

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RE-
LATING TO DEBT LIMIT IN-
CREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 98 because it is an empty gesture designed to waste time and provide a stage for political posturing.

One hundred and seventy four House Republicans voted for the Budget Control Act in August which raised the federal debt limit and allowed the country to make good on the promises it made to the American people.

Under the Budget Control Act, the debt limit increase that the President is requesting is automatically matched, dollar-for-dollar, by drastic spending cuts that target the poorest among us. Those cuts would hurt the people I represent in California's 37th District, and so I voted against it.

Despite strong opposition from both sides, the Budget Control Act was passed, with a number of useless and unfair provisions, including this disapproval resolution, which lets House Republicans who voted for it in August turn around and withdraw their support.

In this way, they can stand here today and make the same irresponsible arguments that they made last summer. Instead of working together to implement the American Jobs Act which would help create jobs and improve economic growth, they have chosen to squabble over the ability of the President of the United States to do his job.

As ridiculous as it sounds, this is the trick that House Republicans are trying to play. It is entirely symbolic, of course, because if this resolution were to become law, it would result in the first default in U.S. history. A vote for this resolution is a vote against the full faith and credit of the United States and a slap in the face to its citizens.

This kind of behavior is the main reason that Congress has lost the trust of the American people. It creates tremendous uncertainty within the business community and impedes economic growth. It also provides a terrible example to the rest of the world that should be able to look to us for guidance in times of turmoil.

I urge my colleagues to reject this empty legislation and focus on creating a responsible, long-term budget that puts people back to work.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS IN THE
NATIONAL PARKS STUDY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 1022, the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act, which will allow the Department of the Interior to study the role of Buffalo Soldiers and how they defended our first national parks. This is a key step in preserving the legacy of the Army's first African American infantry and cavalry units and the contributions they made to our Nation.

Although history has often overlooked the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers, all Americans from all walks of life would benefit from learning about this often overlooked chapter in our history. The legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers dates back to post Civil War days. Although African Americans have fought with distinction in all of our country's military engagements, their future in the Army was in doubt after the Civil War. In July 1866, however, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry regiments and four regiments of infantrymen, later merging two, whose composition was made up entirely of black soldiers. The troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries developed into two of the most distinguished fighting units in the Army and who were stationed at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma in the late 1870s. While they constructed key buildings on the post that still stand today, the Buffalo Soldiers' biggest contribution was to preserve the integrity of the land-runs which are such an integral part of Oklahoma, the Sooner state's, history and identity. Their bravery and fierce fighting techniques on the battlefield inspired Native Americans to call them "Buffalo Soldiers."

The Buffalo Soldiers served the United States in the harshest environments and under the most difficult conditions, and preserving their legacy will ensure that the Buffalo Soldiers' service will be appropriately memorialized. The Buffalo Soldiers' story is ultimately about the triumph not just of African American troops over prejudice and injustice, but about the movement of our nation westward, and toward a more tolerant and courageous society.

As such, I support the effort to evaluate the feasibility of a great National Historic Trail along the Buffalo Soldiers' route from their historic military post at the San Francisco Presidio to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Identifying properties that could be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designations as National Historic Landmarks will help keep the Buffalo Soldiers' story alive and bring to light, for future generations, their story of courage while serving their country.

We must all continue to work, together and as individuals, each day to make sure that our country truly is a community of all people and recognize those that came before us to make this nation strong, prosperous and free. We

should never forget the challenges our predecessors faced in the creation and preservation of this great nation.

LT. COL. TRACY N. JOHNSON
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson (retired). A resident of Montrose Colorado, Lt. Col. Johnson recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a host of family and friends at his side. It is my honor to recognize Lt. Col. Johnson's distinguished Marine Corps career. The sacrifices he has made and the commitment he displayed during his time in uniform and since leaving the active ranks of the Marine Corps are truly deserving of special recognition.

Member of our nation's "greatest generation", Lt. Col. Johnson served his country bravely while flying combat missions in three wars. His action in combat, earned him the Distinguished Flying Crosses and Air Medals, testaments to his courage, patriotism and devotion to duty. Marines serving throughout the world today take great pride in carrying on the illustrious legacy of valor, discipline and steadfast fidelity that he helped forge.

From flying Corsairs in Korea to serving as a Presidential Helicopter pilot for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, he provided crucial air support throughout his career and set the standard for Marine aviation. He has earned the respect and admiration of all who have had the privilege of serving with him, and he has been an inspiration for generations of his fellow Marines.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and extend my deepest gratitude to Lt. Col. Tracy N. Johnson. I rise today in recognition of his dedication to his family, community, and this nation.

THE RETIREMENT OF CONGRESS-
WOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in sending a fond aloha to our friend and colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

We have all been deeply touched and inspired by GABBY's courage, spirit, and her pure love for Arizona and our Nation. Her admirers and friends in Hawaii and across the country will continue to pray for her ongoing recovery.

I hope that we in Congress will redouble our efforts to come together and work in the spirit

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

of laulima (cooperation) to find common ground with our colleagues across the aisle on the issues that matter most to our country. That's how we can truly honor our GABBY's service and courage.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. ROBERT FITCH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Fitch on the occasion of his retirement as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, for BAE Systems, Inc. One of my constituents living in Arlington, Virginia, Mr. Fitch has over 41 years of distinguished service to our nation, serving in key management positions in the military, the legislative branch of government, and the aerospace and defense industry.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Fitch served as Senior Vice President, Government Relations, for BAE Systems, Inc. He had responsibility for all legislative affairs and government relations activities for the company's U.S.-based business. He is also a member of the BAE Systems, Inc. Board of Directors. As a senior leader in the company during a period of significant change and growth, he has been recognized on numerous occasions for his commitment to excellence and visionary leadership.

