

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICA'S DEBT CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, we face a budget crisis in this country.

America is broke. Without bold action, our budget situation will get worse—not better.

We also face a severe economic recession. The current national unemployment rate is 9.0 percent, and it has been as high as 10.1 percent back in April 2009.

With so many Americans out of work, the federal government should be doing everything in its power to encourage economic growth, not discourage it.

Cutting spending is critical to creating a pro-growth environment. Cutting spending is essential to sustained, free-market job creation.

House Republicans are the only group in Washington showing leadership on this issue.

We have voted repeatedly to cut spending in the short term. And we have passed a budget that would reduce spending by \$6.2 trillion over ten years.

By contrast, it has been more than 750 days since Senate Democrats even passed a budget.

Recently, Sen. REID said: "There's no need to have a Democratic budget in my opinion. It would be foolish for us to do a budget at this stage."

That is a breathtaking statement for two reasons.

First, the Senate is required by law under the Congressional Budget Act to pass a budget.

Second, working families across America live within their means everyday by following a family budget. It's simple: they don't spend what they don't have.

So I ask: Why shouldn't Democrats in the Senate live by the same rule?

Now the White House is asking us to raise the debt limit. Secretary Geithner wrote, "Never in our history has Congress failed to increase the debt limit when necessary."

The White House wants a clean increase in the debt limit. That means they want Congress to approve more debt without cutting back on any spending.

That is a failed policy. The vote we took tonight is a clear indicator that House Republicans reject that approach.

Our message is clear: We will not vote to raise the debt limit without significant reforms that change the culture of spending in Washington.

The American people already owe more than \$14 trillion in debt. Much of it is owed to foreign nations, some of whom are hostile to American interests.

Allowing the government to take on more debt without cutting back on spending is simply irresponsible. Doing so would continue to erode America's financial strength and threat-

en the prosperity for future generations of Americans.

Raising the debt ceiling without spending cuts—akin to simply printing more money—would likely cause the value of the dollar to plunge and the cost of imports, especially gas and oil, to increase.

This would result in a significant increase to the cost of running a household or a business. The volatility and uncertainty would cause businesses to delay investing, growing, and creating new jobs.

The statutory debt limit was intended as a check on government spending. But what good is a debt limit that is always increased?

Instead of addressing the root cause of the growing debt, past Congresses have raised the limit ten times in the last ten years.

I, like many of my colleagues, were sent to Congress to put an end to that.

Our vote tonight is a tangible sign of the commitment we made to our constituents.

But the truth is that Democrats spent this money. They made this mess. They should help clean it up.

If the White House wants us to consider raising the debt limit, they should be at the table proposing significant reforms that yield trillions—not billions—in savings to the American people.

So far, that hasn't happened.

Tomorrow, the President has invited House Republicans to the White House to discuss the debt ceiling.

His request for a clean increase in the debt limit was rejected tonight. I hope that tomorrow President Obama will offer serious proposals to cure Washington's addiction to spending.

No lip service.

No gimmicks.

No smoke and mirrors.

The American people don't want more political posturing. They want transformational reform. They want commonsense leadership. They want discipline and fiscal responsibility.

I hope that is what the President proposes tomorrow. I look forward to evaluating his ideas.

MEMORIAL DAY 2011 SPEECH BY ASHLEY SZATALA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in the RECORD the Memorial Day address offered by a rising star in our district in Ohio. Ashley Szatala, a student at Sandusky St. Mary's High School, presented her remarks during the Memorial Day 2011 opening ceremony in Sandusky. The following is Ashley's Memorial Day 2011 speech and the ceremony program.

Over the last few weeks, hundreds of volunteers have placed flags at the graves of our

Nation's soldiers. Many local communities lined their streets with flags in honor of Memorial Day. Hundreds of you this morning gathered at the roadside waving a small American Flag as parade participants passed by. The flag goes wherever our leaders go. It has gone before soldiers in battles and is draped atop the casket of fallen heroes. For over 200 years the American flag has been the symbol of our Nation's strength and our unity. The Stars and Stripes—as we affectionately refer to it—stands for the ideals we hold true—liberty, equality, and freedom. Its history tells the story of perseverance by our Nation's veterans as they fought in defense of our liberty.

The most poignant moment in our Nation's history was made on January 1, 1776. Before laying siege against the British army, General of the Continental Army, George Washington, commanded that the Grand Union Flag be raised. Since that historic raising of our Nation's flag it has been a constant companion to our troops in times of war and peace. On June 14, 1777, the U.S. Congress proposed the "Flag Act," which introduced the American Flag as a prominent symbol of our nation. The original flag was decorated with 13 red and white stripes, and adorned with 13 stars amidst a blue background at the top left corner of our flag. The number 13 represented the 13 original colonies. After a series of changes from 1777–1960 to the original design, the final look of the American flag consisted of 13 alternating red and white stripes, and 50 white stars surrounded by a blue background. The 50 stars represented the 50 United States.

