

Lieutenant Colonel James Megellas exhibited in his courageous defense of our country during World War II.

I urge the passage of S. 1826.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my friend and colleague.

Mr. GROTHMAN. First, I thank my colleague from Oklahoma and my colleague from Missouri for saying such nice things about Lieutenant Colonel Megellas. I also thank Senator JOHNSON, who did a good job of getting this through the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, as has been said, Lieutenant Colonel Megellas was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and went to school in Ripon, Wisconsin, before he joined the military. He was truly a hero of the Greatest Generation. His most notable battle experiences included action in the Italian mountains near the Anzio beachhead, his combat jump into Holland as part of the Operation Market Garden, his crossing of the Waal River under heavy German fire in broad daylight, and the Battle of the Bulge in January of 1945, when he singlehandedly destroyed a German Mark V Panther Tank and led his platoon on one of the most distinctive actions of the war without there being a single American casualty.

We have also offered a private bill that tries to get Mr. Megellas the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of the Bulge.

Today, Mr. Megellas lives in Colleyville, Texas, with his wife, Carole. I have met him and it was just tremendous. Currently he is 98 years old. In a couple of weeks he will be 99. He is as sharp as a tack and is agile. I am very honored to be able to introduce this bill, and I just can't look forward enough to the day in Fond du Lac when I will see Lieutenant Colonel Megellas' name up there at the post office on 2nd Street.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, that was quite a description of Mr. Megellas at the young age of—about to be—99. He should be an inspiration to us all. I urge the passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate passage of S. 1826, a bill to rename the post office located at 99 West 2nd Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as the Lieutenant Colonel James "Maggie" Megellas Post Office.

It is my great honor to recognize Lieutenant Colonel James Megellas (Ret), and to call Maggie a constituent of the 24th District of Texas.

In 1942, Maggie accepted an ROTC commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry and shortly thereafter faced combat in Italy. Notably, in January 1945, Maggie and his platoon advanced toward Herresbach, Belgium, and came upon 200 German troops who were

advancing out of town. In an act of selflessness and bravery, Lt. Col. Megellas sprinted toward a German tank as it took aim at his fellow soldiers. He disabled the tank with a grenade, then dropped another into the tank eliminating the threat his men faced from the combat vehicle.

Lt. Col Megellas has been honored with many awards, including the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross. Lt. Col Megellas is beyond deserved of having this post office location named in his honor. I continue to commend Maggie on serving his country with honor and bravery, as a shining example of courage and as a member of the greatest generation America has known.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the sacrifice and bravery of Lt. Col Megellas and urge for the swift passage of S. 1826.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1826.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Connecticut's leading force for women's equality.

Formed under State statute in 1973 to study and improve the economic security, health, and safety of Connecticut women, the Commission undertakes vital work to eliminate gender discrimination in its many forms. They have helped to shape the debate around issues that impact the lives of Connecticut women and their families, and it has created public policy that makes a difference. Notably, it had a leadership role in creating the first family and medical leave protections in the country and, in Connecticut, in becoming the first State in the Nation to pass paid sick days.

I have focused much of my time in Congress on these issues and I have often turned to the Commission for guidance and for support. It is with great pride and with my deepest thanks that I rise today to celebrate their work.

OPERATION RESPECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today is a different subject than I usually discuss in the course of these Special Order hours. Normally we come down here and we talk about how we are going to create jobs, how we are going to make better opportunities for people through education. We talk about making it in America, rebuilding our infrastructure, manufacturing, and the like. Yet, today, there is something else on my mind, and it happens to be an issue that I first came across in elementary school.

On the school grounds at Mokelumne Hill Elementary School—a three-room school that was built in the late 1800s—there were not many kids, but there was always one kid who seemed to be picked on. I am not exactly sure why that young boy was the one to be picked on, but he was bullied.

As the years go by, I suspect we forget about those things, but we know that the children are always listening. They are listening to each other on the school grounds and they are likely to join in this bullying and in picking on some kid on the grounds. That happened at Mokelumne Hill Elementary School many, many years ago.

As our own kids were growing up, my wife would always say, "Remember the children are listening. They are listening to what you have to say and they are going to copy what you say."

In the year 2000, I was with my wife at a concert here in the Washington area, and Peter, Paul and Mary were performing that night. Towards the end of the performance, Peter Yarrow said, "I have a new song, and I would like you to pay careful attention to this song. This song is really important to me."

