

recognize the crew of the Amtrak Downeaster who quickly guided 112 passengers to safety after the train was involved in an accident this week in Maine. With the engine engulfed in flames, two conductors and one engineer reacted calmly and professionally to evacuate the train. Although the tragedy sadly took the life of a truck driver whose vehicle was on the tracks, no one in the train was seriously injured.

This accident could have been much, much worse, and in part we have the crew of the Downeaster to thank that all of these passengers escaped without a serious injury.

Over the last 10 years, the Downeaster has made 30,000 trips between Portland and Boston and transported 3½ million passengers without a serious incident. And the next morning, the train left Portland on schedule and arrived in Boston 3 minutes early.

We should all take a minute today to think about the men and women who work in our transportation system, who day in and day out make sure we are safe, whether we are driving in our own cars or riding on a bus, plane, train, or, like my hometown, a ferry.

□ 1220

IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO DELIVER

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, our economy has seen better days. Our national unemployment rate is over 9 percent, and America is borrowing \$188 million every hour. We need to get serious about cutting spending and growing this economy.

We can start by enacting free trade agreements. That will create over 250,000 American jobs. Reforming the Tax Code will encourage companies to create jobs and stay in America, cutting frivolous lawsuits and scaling back needless regulation to give small business owners a chance to grow and succeed.

Finally, we must reduce the debt and balance the budget. The American people don't want more rhetoric; they want results. It is time for Congress to deliver.

DEBT CEILING MUST BE RAISED

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I have never been more concerned about our Nation's economic security and future. Just this week, Moody's warned that the U.S. may lose our top-notch AAA credit rating if we fail to increase our Nation's debt ceiling. Economists say that if we fail to do so, it will put not only our national capital markets in turmoil, but the capital markets internationally in turmoil. It will hurt

American wages and jobs. The stock market will tank.

A letter signed by hundreds of senior company executives and organizations agrees. It said, and I quote: "Treasury securities influence the cost of financing not just for companies, but more importantly for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards, and student debt."

And yet some Members of this body have said that under no circumstance whatsoever will they ever vote to raise the Nation's debt ceiling. However heartfelt this may be, it is nothing short of a threat to commit economic suicide.

WASHINGTON'S IRRESPONSIBLE AND RECKLESS SPENDING

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

Mr. HURT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to address the urgent need to rein in the out-of-control government spending that has led this Nation to a dire debt crisis that is hindering job creation and threatens the very future of our country.

The people of Virginia's Fifth Congressional District understand the importance of this issue. I continually hear from my constituents—Republicans, Democrats, and independents—who say if we are serious about turning this economy around and preserving this country for our children and grandchildren, we must put an immediate end to Washington's irresponsible and reckless spending.

Our Nation is now facing a \$14 trillion debt and \$1.5 trillion deficit. We are borrowing over \$4 billion a day, and over 40 cents on every dollar we spend.

As the President continues to request an increase in the debt limit, while remaining steadfast in his call for hundreds of billions of job-crushing tax hikes, we are reminded of the need to put in place both short- and long-term fixes that will help restore fiscal discipline in our Nation's Capital once and for all. We need to make significant and immediate cuts to reduce our debt and deficit now. We need to put in place spending caps that limit spending as a percentage of GDP, and we need to pass a balanced budget amendment to force the government to live within its means.

HARDER YET MAY BE THE FIGHT

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, C.A. Tindley was right when he proclaimed, "Harder yet may be the fight."

When they tried to privatize Social Security, we fought and held them back. We fought the good fight. When they tried to minimize the CHIP program, Children's Health Insurance Program, we fought the good fight and we held them back. When they tried to de-

stabilize Medicaid, we fought the good fight and we held them back.

They are now trying to minimize and voucherize Medicare. We will fight the good fight. We will hold them back because C.A. Tindley is right:

"Harder yet may be the fight;
right may often yield to might;
wickedness a while may reign;
Satan's cause may seem to gain.
But there's a God that rules above,
with hand of power and heart of love."

When we're right, He'll help us fight. Harder yet may be the fight, but we will hold them back.

COMMENDING BECK PRIDE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to bring attention to an amazing program that exists to repay our returning war veterans by helping them to readjust to life as a civilian.

The Beck PRIDE Program is an outreach of Arkansas State University that helps young, combat-wounded veterans achieve their higher education and other post-military goals. Beck PRIDE provides free mental and physical rehabilitation services, as well as academic counseling and financial aid. Both veterans and their families are referred to organizations throughout Jonesboro that give them the help they need during this critical time of adjustment.

The Beck PRIDE Program is nationally recognized for its success in improving the quality of life of returning military personnel and reintegrating them into the community.

In light of the great sacrifices that these veterans make for our country, it is only right to help them readjust to the way of life they served to protect. I am honored such a program exists in my district.

JOB CREATION

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, Americans are losing faith in our ability to get things done on their behalf. Today, that means addressing two problems at once: our long-term deficit and our unemployment crisis. The truth is these are two challenges, and these two challenges are two sides of the very same coin. So when Republicans say raising government revenue is off the table, I suppose that is why for months they refused to embrace one of the very best revenue raisers there is: job creation.

Our deficit exploded when 8 million Americans lost their jobs in 2008. With 14 million jobless today, no debt deal of any size will work without a focus on jobs. Investing now in infrastructure,