Since its inception, the American flag inspired Francis Scott Key to compose our Nation's anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. Like many other American citizens of the day, Key worried that the American flag would not be flying over Fort McHenry during a battle in the war of 1812. Overcome with joy to see the flag of new America, he wrote the song that we hold dear to our hearts today. Since then, the American Flag has journeyed to foreign lands during the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. It has stood as a beacon of light as our brave men and women fought against oppression and tyranny. Today, the American Flag is one of the most revered and respected symbols in America. However, it is not just a piece of cloth, but a symbol of liberty and freedom. In fact, its colors of red, white, and blue have rich symbolism.

A review of that rich symbolism will help you understand why it is only fitting that an American flag stands beside each grave of our fallen heroes. The color red stands for the hardiness and valor. Our servicemen and women are hardy. They are strong in the face of danger. Their collective strength is not measured by how much muscle they have, but by how strong and resilient their heart is. They demonstrate valor as they defend liberty, justice, and freedom against the enemy. They demonstrate personal bravery and courage far beyond what the rest of us will ever be called upon to exhibit.

White in the American flag refers to purity. Our great country remains pure in its ideals. Those ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and freedom have held strong through the years and never wavered. Our veterans and active servicemen and women have rallied around these ideals and have fought and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

sacrificed everything for the sake of these ideals. These ideals continue to be gifted to every American citizen. Their sacrifice gave us all these gifts so today we owe them our sincere gratitude for their service.

Last, the color blue symbolizes vigilance, perseverance, and justice. Vigilance is an enduring quality of our military men and women, and our veterans. Throughout the world, they have remained vigilant in their service of protecting the liberty and freedom of American citizens. Perseverance means one never gives up. How true of our service men and women. Despite the terrible conditions of war, they never gave up on the ideals for which they were fighting for. They fought to keep America free and safe for generations of American citizens. Without their vigilance and perseverance, America would not be the great country it is today. Each day, school children recite the words, "With liberty and justice for all," when they say the Pledge of Allegiance. What this means is that America upholds the ideals of pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. Anything that threatens these ideals is perceived as a threat to justice. It's not us, the average citizen, who eliminates the threat, but our country's service men, women, and veterans who stand up and fight for justice for all.

So hold high the flag and its colors. Her story is one of freedom. Through the years, our military has rallied around her and fought and sacrificed so much. They have fought to keep us free. The flag unites us all under her majestic colors.

So, as we are gathered here today, take a look around you. The flowers that decorate the grave sites will one day wither and die. The engraving on the headstones will eventually fade. The sound of Taps will linger silently through these trees. But the one thing that will forever remain, year after year, is the American flag, waving valiantly over the graves of our fallen heroes. Thank you.

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30, 2011, 9:00 A.M., OHIO
VETERANS HOME

THE OHIO VETERANS HOME AND THE SANDUSKY
MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY—OHIO VETERANS
HOME

Mistress of Ceremonies: Linda L. Johnston,
OVH Volunteer Coordinator

Invocation: Rev. Paul Birmingham, OVH
Chaplain

Star Spangled Banner: Combined Bands
Presentation of Grand Marshals: Steve
Matune, OVH Deputy Superintendent

General Order #11: Matthew Burr, Civil
War Union Soldier re-enactor

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: Jaz Bluhm,
Howard N. Kautz (WWII Paratrooper, 17th Air
Division) Family Scholarship Award Recipient

Placing of Tributes: Veterans Organiza-
tions

Armed Forces Medley: Combined Bands
Student Speaker: Ashley Szatala, St.
Mary's Central Catholic High School
America the Beautiful: Combined Bands
Benediction: Fr. Edward M. Czech, OVH
Catholic Chaplain

Salute to the Dead: OVH Rifle Squad, Com-
manded by Arthur Weisz

Taps: Christa Widman & Victoria Downey,
St. Mary's Central Catholic High School

Combined Bands under the direction of
Brian Panetta, St. Mary's Central Catholic
High School

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS

Ohio State Highway Patrol; Erie County
Sheriff; AMVETS Riders; OVH Police De-
partment; St. Mary's Central Catholic Band;
AMVETS Post 17 Color Guard; Grand Mar-
shal Eugene Fitzthum; Grand Marshal Paul
Mettert; Grand Marshal Fred Ferdindansen;