Robert previously held the position of Vice President, Government Relations with Marconi North America and Tracor, Inc. Prior to Tracor, he was the Vice President, Corporate Strategic Development for GDE Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Tracor.

During the 1970's, Mr. Fitch served in the U.S. Army. His assignments included the Pentagon as the Army's functional officer for tactical intelligence programs; Germany as the aide to an infantry division commander; the Cryptologic School as a company commander of 300 men and women; and Vietnam as an advisor. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

From 1984 to 1993, Mr. Fitch was the Senior Professional Staff Member and Director of the Program and Budget Authorization Staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. His responsibilities included oversight and coordination of staff reviews of national and tactical intelligence activities. Specific areas of specialty included space and airborne reconnaissance, industrial base, acquisition reform and support to military operations. In December 1992, he served on the Intelligence Transition Team for the new administration.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island and an MBA from the Graduate School of Management at the University of Dallas. Most recently, Robert completed the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard University.

Mr. Fitch is a member of the George C. Marshall Foundation's Board of Trustees; Ford's Theatre Board of Governors; and the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation's Board of Directors. He is a member of the Sigma Iota Epsilon Business Honor Society,

and is a Principal for the Council for Excellence in Government. He has served on the USO World Board of Governors; Board of Directors for the National Military Intelligence Association; and on the Technical Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of this outstanding industry leader. I congratulate and thank Bob Fitch for his many years of service to this nation and wish him a happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING JIM PARENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Parent on his retirement as President of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists.

James M. Parent was born in 1946 in Van Buren, Maine, and now lives with his wife Robertine in Glastonbury where they raised their two children. A former member of the Glastonbury Democratic Town Committee, Jim has also served as Vice Chair of the Democratic State Central Finance Committee.

Jim served his country in Vietnam and returned to continue his public service by joining the labor movement. Jim's knowledge and expertise as an activist for Connecticut's machinists started when he was employed at Pratt & Whitney in 1965 in East Hartford. Since then, Jim has been a fierce advocate for the Machinists' 14,000 members, and has served as the Business Representative for the Machinists Union, Executive Board member of the Connecticut State Council of Machinists and as Hartford Area Vice President from 1986 to 1991, when he was elected President of the Council.

As President, he has been a leading advocate for workers in Connecticut. I witnessed his leadership firsthand when we worked together to fight the closing of the Pratt & Whitney Connecticut Airfoil Repair Operation (CARO) and Cheshire Engine Center.

Jim's advocacy earned him the Connecticut AFL-CIO Leadership Award in 1997. I am proud to call Jim Parent an ally in the fight to keep good jobs in Connecticut, and to stop the crippling trend of outsourcing. We have worked together to bring jobs back to the United States through efforts to strengthen "Buy American" laws. I know that Jim will continue to be a leader and an advocate for Connecticut's working families even after his retirement. I am honored to call Jim Parent my friend, and I wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAYOR
HIRAM PALEY

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Mr. Hiram Paley, former Mayor of Urbana, IL, and Asso-

ciate Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois in Mathematics. Mr. Paley passed away on Monday, January 9, at the age of 78 at the Carle Foundation hospital in Urbana, IL, after his long fight with cancer.

Hiram Paley was an excellent representation of what living the American dream is all about. He was born the son of Russian immigrants and rose above humble beginnings to obtain his doctorate in mathematics with a specialization in algebra. Mr. Paley became a professor at the University of Illinois in 1959 where he would meet his wife of over 50 years, Jean Paley. Together they had three children. He soon became active in the local community, eventually rising to the Office of Mayor for the town of Urbana, IL. He served a single term as Mayor. Afterward, he remained active in community events throughout the rest of his life. He remained always perceptive to the concerns of everyday citizens with whom he interacted.

It is paramount to emphasize that although Hiram Paley was not of the same political affiliation as I, he was always civil and respectful toward individuals who did not share similar political philosophies. This is an underlying theme that we as leaders should glean most from this man's life. This ideal ought to be at the forefront of our debates today. Civility and discourse in politics may seem like a large river, seemingly impossible to cross, but in actuality, our political reality today is but a modest stream that is only in need of leadership to step across and achieve consensus. And that model is what government is truly about. Thank you, Mr. Paley, for your excellent example and extraordinary life, as well as your service to our Nation; you shall be missed tremendously.

IN CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2012

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, an appropriate reminder of Dr. King's legacy, the civil rights struggle and the importance of serving one's community to make the country stronger.

Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy is a symbol of the American values of progress, peace, and equality that have come to define American exceptionalism. Although we still have a long way to go to reach Dr. King's promised land, the strides taken toward racial equality since his March on Washington are a testament to the power of his non-violent message.

On this day, we not only celebrate the legacy of Dr. King, but we commit ourselves to giving back to our communities. Dr. King's spirit compels us to use this day to volunteer our time in service of our neighborhoods. This year, millions of Americans across the country demonstrated their commitment to Dr. King's vision of a better world by offering their help to countless service projects and activities nationwide.

Dr. King once said "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It is on this day—nearly 44 years after his death—that we remember his words and continue our struggle toward racial, social, and