

While those close to Sergeant Elwell have lost a husband, father, son, brother, and friend, America too has lost a hero. He served our Nation because he loved our Nation. His sister summed up his services perfectly when she said, "He did what he loved, so we could do the simple, everyday things that we take for granted." And although the grief of the family must be overwhelming, I hope that they're able to take a measure of solace in the gratitude of the Nation that Kenneth died defending.

Tonight his community will honor and remember him, but it is the duty of all of us here in Congress and across our grateful Nation to never forget his ultimate sacrifice and the family that he leaves behind.

#### COMMEMORATING LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the rich history of Liberia as we mark Liberian Independence Day on July 26. We honor people of Liberia and those individuals of proud Liberian descent who are celebrating 164 years of independence.

Today we celebrate a great country, its people, their traditions, and the mark they have made on cities like Providence, Rhode Island, and others, making them great places to live, work, and raise families. Rhode Island's flourishing Liberian community has played an important role in making the State what it is today, and I would like to thank them for their great contributions. I am proud to honor your heritage and the difference you have made in our State and in this country.

Recently, along with my colleagues here in the Congress, I had the opportunity to welcome the President of the Republic of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to Washington and confirmed our support for Liberian peace efforts. May we continue to be inspired to support the people of Liberia through their democratic tradition as we celebrate Liberian Independence Day.

#### IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT THE DEFICIT

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, last night I had a town hall. Obviously I wasn't there; I had to be here. So we did it by way of Internet. And it was amazing how the consensus of those who were there was a request for those of us to take seriously our leadership responsibilities and do something about the fiscal mess we are in.

In answering them, I was thinking about what the President's bipartisan

deficit commission leaders said about the plan we passed here in the House. They called it a serious, honest, straightforward approach to addressing our Nation's enormous fiscal challenges. It sounds like that's the answer to the questions that were being asked last night by our constituents.

Interestingly enough, there is a poll out, rendering an opinion by the American people on the Cut, Cap, and Balance bill that we passed here in the House. Over 60 percent of the American people happen to think it's a good idea. Perhaps we ought to stop the name calling and look at what the American people are telling us to do and get serious, as the President's bipartisan deficit commission said, and come up with a serious, honest, straightforward approach to addressing our Nation's enormous fiscal challenge.

#### REPRESENTING MY CONSTITUENTS

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I am told on a daily basis by my Republican colleagues what the American people want. I certainly respect the election certificates of my colleagues. I would ask they respect mine. I also am not sure where they find the time to travel to these other districts to hear what is being said. My colleagues and my constituents are telling me we were sent here to make democracy work, to come up with a balanced approach, and take this country's fiscal responsibilities seriously.

The poll the gentleman just mentioned, in the CBS poll that came out yesterday, two-thirds of the American public want a balanced approach. That means a combination of cuts to revenues to balance our fiscal crisis. With that being said, we have a large number of Members who take pledges, pledges to not raise taxes, pledges to not ask oil companies to pay one penny more. The only pledge a Member of this House should ever make is when they raise their hand to serve the Constitution and this country.

I'm also told many times in this House what the intent of our Founding Fathers was. Now, while that's open for debate, there is one thing I'm certainly positive about: When our Founders gathered together, they created a government, not a Wall Street bank.

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#### AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. In December the President caved to the Republicans and extended all the Bush tax cuts, immediately increasing this year's deficit by \$400 billion and the 10-year deficit by \$4

trillion, precipitating the great debt and deficit crisis.

Now we're hearing from the press today that the President is preparing yet another great cave. Instead of saying we will have some revenues to solve this problem, he is apparently about to cut a deal that will be all cuts.

So it's ironic. He cuts taxes to create a crisis, and then we cut spending to protect the tax cuts because tax cuts create jobs, except they haven't created jobs, but we've got to continue to protect them. It's all very, very sad.

If we get rid of all the Bush tax cuts—\$4 trillion—no cuts in Social Security, no cuts in Medicare, no cuts in veterans benefits, and \$4 trillion less in deficits, now, that would be an equitable solution.

#### TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, in the 5 years leading up to the economic collapse in 2008, 67 percent of the new wealth that was created in this Nation accumulated in the hands of the richest 1 percent. They now control about two-fifths of all the money in this Nation. But our Republican friends block them out of their line of sight when they look to see who can pay for our mounting deficit. They see only Social Security recipients and Medicare recipients, the disabled and the hungry.

It was bad enough that we were crazy enough as a Nation to fight two trillion-dollar wars while cutting taxes for the wealthy at the same time. Now Republicans are asking only the most vulnerable to help pay for it and threatening to collapse the world's economy by defaulting on American debt at the same time.

I won't stand for it, Madam Speaker, and my constituents won't either. Social Security and Medicare recipients didn't get us into two mismanaged wars. They didn't get the benefit of the Bush tax cuts, and they shouldn't have to pay for it.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 2551, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 359 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in