IN HONOR OF THE 236TH BIRTHDAY OF HENRY CLAY

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of what would be the 236th birthday of Henry Clay, who once represented the same district which I am honored to serve today.

As one of Kentucky's most celebrated statesmen, Henry Clay proved that an unwavering dedication to principle and a practical commitment to compromise are not incompatible values. As the ''Great Compromiser'' himself demonstrated, they are instead the tools of statesmanship. Henry Clay was focused on saving the country, and he resolved to enact substantial solutions, not short-term fixes that merely pushed the problems onto the backs of future generations.

As we consider how to deal with the almost $17 trillion national debt and as a proud graduate of Henry Clay High School, I call on my colleagues in Congress to remember Henry Clay's resolve because now is a time to come together in the spirit of statesmanship in order to cut spending and balance our budget for the sake of future generations.

SAVE AMERICA COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Throughout the week, we have been hearing from souls who have asked us to have mercy on them and to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Thousands came to petition the government. There were mothers and fathers and children, and I am listening to their cries, as America has listened and as the Statue of Liberty often said: to bring you those who were in need but wanted to serve this Nation.

Today, I introduced Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act, H.R. 1525, to have earned access to citizenship, family reunification, border security, supporting our Border Patrol agents, and a number of items that will bring us together. I hope that we can move this legislation forward.

Let me quickly say that 50 of us signed a letter this week to stop the filibuster on sensible gun legislation. Thank goodness the other body now will move forward to answer the cries of other Americans who have been the victims of gun violence. It is certainly in keeping with the Second Amendment that we have the opportunity to have universal background checks, to rid ourselves of assault weapons and multiple rounds that have killed many in the various mass killings, and to have the ability to help those who have mental health needs.

We can do this as Americans and as Members of Congress. I ask that we move forward and respond to the American people.

□ 1300

HONORING WILLIAM BOOTH GARDNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 15, last month, William Booth Gardner passed away in his home in Tacoma, Washington, after courageously battling the ravages of Parkinson's disease for about 20 years. Born in 1936, he was 76 years old.

Booth Gardner will be remembered for many things. He will be remembered as Washington State's 19th Governor, having served from 1985 to 1993. He voluntarily retired after two terms, with sky-high job approval ratings, and was subsequently appointed as ambassador to GATT, now known as the World Trade Organization, by his good friend, President Bill Clinton.

He will be remembered as a person of means—some would say considerable means—who began his lifelong pattern of ''pay it forward'' by volunteering to work with children in the inner city while he was still in college. He even coached Jimi Hendrix in football.

He will be remembered for turning around a scandal-ridden Pierce County government as its first elected county executive and bringing it into the 20th century.

He will be remembered for his impish sense of humor. At the end of the long campaign for the aforementioned county executive position, so familiar was he with his opponent's speech that he delivered it, verbatim, at the last campaign appearance. It was the only time his opponent was left both figuratively and literally speechless.

Booth Gardner will be remembered for leading Washington State through a stunning era of progress. He was a national leader in civil rights. He appointed our State's first African American to the United States Supreme Court. He signed an executive order banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in the State workforce way back in 1995, way before it was the popular thing to do. And at the time he said, The only thing I care about is if they are competent to do the job.

He pushed forward a trainload of environmental protections. For example, he signed an order protecting wetlands, knowing their importance to ensuring clean water, while most of the rest of us were still thinking about wetlands as kind of like large mud puddles.

He was a national education leader. He chaired the Education Commission of the States and fought for standards before that was popular. He expanded choice for students and restored a then-deteriorating higher education funding system.

He leveraged his very considerable private sector experience to be a great manager of State government, implementing—again, before it was popular—commonsense ideas like a rainy-day fund and life-cycle capital budgeting.

But Governor Gardner really shined in health care. When he chaired the National Governors Association, he triggered the national debate on health care and for improving access for low-income families and containing costs for all of us.

Booth Gardner will also be remembered for the Academy Award-nominated documentary that bore his name, Booth Gardner's Last Campaign. It eloquently told the story of his successful advocacy in our State of the Death with Dignity initiative, which was overwhelmingly approved by the voters.

I'm often asked about how and when I first met Booth. It was 40 years ago this year. I was a 20-year-old very lowly clerk in the Washington State House of Representatives. I took paperwork over to the chair of the Senate Education Committee. And to my great surprise, then-State Senator Booth Gardner invited me into his office, never having met me, and simply said, Sit down and tell me about yourself, DENNY. Little did I know that day that, many years later, I would have the unbelievable honor to serve as his chief of staff.

Booth Gardner will be remembered for many things; but mostly I think he will be remembered for governing when government actually worked, and it was due in no small part to his steadfast commitment to civility, respectfulness, and collaboration.

For my own part, I will remember him as boss, mentor, and the truest and dearest of friends.

I now yield to my very good friend, the gentleman from the Seventh Congressional District of Washington State, Dr. MCDERMOTT.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Thank you very much, DENNY.

Although it makes me sad for the reason we are speaking here today, I am honored to say a few words about my friend, Governor Booth Gardner.

A lot of people will remember us as adversaries, and that's true for a brief time. We ran against each other for Governor in 1984, and I lost. Now, it might come as a surprise to you, but I didn't particularly like losing. And so after the election, I went off to a place I had up in the San Juan Islands to lick my wounds on Lopez Island. It's exactly there where Booth found me a few days later. He called and said, I'm going to be up in the area. I have a place over on Shaw Island, and I'll come over and see you. And so he drove his boat over and we met.

I had a 40-acre farm, and we walked around the property four times, talking about our visions, about the State, about the election, about the campaign, and where we wanted the State