

human moments in the booth, including a burning hairpiece.

But for many years on the field, people didn't know that while racking up 342 home runs and hitting more than 1,300 RBIs, Ronnie was struggling with diabetes. That's because Ronnie accomplished all of this from the roster, not the disabled list, despite his physical struggles.

Ronnie wanted to be a great player, not a great player "under the circumstances." He fought hard on the field for his team, and courageously in private for his health. He raised \$60 million and a lot of hope for juvenile diabetes research and inspired many to persevere against the odds.

Ronnie died too soon, exactly 1 year ago this week. I wish he had lived to see this, but I know that he and Harry are sharing an Old Style together and toasting to their favorite team. Here's to number 10, Ron Santo. Go Cubs.

ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
CODY R. NORRIS

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Private First Class Cody R. Norris, who was killed on November 9 during combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Cody was a proud Bulldog, a 2010 graduate of La Porte High School in La Porte, Texas. He was in Junior ROTC, a member of the Color Guard and the Rifle Team. He was also a member of the Military Museum.

Cody deployed to Afghanistan while he was assigned to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division—the Army's oldest division, the "Big Red One"—in Fort Riley, Kansas.

He was a typical American teenager. He enjoyed working on his 1952 M37 Army truck that he drove to and from school. He was a Texan who enjoyed paintball, deer hunting, playing video games, and yes, hibachi food.

Cody's lifelong dream was to join the Army. His time in Junior ROTC in high school motivated him to enlist in the Army to serve his country.

He always put others before himself and did so with a smile on his face and a kind word for those around him. He had a gift for winning people over with his caring personality and always managed to cheer up those around him.

Cody's mother said that he lived life on his terms and always did what he believed was right, regardless of trends or what other people thought. He was well liked by his platoon mates and gained the admiration of others by constantly carrying more than his fair share. According to his brother Michael, now a cadet at West Point, in Cody's last battle, when his platoon was attacked, he was carrying extra ammunition. When he was killed, that extra ammunition ultimately helped save his fellow soldiers, his friends.

I never had the honor to know Cody Norris personally, but I stand here today humbled by the fact that he and the hundreds of thousands of American troops serving in our Armed Forces are willing to sacrifice so much so that we may sleep peacefully under the blanket of freedom that they provide.

As a former naval aviator, I know all too well the sacrifices families make to support their loved ones who serve in harm's way. Cody Norris and his family, and the thousands of other families who have lost loved ones in the defense of our country, have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. For them, in many ways, the war never ends.

America can never repay the debt we owe to Cody Norris and his family, but we can honor his family and his eternal contributions to our liberty. Madam Speaker, Cody Norris is a true American hero, and a grateful Nation says thank you.

□ 1030

EXTEND THE PAYROLL TAX CUT,
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
AND DOMESTIC RENEWABLE EN-
ERGY TAX INCENTIVES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, all of us join with our colleague in honoring that fallen hero.

Madam Speaker, Congress must act now to extend the payroll tax cut, unemployment insurance, and domestic renewable energy tax incentives. The effects of the Great Recession continue to linger in this economy, which is why a more robust recovery has not yet taken root.

Our efforts in the last Congress, through the Recovery Act and the Job Creation Act at the end of last year, provided what momentum we actually have. The official unemployment rate has now fallen to 8.6 percent as a result of 120,000 new jobs created just last month. That's the lowest level in more than 2 years and marks 21 consecutive months of private sector job growth. But these gains will be at risk if Congress fails to extend the payroll tax cuts, domestic clean energy incentives, and unemployment benefits before the end of this year.

The payroll tax cut provides the average American worker \$1,000 to spend or invest every year, having a positive impact throughout the economy. Economic analysts at Barclays estimate that the payroll tax cut alone will add another 1 percent to gross domestic product growth, \$250 billion in economic activity throughout the United States. Conversely, if we fail to extend that payroll tax cut, 160 million Americans will be facing a tax increase in January.

Similarly, 1.3 million Americans who are trying to get back into the workforce will see their unemployment benefits cut unless we renew them. Ac-

ording to the Congressional Budget Office and Senator JOHN MCCAIN's economic adviser, Mark Zandi, unemployment insurance is one of the most effective forms of economic stimulus, generating \$1.64 for every \$1 we invest in unemployment insurance. Failure to extend unemployment benefits will reduce the gross domestic product by nearly 1 percent and, by reducing economic activity, could put as many as 1 million Americans out of work at a time when we're trying to expand the economy.

With respect to domestic clean energy production, renewing these incentives will sustain one of the few private sector success stories we've witnessed during the Great Recession. Since 2007, the number of jobs in the American wind industry has grown 70 percent. So today there are as many wind energy jobs as there are in the coal industry. The number of solar industry jobs doubled since 2007 to more than 100,000 Americans. This surge in domestic clean energy employment is a direct result of the 1603 Treasury Grant Program to support clean energy activity.

Madam Speaker, as we continue to debate these expiring tax and benefit provisions, I'd caution my colleagues against holding them hostage to advance some extreme ideological agenda. Last week, the Senate minority leader brought legislation to the floor which would have slashed Federal employee wages and benefits while arbitrarily downsizing the Federal workforce.

As the Bureau of Labor Statistics noted, public sector employment continues to shrink by tens of thousands of jobs. A job is a job, whether it's in the public sector or the private sector. One is not better than the other.

If Republicans had not been successful in cutting 535,000 public sector jobs in this country, unemployment would actually be 0.35 percent lower. It would be down to 8.25 percent today, not 8.6. Cutting Federal employee pay and slashing the workforce would actually undermine the economic benefits of the payroll tax extension and the economic benefits we've all worked so hard to create.

Similarly, we should reject attempts to tie these economic recovery actions with partisan proposals to gut the Clean Air Act. Republicans in the House already have tried to pass 172 viciously anti-environmental bills, riders, and amendment in this body this year alone. Now, some in the Republican Caucus have suggested pairing the Clean Air Act repeals with an extension of the payroll tax cut, a Faustian bargain at best, Madam Speaker.

Repealing these Clean Air Act standards for industrial boilers, for example, would cost the U.S. economy \$21 billion to \$52 billion per year in higher health care costs, real costs to the economy.

Not surprisingly, some even have proposed expediting approval of the Keystone XL pipeline in exchange for the payroll tax extension. Again, we already have pipelines from Canadian tar