

COMMEMORATING MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the day our Nation honors one of our greatest civil rights heroes. This is also a special year, as Martin Luther King Day coincides with the inauguration of our first African American President, Barack Obama.

While just one man, Dr. King made an extraordinary difference in all of our lives. And while he, himself, was silenced, his dream lives on and serves as an inspiration that every person can indeed make a difference.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Dr. King reminds me often of the Flint sit-down strikers of the 1930s in my hometown who also stood up to the injustices that they saw. Their efforts helped create the labor movement and made our country a better place, as did Dr. King.

Mr. Speaker, no matter our political differences, we can all unite on Monday to fulfill Dr. King's dream. This Martin Luther King Day, let's honor the man who continues to inspire us all.

COMMENDING MISS MONTANA  
ALEXIS WINEMAN

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexis Wineman. This 18-year-old from Cut Bank, Montana, represents my State as Miss Montana, and she recently made history, not only as the youngest participant in this year's Miss America competition and the recipient of the People's Choice Award, but as the first young woman in the competition's history to have been diagnosed with autism.

Alexis stands as an example for all Montanans of what it means to overcome obstacles and to help those in need. She's worked to spread awareness of autism so that we can all gain a better understanding of those affected by it.

Alexis recently said, and I quote:

We cannot cure what is not a sickness, but we can begin to understand autism and help those with the condition to unlock the potential that lies within all of us.

I'm grateful for the work that she's done to increase the understanding of autism, and I'm very proud that she calls Montana home.

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NO LABELS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, all of us know that the 112th Congress was one of the least productive legislative sessions in our history.

Even as our country faced significant challenges, partisan posturing and po-

litical brinksmanship dominated the debate in Washington and created an unprecedented level of gridlock that kept real work from getting done.

As we begin the work of the 113th Congress, it is critical that both Democrats and Republicans commit to working with their colleagues across the aisle and putting the long-term interests of our country ahead of their own short-term political goals.

That's why I have decided to join a group of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans in an organization called No Labels as a problem-solver which will meet regularly to build trust and cooperation between members of both parties and get Washington back to a place where Democrats and Republicans working together is the rule rather than the exception.

We need leaders in Congress who are serious about finding solutions to the challenges we face both at home and abroad.

I am convinced that there is no challenge so great that we cannot solve by working together, and No Labels is offering a venue for Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to do exactly that. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

TIME TO TACKLE WASHINGTON'S  
SPENDING ADDICTION

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the first time in this Chamber to urge the President and Congress to get serious about addressing the out-of-control borrowing and spending that is jeopardizing the American Dream for our children and grandchildren.

The President has said that the debt ceiling debate is not the time to tackle Washington's spending addiction and has called for more taxes, more spending and more borrowing in return for any future spending reforms. Yesterday he said, "We can't finish the job of deficit reduction through spending cuts alone." But the last Congress already raised taxes. Now it's time to tackle Washington's binge spending.

The fundamental question to be answered in the upcoming debate is whether Washington should take more than it already confiscates from hard-working, taxpaying Americans. The answer is no. Washington doesn't tax too little. It spends too much.

Mr. Speaker, the new freshman Republican Members of the House are holding a Special Order after today's legislative business to highlight the urgency of the upcoming debt ceiling debate. I hope as many of my colleagues who can will join this effort and explain to the American people why we owe it to our children to stop spending and borrowing and start controlling our debt.

NEED FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE  
113TH

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, with a new year comes a new Congress, new and returning Members, and new opportunities to work together to do the work the American people sent us here to do. Americans have been very clear about what the priorities of Congress should be. At the forefront of these priorities is to get people back to work and to revitalize our economy.

There is no doubt there has been some progress. Thirty-four consecutive months of private sector job growth is evidence of that. However, with 12 million people still unemployed, more must be done.

If Congress is serious about addressing the deficit, then we must have a plan—such as the Make It in America agenda—to create jobs. Job creation leads to deficit reduction and is necessary for a full economic recovery.

I am confident that with a new year will come a renewed focus to do the work of the American people. It is really time to put aside the dysfunction of the 112th Congress and to come together to address the problems facing our Nation.

HONORING CHIEF JACK JONES  
AND CHIEF JOSEPH GURA

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two chiefs of police from my district, both of whom are retiring after many years of dedicated service to the district: Chief Jack Jones from Morrisville Borough and Chief Joseph Gura from Perkasio Borough.

Chief Jones has served in law enforcement for the past 45 years. After three decades of service, he worked his way up to become chief in Morrisville in 2003. Jack knew the Morrisville community inside and out and has been loved by those who live there. Upon his retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Chief Gura has spent 33 years in the Perkasio Borough police force. During his three decades, the borough's force has grown from eight officers to 18. Chief Gura has dealt with everything from bears to undercover narcotics investigations and even spent a brief time working for the Olympics. For years, Joseph has not only portrayed a top of the line work ethic but has also displayed great pride, integrity, and courage.

Both of these public servants have devoted their lives to making the community a safer place to live, work and raise a family. I am honored to speak on their behalf today, and I am proud to represent them in the United States