Grand Marshal Jack Ferdindansen; Grand
Marshal Ruth Singler; Grand Marshal Linda
Johnston; AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary; Sons
of AMVETS; OVH Road Soldiers Cycling
Club; OVH Senior King & Queen; Erie County
Veterans Service Office; Boy Scouts of
America; Local 744 Carpenters Union; Erie
County Relay for Life; Salvation Army;
United States Border Patrol; Marines For-
ever; Disabled American Veterans Chapter
16; Catholic War Veterans Post 1905; San-
dusky Transit System; United Indians of
Ohio; Don Likes 1955 Truck; St. Stephens
UCC & Kiddie College; Firelands Habitat for
Humanity; Kids Care Clubs of the Volunteer
Center; DAR Martha Pitkin Chapter; Erie
Metro Parks; Girl Scouts of NE Ohio; Erie
County Jr. Fair Royalty; Tom's Cruz Lim-
ousine Service; Erie Co. Firefighters Assn.;
Perkins Fire Dept.; Perkins Police Depart-
ment; Perkins High School Band; Veterans
of Foreign Wars; VFW Auxiliary; Dads of
VFW; VFW Youth Baseball League; Lake
Shore Corvettes; Knights of Columbus;
Firelands Patriots; Big Brothers-Big Sisters
of Erie-Seneca Counties; Double S Indus-
tries; YMCA Twirling Amp'd; Sandusky Fire
Dept.; Sandusky Police Department; San-
dusky High School Band; American Legion
Color Guard; American Legion Riders; King
Baer Productions 1929 truck; Elks Lodge 285;
in memory of Bernie Wilson 1978 F150;
Calvery Baptist Church Kidettes Baton
Corps; Friends of Pipe Creek Watershed; Vol-
unteers of America; Freedom Institute; John
Snoble 1957 Pontiac; Randy's Balloons;
Kandi-Land Stables.

Thousands of men and women have died so
you can attend this event as a free person in
a free land.

As our American Flag passes in review, or
is presented, our veterans ask you to please
honor those veterans who have given their
lives by showing respect for the flag in the
following manner:

Cover your heart with your right hand. If
you are wearing a hat or cap, with your right
hand, place it at your left shoulder with your
right hand covering your heart.

A Special Thank you to the Exchange Club
of Sandusky for their years of support and
dedication. Each year they distribute the
American Flags to parade viewers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to a family
emergency, I was unable to participate in the
following votes. If I had been present, I would
have voted as follows:

May 26, 2011

Rollcall vote 375, on passage—H.R. 1540,
to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012
for military activities of the Department of De-
fense and for military construction, to pre-
scribe military personnel strengths for fiscal
year 2012, and for other purposes—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 376, On Motion to Concur in
the Senate Amendment to the House Amend-
ment—S. 990, Small Business Additional
Temporary Extension Act of 2011—I would
have voted aye.

May 31, 2011

Rollcall vote 377, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 1484,
Veterans Appeal Improvement Act—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 378, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass—S. 1082, Small Business Ad-
ditional Temporary Extension Act—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 379, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass—H.R. 1954, To Implement
the President's request to increase the statu-
tory limit on the public debt—I would have
voted nay.

June 1, 2011

Rollcall vote 380, On Consideration of the
Resolution—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security for
the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012,
and for other purposes—I would have voted
aye.

Rollcall vote 381, On Ordering the Previous
Question—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security for
the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012,
and for other purposes—I would have voted
aye.

Rollcall vote 382, On Agreeing to the Reso-
lution—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security for
the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012,
and for other purposes—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 383, On Motion to Suspend the
Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 802, To
direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to es-
tablish a VetStar Award Program—I would
have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 384, On Agreeing to the Reso-
lution—H. Res. 287, Providing for consid-
eration of H.R. 2017, making appropriations
for the Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 385, On Agreeing to the
Cicilline of Rhode Island Amendment—H.R.
2017, Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted nay.

Rollcall vote 386, On Agreeing to the Royce
of California Amendment—H.R. 2017, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 387, On Agreeing to the Poe of
Texas Amendment No. 8—H.R. 2017, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 388, On Agreeing to the
Cuellar of Texas Amendment—H.R. 2017, De-
partment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted nay.

June 2, 2011

Rollcall vote 389, On Agreeing to the Clarke
of Michigan Amendment—H.R. 2017, Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 390, On Agreeing to the Ses-
sions of Texas Amendment—H.R. 2017, De-
partment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 391, On Agreeing to the
Lummis of Wyoming Amendment—H.R. 2017,
Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 392, On Agreeing to the Carter
of Texas Amendment No. 1—H.R. 2017, De-
partment of Homeland Security Appropriations
Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 393, On Agreeing to the Price
of North Carolina Amendment—H.R. 2017,
Department of Homeland Security Appropria-
tions Act, 2012—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 394, On Agreeing to the Sher-
man of California Amendment—H.R. 2017,