

that back in the 1990s. We haven't done it since.

There's plenty of ways to get the funds to try to balance the budget. But the most important way to balance the budget is to help Americans get back to work. Then Congress must not forget the places in our budget where the American people are being gouged because some very powerful companies aren't doing their fair share to help our Nation recover. Proper management of the Federal pursestrings in long overdue.

REMEMBERING LANCE CORPORAL
ROBERT S. GRENIGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House to honor and remember an American hero, Marine Lance Corporal Robert S. Greniger of Greenfield, Minnesota, who died last week after an IED attack in Afghanistan in Helmand province.

As we grieve the loss of one of our finest citizens who loved being a marine and share our grief with his widow, Ashley, and his family, we really marvel that such heroes have been able to live among us. He gave up everything to protect his neighbors and extend the blessings of freedom to millions who have never known it. He was proud of his country and of the marines that he served with.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Lance Corporal Greniger, we need to regularly thank our servicemen and -women and pray for their safe return each and every day.

We honor the service and the memory of Lance Corporal Greniger and commit ourselves to follow his example of patriotic duty, honor, and sacrifice in our daily walk as Americans.

Semper Fi, Lance Corporal.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
RUSSELL JEREMIAH PROCTOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, a roadside bomb in Julula, Iraq, claimed the life of a young man from Oroville, California. He was Army Staff Sergeant Russell Jeremiah Proctor, age 25, on his third tour of combat duty.

He was laid to rest last week in solemn ceremonies in California. Sergeant Proctor leaves behind a grieving widow, a devastated family, and a 9-month-old son who will know his father only by reputation. And it is reputation I want to speak of today.

I never met Sergeant Proctor. I too know him only by reputation. It is a reputation commemorated by, among other decorations, two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achieve-

ment Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, two Overseas Service Ribbons, a Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

It's a reputation memorialized by those who knew him best, the men he served with. "He was a leader among leaders," said one. "His drive to be the best motivated all of us to reach our potential." Another said, "He led from the front. He inspired everyone around him to better themselves."

Perhaps the most poignant was this simple post on a local newspaper site: "My son was killed with Sergeant Proctor. Private First Class Dylan Johnson and the rest of the soldiers in the unit all looked up to Russell for leadership and guidance. They are both heroes to me as well." It's signed, "A grieving dad."

I had the honor to speak last week with Sergeant Proctor's widow, Soila. She's also active duty Army. They met while serving at Fort Hood. She was deployed at the same Forward Operating Base as Russell. They were billeted together. She was nearby when he was killed.

I cannot begin to imagine the hell that she has been through. And yet, having endured all this, she plans to continue her service to our country in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Speaker, James Michener's question thunders down upon us at times like these: Where do we get such people?

As I talked with Soila last Monday, I was struck by the transcendent nobility that accompanies her grief.

Perhaps a more pertinent question is: What would our country do without such people as Sergeant Proctor, or the nine generations of Americans who have preceded him in the defense of our Nation?

General Patton was right when he observed: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today for exactly that purpose, to thank God that Russell Proctor lived and to pray that his infant son, Ezekiel, grows up in a Nation made safer by his sacrifice, and a Nation that will never forget not only what we owe to those who Lincoln called "the loved and lost," but what we owe to the families who so personally bear that loss.

□ 1030

A chaplain who brought the dreaded news to the family wrote a commentary over the 4th of July weekend, a weekend filled with barbecues and picnics and fireworks, in which he noted the grief of this family amidst all of the frivolity around them. And he noted that at the age of 25, Russell Proctor will never again celebrate a birthday, take his son fishing, or hug his wife.

Sergeant Russell Proctor and all those who preceded him since the first shots on Lexington Green believed enough in our country and what it stands for to sacrifice all of those precious years of love and life and joy so that we, their fellow Americans, could enjoy those same blessings of liberty and safety and security, including a baby boy named Ezekiel, whose dad won't be there to take him fishing or hug him or celebrate birthdays with him.

Ezekiel, if you should someday stumble upon these words, I hope you will know that, like you, many of us knew your dad only by reputation, and we stood in awe of him.

HELP AMERICANS REDUCE DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I'm asking this House and this Congress to cut the debt that's truly crushing the American people right now, the debt that Americans and American families have to pay month after month, year after year, without any help from anyone else. It's a direct burden on our people.

And I'm not talking about the Federal debt. I'm talking about the debt that Americans must pay on their mortgages and on their student loans. So today I'm offering a resolution to strongly urge this body, that as we work to prevent the government from defaulting on its obligations, that we do the same thing to help the American people, that with equal intensity and drive and commitment, we work to help Americans free themselves of debt.

Now, if we help the American people reduce their debt burden, that's going to help our families to be more financially secure. Now, yes, jobs are important. I represent metro Detroit, a region that has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. But you know what? I know folks that are working, they have jobs, but they don't have any money because all of their income is going to pay off creditors. That's outrageous.

A couple of days ago, I made a big issue to the American people about not borrowing and handling their money responsibly. The reason why I said that is because many of us think that being in debt is the American way. It's not. This country was founded on the principles based on the Declaration of Independence, that we all have a God-given right to life, to liberty, to the pursuit of happiness. But who can be free when drowning in debt?

So I'm urging this Congress, cut the mortgages, forgive the student loans. That will help American families be secure. But also this: by reducing that debt burden that Americans have to directly pay, that will create more jobs because that will free up money that Americans are earning for themselves.

So instead of spending it on creditors, they can save that money, they can invest it, they can spend it responsibly on businesses, who in turn will hire more people. That's how you create jobs in a sustainable way. It's by helping Americans get out of debt.

