will hear will be the spearpoint pivoted in the punctured marrow of the villain. . . . Therefore we are the last poets of the world."

So Abiodun Oyewole and founding members Umar Bin Hassan, Jalal Mansur Nuriddin, Felipe Luciano, Gylan Kain, David Nelson and percussionist Nilaja Obabi formed The Last Poets on May 19, 1968, Malcolm X's birthday, at Marcus Garvey Park (formerly Mount Morris Park) in the East Harlem/El Barrio neighborhood part of my Congressional District in New York.

These young radical poets and musicians rose to become the rappers of the civil rights era. During the late 60s and early 70s, Abiodun and members of The Last Poets connected with the violent factions of the SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee), the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society), and the Black Panther party. They went through confrontations with the FBI and police, arrests for robbing the Ku Klux Klan and various other ventures with Revolution in mind. Abiodun Oyewole received a 12- to 20-year jail sentence, but served less than four years.

Post the revolutionary Civil Rights era, Abiodun went into teaching. He was a Columbia University Fellow, where he taught biology, and also spent 15 years with the New York City Board of Education teaching children.

The Last Poets have been cited as one of the earliest influences of what would become hip-hop music and for paving the way for all socially committed Black and diverse emcees. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that today we pay homage to Abiodun Oyewole, Umar Bin Hassan, Felipe Luciano and percussionist Don Babatunde Eaton. Without fame or fortune, they continue to raise the consciousness of

America and influence the world through the spoken word of the "Legendary Last Poets."

HONORING VIETNAM VETERAN
DOCKIE BRENDEL FOR HIS SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE IN THE
VIETNAM WAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Fourth Class Dockie Brendle for his valiant service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

In 1967, Mr. Brendle started his tour of duty as an Armored Track Commander with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Swan Loc, South Vietnam. In 1968, Mr. Brendle was wounded four times. Due to his service and sacrifice Mr. Brendle received various medals and accolades, including a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor, an Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for Valor, four Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge, a President Unit Citation, a Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, a Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and a Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Although he is now a 100 percent disabled veteran, Mr. Brendle is an active part of the Swain County community. He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Smoky Mountain Chapter 994 as well as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Bryson City. He regularly attends events throughout the community. An avid football fan, he can be seen watching many Swain High School football games as a member of the "Fence Walkers."

I am grateful I have selfless, brave, and dedicated veterans like Mr. Brendle in our community. His service to our country is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Specialist Fourth Class Dockie Brendle for his service and sacrifice to our great nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW-
MAN CHAPEL UNITED METH-
ODIST CHURCH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the parishioners of Newman Chapel United Methodist Church of Kendleton, Texas, on the opening of their new multipurpose worship center. The Center opened this past Sunday, March 27th.

Established in approximately 1872, Newman Chapel was the first Methodist Church organized in the Kendleton. Originally, parishioners meet by the San Bernard River under the old oak trees. Services were held at the river until 1874 when the parishioners constructed a log cabin that served as both a place for worship and a school.

Newman Chapel may have come a long way from its roots in a gathering of believers by the San Bernard River, but what has never