

We are constantly reviewing the progress and spending of our recovery programs to ensure a strong return on every public dollar spent. We're also working to cut programs that don't work or government contracts that don't deliver for the American people. We're working hard to reform our Nation's health care system, which will reduce the deficit, save money for consumers, and improve efficiencies in the health care system.

In a key step, we scheduled oversight hearings and carefully reviewed all Federal spending within the committee's jurisdiction to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse.

I applaud President Obama and the Democratic Congress for taking these critical steps and we will continue working with him to reduce our Nation's deficit and debt.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE WILKES VFW POST 1142 HONOR GUARD

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Wilkes County, North Carolina, VFW Honor Guard. This band of brothers has faithfully served the veterans and families of Wilkes County for the past 12 years by honoring the lives of deceased veterans in Wilkes County.

Every member of the Honor Guard volunteers his time throughout the year to execute the Honor Guard's primary duty of performing military funeral rights for deceased veterans. Their commitment to those who have served our Nation demonstrates that they not only understand and revere the life of sacrifice chosen by those who serve in the Armed Forces, but they also know the toll military service takes on the family of veterans.

In paying their respects to deceased veterans, the Wilkes VFW Honor Guard is offering a tangible thank you to veterans' families and also preserving an American tradition of marking the death of veterans with dignity and respect.

I commend the Wilkes VFW Honor Guard members for their selfless service to their community and their Nation. They are true patriots.

#### 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday this Nation recognized the 55th anniversary of a great Supreme Court case—Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. That case overruled a case called Plessy v. Ferguson, which legalized segregation in this country.

The people who brought about the Brown v. Board of Education effort did much to start the civil rights move-

ment and kindled a spirit and a spark in America that has led to more equal justice and a better nation that we are continually improving upon.

John Hope Franklin, who recently died and has been honored by this House, researched the law on the subject; and Thurgood Marshall, who later became a United States Supreme Court Justice, argued the case on behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

On this, the 55th anniversary of that historic case that kindled a movement in this country that went from the streets and the churches to this Congress, we need to recognize those who have fought so valiantly for justice and liberty and civil rights in this Nation. I appreciate their efforts and what they've done for our Nation.

#### CALIFORNIA BAILOUT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the State of California boasts the highest tax rates, the highest number of unemployed residents, the lowest credit rating and largest deficit in the United States of America.

Businesses are leaving the State in droves because the tax burden continues to hammer them. Spendacrats in California have been running their State for decades, just like the new left government in D.C. wants to run the entire country: tax and borrow and spend and spend.

Some spendacrats in D.C. want the American taxpayer to bail out California by cosigning a guarantee for their municipal bonds, placing the full faith and credit of the United States taxpayer on the hook.

Texas taxpayers and other States with responsible government shouldn't be forced to send their money to a State that mismanages its money, wastes its resources and spends money it doesn't have on programs that don't work. Why doesn't California cut its spending binge and addiction to government programs rather than expect the rest of us to bail them out?

Next we'll hear that taxpayers will make money off the California bailout investment, just like we were promised would happen with all the money we gave Wall Street. Yeah, right.

And that's just the way it is.

#### FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Mr. TEAGUE. In 2007 when I announced that I would be running for Congress, people were surprised to find an oilman like myself campaigning on a platform that emphasized energy independence through a focus on renewable energy. But I told people in Hobbs, Roswell, Carlsbad and across southern New Mexico that technologies like wind, solar and biofuels were not

only good for the environment but would also create jobs in our communities and bolster our national security.

One area in which we can do a lot of good is biofuels. My State of New Mexico is fortunate to have several biofuel organizations on the cutting edge of research. Both private companies and the national labs in my State are making excellent progress towards commercially producing oil from algae and other green sources.

The United States currently uses 20 million barrels of petroleum each day. American biofuels producers are aiming to reach 1 million barrels a day of biofuel production, which will really be sending a message to OPEC that America is serious about her energy independence.

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#### QUALITY SOLUTIONS FOR PATIENTS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, I was privileged to give the weekly Republican address. And as a doctor, I've seen firsthand the difficult challenges that face health reform, and at first glance, the task really seems daunting. However, working together we can achieve real results for the American people. We can lower out-of-pocket costs for families and reduce the Federal deficit, which is ballooning out of control. We can increase the quality of care by increasing the choices and information patients have in order to work with their doctor, the doctor they choose to decide the best care possible. Let's begin by ensuring families can keep their current coverage, as the President has promised to do. Then we can work to lower the cost of health care by giving patients flexibility and choice rather than one-size-fits-all, government-run health care. Working together, we can achieve real results and make health care more affordable and accessible.

We all agree, improving our system will make America more competitive and give families peace of mind. Let's work together to put the doctor and patient back in control.

#### RESTORING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, after 8 years of economic policies that have left our Nation's fiscal house awash in red ink, this Congress is taking important steps to restore fiscal responsibility. We inherited a fiscal and economic mess that included soaring unemployment, a record deficit and a