I suppose his other songs dealing with wars and peace were equally important, but he highlighted this particular song. The song was "Don't Laugh At Me." Don't call me names. Don't make fun of me because I am short or tall or wear glasses.

After the performance was over, we were invited to go out to dinner with Peter that night.

He asked, "What did you think of the song?"

I said, "It reminded me of my school," because people were laughing at that kid.

He said, "I want you to do something." He said, "I want you to take this song and make it into a national movement against bullying so as to try to teach our young children to stop bullying."

I told him I didn't have time for that, as we were returning to California after the 2000 election. He said that doesn't make any sense because California has the same problem.

I learned right away you don't say no to Peter Yarrow, so I began to work with him on a program that became

known as Operation Respect. I worked with him for about 3 to 4 years, and then I moved on and Operation Respect moved on.

It is now found in 22,000 schools across the United States. It is a simple program. You can find it online. It is Operation Respect. You can download the song. You can download the text. It is there. There are 22,000 schools across the United States that are trying to help our young children understand what bullying means.

Bullying means that 160,000 American children do not go to school each day because they are afraid. They are afraid to endure another day of bullying—verbal, sometimes physical—from their peers. Twenty-two percent of teenagers in a National Study of Adolescents reported that they had been bullied or victimized. The reasons for bullying are many. Usually it is about looks, as 55 percent say it is about looks; it is about body shape—too big, too tall, too fat, too slender—at 37 percent; and race at 16 percent.

Students who experience bullying are at an increased risk of experiencing poor adjustment at school, sleep difficulties, anxiety, depression. Also, students who engage in the bullying behavior are at risk of having academic problems, substance abuse, and violent behavior later in their adolescence and adulthood.

In surveys, approximately 30 percent of young people admit to bullying others, and 70 percent of young people say that they have seen bullying in their schools. I did when I was growing up. Seventy percent of schools' staffs say that they see it. Eighty-one percent of students who identify as LGBT were bullied last year based on their sexual orientation.

What does it mean?

It means that certain lives are seriously disrupted and that there is unhappiness and depression in those lives, but it also means violence.

Do you remember Columbine?

The perpetrators were frequently harassed by athletes and other students before coming to school, and then they came to school with firearms and explosives, killing 13 and injuring 21.

Do you remember Virginia Tech?

Seung-Hui Cho was picked on and bullied by his peers before he killed 32 people in 2007.

In Santa Barbara, California, the shooter wrote a 130-page manifesto about how he had been severely bullied in high school, and he killed six and injured 14.

There are those who are violent to others and who are equally violent to themselves. 12-year-old Rebecca Sedwick suffered from cyberbullying. She received messages over social media, and she killed herself. In Montana, an 18-year-old with learning disabilities committed suicide. Another shot himself in the chest after enduring bullying and hazing from the high school football team. He was pushed

into lockers, punched in the head. He quit the football team after the first week, telling his dad, "I am being picked on at school," in the suicide note he left that night. He shot himself. He blamed bullying.

The children are listening. They listen to each other. They learn bullying and they carry it on. Operation Respect attempts to deal with this, as does Peter Yarrow's song from Peter, Paul and Mary, "Don't Laugh At Me." Don't laugh at me because I am tall, short, Black, White, young, old, or because I wear glasses. Don't laugh at me. The children are listening.

Across America, what are the children listening to today? What are they listening to today by our leaders, by the people who purport to lead the strongest nation in the world?

□ 1500

What are they hearing?

My daughter is a kindergarten teacher. Her kids come to class and are repeating what they hear on television. They are calling each other a desperate person. They are saying to each other: "He's a desperate person," "He's a sad person," "He's a pathetic person."

Kids come to class and are repeating what they heard on television: "He doesn't even use his last name in his ads," "He's a sad person," "He's absolutely crazy," "I mean, this guy is a nervous wreck."

I have never seen anything like it. They repeat what they have heard on television. So what are our kids learning? What are they learning from people who want to be our national leader?

Well, they are probably learning that you can say things like: "He's the least talented. . . .", "He's done poorly," "He goes away like a little sheep."

