

housing crisis. Faced with the worst recession in a generation, this Congress took unprecedented action in an effort to end our economic slide and turn our economy around.

First was the recovery package that invested in needed infrastructure and provided tax relief to 95 percent of working Americans. And now, with a budget that calls for health care reform, job creation, clean energy and investments in education, we will grow our economy while cutting the deficit by two-thirds over the next 5 years. By providing real oversight and honest accounting and with a commitment to fiscal responsibility, we are changing the way business is done in Washington.

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#### NATIONAL ENERGY TAX KILLS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is troubling that with so many other strategies to move our country to a cleaner energy future, there are still some advocating that we impose a national energy tax. This tax will attack the budgets of American families, costing an extra \$3,000 each year. And it will drive businesses and the jobs they create overseas.

The administration and Democratic Congress who claim to be opposed to offshoring of American jobs are encouraging companies to leave America. This Nation does not need to impose new taxes on its citizens to achieve the common goal of a clean energy future. We have the natural resources here that can provide the revenue and the bridge to that future. We have the scientists and entrepreneurs that will create the next generation of energy resources. And we have the citizens who understand the benefit to their lives and to their budgets of commonsense conservation. We should explore, innovate and conserve, not tax and eliminate jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

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#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDINE WILLIAMS, A TRUE LAS VEGAS PIONEER

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

Ms. BERKLEY. I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a true Las Vegas pioneer, Claudine Williams, who died last week at the age of 88. Claudine was a smart, savvy, tough businesswoman with a heart of gold and a true commitment to the community she helped shape into the 21st century, Las Vegas, known around the world. As the first woman to own and run a casino on the Las Vegas Strip,

the famous Silver Slipper, Claudine redefined Nevada's gaming industry and in the process opened the doors for countless others to follow in her footsteps. She was a generous philanthropist, contributing millions of dollars to local charities. And while she had very little formal education herself, she was a major contributor and supporter to the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Claudine was a gracious hostess for the millions she welcomed through the doors of her successful hotel casinos. Claudine was truly one of a kind. She is irreplaceable. She will be missed. But her charitable contributions and the many lives this fabulous woman touched both inside and outside the gaming industry will continue to enrich Las Vegas for decades to come. I loved her. She is truly a dear woman. And I will miss her terribly.

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#### NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Small Business Week on behalf of the millions of small businesses across the country.

As a family business owner and chairwoman of a Small Business subcommittee, I know firsthand that these small firms are the driving force behind job creation and our economic recovery. Therefore we have an obligation to assist these hardworking Americans during these difficult times.

The Recovery Act was an important first step generating \$21 billion in new lending and investment opportunities for entrepreneurs. However, we must go further and relieve the pressure small businesses experience from the skyrocketing cost of health insurance. Finally, we must help small businesses get the resources they need like those found in the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act that the House will take up this week.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are critical both to job creation and our Nation's recovery. During National Small Business Week, Congress should renew our commitment to giving them the assistance they deserve.

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#### CONGRATULATING AVERETT UNIVERSITY IN DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House unanimously passed a resolution I was pleased to introduce in recognition of Averett University's 150 years of service and leadership to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Nation. Averett University stands at the center of knowledge and innovation in southern Virginia. Founded in historic Danville in 1859, Averett stands as a testament to the virtues of progress and opportunity.

It began as a school for young women at a time when educating women was an unconventional notion. Continuing in this spirit, Averett was among the first colleges in Virginia to give tangible meaning to the terms "lifelong learning" and "career education" by creating an accelerated program of higher learning for working adults.

Today Averett has an enrollment of over 2,500 students and offers 32 major academic fields of study. The university was recently recognized nationally by U.S. News and World Report as one of the leading baccalaureate-granting colleges in the South. For over 150 years, Averett University has contributed to the strength of our Nation by providing men and women with the tools of thought and the spirit of service.

I congratulate them on this accomplishment and look forward to their next chapter.

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#### HONORING THE REVEREND JOHN PRATT

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

Mr. TOWNS. I rise to talk about the passing of Rev. John Pratt of the Zion Shiloh Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. He pastored that church for 30 years. John Pratt is going to be missed in the Borough of Brooklyn. He was the kind of person that was always involved in community efforts. Whatever you needed to have done, John Pratt was a person that you could count on. Not only that, he was unusual in many ways, because you could talk to him and, of course, he wouldn't call a press conference on you. You just could have a discussion with him and then he would do whatever it was, and you didn't have to worry about him calling a big press conference to let the world know that you had asked him to do something.

He was the kind of person that was able to pull people together. He was a coalition builder. We are going to miss John and his coalition skills because he could talk to anybody at any point in any time. And that was the thing that he was able to do so well.

I will never forget that when my mother passed, how John was there on behalf of my family. So let me say to the Pratt family that you have my support in every way. If there is anything I can do, just let me know. I would be delighted to do it, because he was there for me, and I want to be there for you.

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#### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk this morning about a matter of