

We don't have the biggest names, but we play hard and together with great chemistry, and we won because we're a team.

Matt was right, the Eagles won because they were accountable to each other. The dedication and commitment of the players, coaches, fans, and parents made this victory possible.

The teamwork displayed by the Pleasant Grove boys basketball team is an example for Washington. In Congress we need to work together and hold each other accountable and work as a team.

Congratulations again to the Eagles for your tremendous victory.

THE DISTINGUISHED WARFARE MEDAL

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, our country has a proud history of honoring our military heroes, and in doing so we place an emphasis on recognizing servicemembers whose actions placed them in harm's way for the benefit of our Nation and their fellow soldiers.

It's because of this proud history that I have serious concerns about the Department of Defense placement of a newly established Distinguished Warfare Medal in the order of precedence. Surely it is appropriate to recognize servicemembers who make contributions through technology-driven warfare; however, I agree with the VFW that we must continue to preserve the sanctity of our medals for those Americans who sacrifice their personal safety for the safety of the country and their brothers in arms.

That is why I strongly support the effort led by my friend, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, who is a decorated veteran himself, to alter the rank of the Distinguished Warfare Medal such that it ranks below the Purple Heart in precedence.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring his bill, H.R. 833, and urge its passage.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the chance to visit Afghanistan to get a firsthand perspective of the status of our withdrawal, as well as to visit some of our deployed Hawaii troops.

Our servicemembers continue to serve with the highest level of professionalism, selflessness, and integrity. I'm grateful to them and their families for their unwavering coverage and sacrifice.

Our military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are committed to the ongoing transfer of responsibility for security to the Afghan National Security Forces. The Afghan forces are

made up of warriors who are ready to fight and who are already leading a majority of the security operations, building confidence in their ability to withstand the Taliban and insurgency threats.

The U.S. drawdown is crucial for our military and our resources to focus on addressing imminent and direct threats like North Korea. Along with Guam and Alaska, Hawaii's families have been placed in the crosshairs of this threat. We cannot be complacent. We must take action to ensure that our families and assets are protected and defended.

THE BUDGET

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the President finally decided to join the budget discussion today. Good. It's high time he got off the sidelines.

The contrast between the President's budget and the balanced House Republican budget is stark. The President relies on stimulus and taxes; House Republicans rely on government-spending restraint and reform to achieve economic growth. If recent history is any indication, we chose the better path.

Examine this President's track record of growing the economy: government spending is up, workforce participation is down; national debt is up, family take-home pay is down. If President Obama's trillion-dollar stimulus didn't work, how is a shallow imitation going to help us now? The President's budget will never balance and will yield an endless string of deficits.

The Republican Path to Prosperity requires Washington to make due with a little less and keeps money in the private sector where it can be invested in job creation, expansion, and real economic growth.

The American people waited 65 days for the President's budget. They deserve more than stimulus and taxes.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 829 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis. Mr. Speaker, I'm devastated by this because the American people are devastated.

Unemployment is depriving people of health care, higher education, and even food and shelter. Does this sound like a civilized Nation?

Mr. Speaker, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the U.S. a failing grade for infrastructure. We have no shortage of shovel-ready public projects that can put people to work, but this Congress is unwilling to act.

Mr. Speaker, our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

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THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. MESSER. The President's budget proposal reportedly would cap the amount of money people could save in individual retirement accounts. This is a very bad idea. More than a third of people aged 55 and older are not saving for their retirements. Three-quarters have saved much less than they will need to retire comfortably.

We should be encouraging people to save. We need to encourage people to take more responsibility for their future well-beings instead of discouraging sound financial planning. We need to incentivize self-reliance instead of government dependence. This proposal fails on all of these fronts.

Rest assured, Mr. Speaker, the White House has said that the savings cap will allow "substantially more than is needed to fund reasonable levels of retirement saving." My constituents don't need the President deciding what is reasonable for them in their retirements. They don't need him deciding anything else for them either. We need sensible reform.

IMPACTS OF THE SEQUESTER

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I rise today to address the sequester.

Many of those in this House have been telling their constituents that the sequester doesn't make any difference, that nothing has really changed; but that simply is not true.

For example, a cut to the Federal Aviation Administration's budget will result in the furloughing of most of FAA's 47,000 employees, or at least one day per pay period through the end of the fiscal year. Even those employees who provide safety-critical services, like systems specialists and aviation safety inspectors, will be subject to the furlough. As much as 10 percent of the FAA's workforce could be on furlough on any given day, resulting in reduced air traffic control, longer delays and economic losses for air transportation, tourism, and the economy as a whole.

Last week, I visited Lynn Evans-Biga, the executive director of the Luzerne-Wyoming County Head Start in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, an agency which serves 1,000 students and has a waiting list of 700 already. It will have to accept 49 fewer students because of the 5.2 percent sequester cut.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

(Mr. DeSANTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1