Maybe our kids are talking to each other and they are repeating what they have heard on television: "You could see the blood coming out of her eyes," "She's a bimbo," "Look at that face," "Would anyone vote for that?," "Can you imagine that face on the next president?," "I mean, she's a woman and I'm not supposed to say bad things, but really, folks, come on. Are we serious?"

The kids are listening, folks. The kids are listening to the national debate. For years, we have known bullying is a problem. We know it. We see it in the classrooms.

We see the result of violence. We see the fact of disrespect. We know it leads to shootings. We know it leads to school shootings. We know it leads to suicides.

Yet, on our national television every night people that want to lead this Nation are bullying each other. They are saying disrespectful things that are personal that don't have a thing to do with policy, just as though it was a kindergarten school ground: "Now, I've watched a part of his little act and he's a desperate guy," "He's not presidential material, I can tell you," "He doesn't have the demeanor," "He's a

nervous Nellie," "Putting on makeup with a trowel," "He was so scared like a little puppy."

That is bullying. That is bullying. And if you were in kindergarten, you would be at the principal's office.

Our kids are listening. So what is the message? That it is okay to bully? It is okay to demean people? What is the message? 16,000 kids stay home from school each day because of bullying. And on national television? They purport to lead this Nation.

So what are we to do? I guess we are going to have to take programs like Operation Respect, Operation Trevor, and other programs that try to help our children understand the result of bullying, what actually happens, not just to the children that are being bullied, but also to those who engage in bullying.

So what are we teaching? What are we teaching our children? What Pandora's box are we opening across this Nation when demeaning each other is the national discourse in how we select the next President of the United States? That it is okay to call your rival names?

It is not about their policies, not about what we are going to do with our national security, but, rather, what makeup you might be wearing or the nature of one's face. Calling each other unhinged, unstable, a liar, is this what we have come to?

That night Peter Yarrow sang that song for the first time in concert: "Don't laugh at me. Don't call me names. Don't make fun of me."

There are consequences. There are consequences. You tear a person down far enough and maybe you will win an election, but every child across this Nation is listening. They are listening.

What are they going to do when they go to school the next day? Well, it is okay. We could call each other names. I can make fun at you. I could laugh at you. After all, it is on television: "Had one of those sweet little mustaches," "Maybe to make sure his pants weren't wet," "Maybe he should sue whoever did that to his face."

Operation Respect. 22,000 schools across this Nation are trying to impart to our children that we all have value, that whether you are tall or short or fat, whether you are Black or White or whatever color, whatever you want to be in life, it is okay.

It is okay. You are important. You have value. We are not going to demean each other. We are not going to bully each other. You are important. Whatever you are, whatever you may be, you are important. That is Operation Respect.

Trying to teach the young children in 22,000 schools to respect each other, to respect the differences, to understand and to learn that we all share space on this planet and that each one of us, whatever we may be, whatever we may think about the solution to the world's problems, we have value.

So tonight I will go from this Chamber. I will go back to my home and will

turn the TV on. I will guarantee you that I will find a Presidential candidate bullying another candidate just as though it was a school ground.

I know that the children are watching. I know that all that Operation Respect is trying to do and all of the other programs around this Nation that are trying to teach our children to respect each other, to not engage in bullying—I know that their work will be erased from the blackboard by tonight's television.

After all, it is Super Tuesday. And leading up to Super Tuesday, you and I know what we have heard.

Is our Nation better for it? I don't think so. Because I know that the children are watching, and I know somehow an awful message is going out across this Nation that it is okay to demean another person, it is okay to pick on somebody because of their makeup, because of the nature of their face, because they happen to be a woman.

I fear the result of all of this. I don't fear the policies. The policies come and go. We debate here on the floor more military, less military; more education, less education; the environment is good, climate change is real, climate change is not. That is legitimate. That is the way America ought to be.

But to call a woman a bimbo or to say you peed your pants, what in the world is this all about? It is about our children. It is about our future and about telling us what it is okay to do.

Well, it is not okay because the children are listening. Thank God we have organizations—Operation Respect and others—that are somehow trying to push back. They are not going to stop every violent act. At least some kid isn't going to pick up a gun and walk into the school and start blasting away because he has been bullied.

I yield back the balance of my time.

NATIONAL DEBT AND SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was trained as an engineer. In my engineering training, we were taught that, before you can solve a problem, you have to identify and define the problem. If you solve the wrong problem, you accomplish very little.