Yes, Americans have a responsibility to manage their own finances, but likewise Congress has the duty to help Americans get out of the debt that this body, over the years, helped put people into debt by changing the laws, by allowing lenders to loan money under imprudent terms and target certain people with the sole objective to put the American public into debt, into a debt that they can't repay or would take them a lifetime to free themselves of. We have that responsibility and that obligation.

I'm going to close because the underlying point I'm trying to make is this: yes, the Federal Government is important; how the Federal Government manages its money is important. This debt, it's critical that we manage it properly. We have to avoid default because if this government goes into default, everyone's interest rates on their loans are going to go up. That could force people into bankruptcy, force folks into foreclosure, and ruin property values for everyone else. Just so you know, property values have been ruined because of foreclosure. So if we help homeowners stay in their homes by modifying their loans, that's going to save the property values of other homeowners who never missed a payment, because you are the same homeowners right now that can't sell your home to pay off your mortgage.

You can't retire. You are depending on selling your home to pay off your mortgage, but you can't do it because your other neighbors are so under water they had to walk away from their homes or had to be evicted because of foreclosure. So by helping families reduce their debt, that helps all of us in America and it helps our American economy.

You see, this country is a great country. Our economy has been a strong one, not necessarily because of government, but because of the American people. So you know what, folks? If we want this economy to rebound, let's make sure that Americans are financially secure. And one of the most effective ways to do that is to free Americans from mortgage and student loan debt.

HONORING SHERIFF JAMES "DEE" STEWART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, as an elected Member of Congress, I have the honor to serve and represent the people of the Third District of Georgia through my voting record and through participation in the law-making process.

Georgia's Spalding County sheriff, James "Dee" Stewart, represented his community through selfless service to his county, his deputies, and the thousands of citizens who elected him to four terms to be their protector.

I come before the House today with a heavy heart to honor the nearly 40 years of law enforcement service that was brought to a premature end on July 3, when Sheriff Stewart was killed in an automobile accident while on his daily patrol.

I hope that one day my staff and my friends will talk about me the same way Dee Stewart's coworkers and friends did at his funeral. He was the kind of man who always led from the front. Even though he was the head of the department, it would often be his voice that came across the radio responding to calls no matter what time of day or night. He would rather put his life on the line than let anyone else cover for him.

A man who valued his duty more than his sleep, Sheriff Stewart readily gave his personal cell number to anyone and made sure that everyone knew that he was available to them 24/7. That set him apart and contributed to his reputation as a man who really cared about the people of Spalding County.

Chief Deputy Major Teresa Bishop called Sheriff Stewart the "greatest boss ever" after 29 years of working together. He trusted his deputies to do their job and expected them to hold him accountable too. His humor made his employees look forward to each work day, but he took his responsibility very seriously, especially when it came to the safety of children and the elderly.

Sheriff Stewart is remembered as having a huge heart, a heart as big as Spalding County. In a testament to the number of lives touched by Sheriff Stewart's service, his funeral procession took nearly 20 minutes to pass by.

I stand here on behalf of his wife, Janice; his children, Jay, Hope, Joey and Darren; his 11 grandchildren; and everyone who knew James "Dee" Stewart as more than just a sheriff, but as a preacher, a marriage counselor, a friend, a father, and a husband.

The Bible says: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Sheriff Stewart embodied that verse.

Thank you for your service, Sheriff. The people of Spalding County lost a great man on July 3, but your memory will live on. Many others will be inspired by your example to live justly and with kindness. You will be missed. See you later, Dee.

□ 1040

THE COST OF FAILURE EXCEEDS THE PRICE OF PROGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of this House, I am pleased to rise with my colleague and dear friend BARBARA LEE to focus on an issue that all too frequently is ignored. I rise to speak as we are engaged in an extraordinarily important discussion, debate, and responsibility. That responsibility is to ensure that America pays its bills; that America's creditworthiness is not put at risk; and that an America which has incurred obligations meets those obligations to individuals and to others, as we have made policies that have cost money and it is now necessary for us to pay the bills that we have already incurred.

But as we engage in that debate and discussion, we must remember that there is in our country one child out of every five who is living in poverty, who is worried about proper food, proper housing, proper medical care. Children who are, in fact, at risk. We now in America, the richest nation on the face of the Earth, have the largest number of people living in poverty that we have had in over seven decades.

And so as we engage in this debate, it is important that we take this time to focus on those who all too often are invisible, who all too often are not the center of our discussion, who all too often are perceived to simply be those who will not matter at the voting booth.

Each of us in this House has a compass formed in many respects by our faith. My faith teaches me I have a responsibility to my God to reach out to the least among us to lift them up, to care for them, to clothe them, to feed them, to house them, to make sure that as a part of our American family, they are not forgotten. They are not by negligence driven more deeply into despair, unhealth, sickness, and a negative lifestyle which costs us all and costs those individuals.

I come from the State of Maryland, and I want to quote somebody you would think it may be unusual for me to quote, but I was elected to the State senate in 1966. Ted Agnew was elected Governor of our State in 1966, and he was inaugurated 2 weeks after I was sworn in as a member of the State senate at the age of 27. In his inaugural address he said: The cost of failure far exceeds the price of progress. What he meant by that, the failure to invest in the welfare of our people, as well as our infrastructure and the creation of jobs and the expansion of opportunity for our people, the failure to make those investments would in the long run cost us far more than the investments would cost us in the short run.

My colleagues, I suggest to you that our failure to invest in the welfare of all of our citizens will cost us far greater sums in the long run for the failure to invest in the short run.

And so I congratulate BARBARA LEE from California for making sure that the least of us are not forgotten in this very important debate.

Do we need to bring down spending? We do. But one of the interesting facets