I serve on the Budget Committee. On the Budget Committee, we take an in-

depth look at all of government. As we examine the programs and as we examine revenues and expenditures of the Federal Government, we see many issues that are of great concern to the future of our country. We see threats to our safety and our security. We see overreach and hassles created by the very government that is here to serve.

Mr. Speaker, there is a gargantuan issue facing our country that threatens all our futures. Our gross national debt, fueled by out-of-control spending, continues to grow and is past \$19 trillion, which exceeds our gross domestic product.

Today, while much of the country focuses on primary elections, several of my colleagues from the Budget Committee, including Chairman PRICE, wish to have an open and honest conversation about this issue of debt and spending that you are probably not going to hear much about anywhere else.

We not only hope to bring attention to this issue by defining the problem. We will propose real solutions to restore fiscal order so that Americans can thrive and Americans—not the government or any one person, but Americans—can make America all that she can be.

If we delve into the major fiscal issues facing our country, it becomes obvious that we have an enormous spending problem. I have a chart here.

This chart shows us where we have been, where we were in 1965. It shows where we are today with the numbers through 2015. It also predicts where we will be in the future in 2026.

The spending represented by the red on these pie charts is what is called mandatory spending. If you want to think of it this way, this spending is on cruise control. This spending is on programs that were put in place by previous Congresses. Really, if we didn't even meet anymore, this spending in the red will continue to go on.

The spending in the blue is the discretionary spending. That is the money that is spent by appropriations that are done in Congress every year.

The 12 appropriation bills that we hope to get back to regular order this year and pass each of those 12 bills out of the House and out of the Senate and put them on the President's desk relate to the spending that is highlighted in blue on these pie charts.

□ 1515

The omnibus bill from last year, that affected what is in the blue. It didn't affect what is in the red.

As you look at these charts, you can see that in 50 years we have had a little bit of a flip-flop. In 1965, we were right at two-thirds of our spending was discretionary, which was controlled by the appropriations process, and right around one-third of our spending was mandatory.

But over that 50-year period, we have seen tremendous growth in spending. We have seen that now over two-thirds

of our spending is mandatory and less than one-third of our spending is discretionary. So, when Congress meets and we debate these appropriations bills, we are only debating about one-third of the spending that takes place by the Federal Government.

The real story is what is projected to happen in 2026, just 10 years from now. Over 50 years, we saw \$17.8 trillion of increased spending in our gross debt. That is \$356 billion a year. But in just 10 short years from today, the Congressional Budget Office projects that our gross debt will be \$29.3 trillion. That will be a growth of over \$11.2 trillion in a 10-year period. That is over \$1 trillion per year that we will see in spending growth between now and 2026 if we stay on the path that we are currently on.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to explain today why we can't stay on this path. There are a lot of issues to look at. My colleagues on the Committee on the Budget will look at the path that we are on, and they will look at different areas of this spending. We will provide solutions to how to avoid the future financial crisis that is only getting worse. We are already in a financial crisis.

When we look at what contributes to our national debt, to our gross debt, \$645 billion this year will go to debt all because of mandatory spending. Our national debt, our gross debt, will increase \$1.1 trillion. It is at about \$19.3 trillion this fiscal year. Only part of that can be controlled through discretionary spending. We have to start addressing the issues with mandatory spending if we truly want to address the fiscal condition of our country.

This next slide breaks it down in a little bit more detail. Remember, red is mandatory spending and blue is discretionary spending. We see that under the discretionary spending, the part that we debate so vigorously in this Chamber, the part that makes all the headlines, most of that, or about half of that, is in defense, and then the rest of it is nondefense discretionary spending.

There are five areas—just five areas—that over two-thirds of everything spent in this country go to. As we saw on the previous chart, by 2026 those five areas will make up over three-fourths, will make up 78 percent of every dollar spent by the Federal Government. Those five areas are: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, interest on the debt, and kind of a lump category of other mandatory spending.

Right now Social Security is the largest expenditure of the Federal Government at \$882 billion per year. If we look at Social Security and Medicare, these are programs that working Americans have invested in that are very important but are headed to insolvency. We have to fix them to preserve them for all of us who have contributed to them.

The people who project the numbers show that by 2030, on the course we are on, Medicare will be insolvent. By 2034, Social Security will be insolvent. Mr.