

recover by passing legislation to promote small businesses to create jobs. Even as a joke, Congress should not be a special class separated from the citizens. The House has passed 90 bills this year, and the Senate has only passed 20.

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

#### SMALL BUSINESSES FIGHTING TO GROW

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, last week I held meetings in my district with over 50 businesses; not to talk to them, but to listen to them. I wanted to hear from small businesses themselves—what is standing in your way and what do you need to succeed. And I heard that even in the sluggish economy, these small businesses are finding opportunities. They want to hire and grow. Difficult times cannot repress the ingenuity and determination of the American small businessperson.

What they do need is access to capital to seize these opportunities. They need small business loans that don't take a small mountain of paperwork to apply for. They need us to pass the American Jobs Act to give them the tools they need to innovate and grow.

Congress bent over backwards to bail out Wall Street billionaires. Where's the help for the ordinary men and women working on Main Street? Congress needs to get our priorities straight. We should be fighting for small businesses that are the backbone of our economy and the foundation of our American Dream.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE CAPTAIN THOMAS HEITMANN

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Captain Thomas Heitmann, a marine from Mendota, Illinois, who faithfully served our country. He was killed on September 19, 2011, at the age of 27, in a helicopter crash at Camp Pendleton, California.

Captain Heitmann was one of six children. His parents sent their son to Holy Cross School, and he graduated in 2002 from St. Bede Academy in Peru. He is remembered throughout the community as a truly outstanding person. He was known by his family, friends, former coaches, and teammates as "the all-American boy," "the star athlete," "a kind, supportive and good friend," and a "gentleman to all."

Captain Heitmann was brought up with a strong set of core values. He worked hard and understood the impor-

tance of his family and his friends, and he truly cherished the time that he spent with them. Captain Heitmann's passion was to fly. One of his former coaches said: "It was a dream come true for him to fly for the Marines and be a pilot." I understand that dream.

Captain Heitmann is a true patriot and displayed the love for his country that separates the people of our great Nation from any other in the world. Our men and women in the military, like Captain Heitmann, work tirelessly to protect our country. Their sacrifice is the reason for our liberty. While he will be sorely missed, it's because of his commitment and that of people like him that we can stand before you in a Chamber like this today.

God bless Captain Heitmann's service, and God bless his family.

#### A DECADE IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have been in Afghanistan for 10 years.

Two years ago, on the eighth anniversary of our invasion of Afghanistan, I stood in this same spot and asked: Have our 8 years, 791 American deaths, and billions of U.S. dollars spent in Afghanistan made America safer? My conclusion, sadly, was no.

Two years later, I am left asking the same questions and reaching the same conclusions: al-Qaeda is still not primarily in Afghanistan, but in Pakistan, Yemen, Africa and elsewhere. We still cannot afford a vast ground war and rebuilding effort abroad. We should be fighting a smaller, smarter war that goes after terrorists instead of building nations. It's time to get out of Afghanistan before another year passes and we are back here saying the same thing all over again.

#### PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITALS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome members of the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania to Washington today.

Hospitals are an essential piece of Pennsylvania's economy. Annually, the total economic benefit for our State is \$2.7 billion a year.

More than 16,000 Pennsylvanians are employed by hospitals, and they are paid an average salary of more than \$52,000 a year. In my home district, Lancaster General Hospital is now the largest employer. Doctors, nurses, and other hospital workers are contributing to our economy and saving lives. They're working hard to come up with new ways to save lives, new methods to improve our health, and ways to reduce the cost of care.

Working in a hospital is not easy. Doctors, nurses, and administrators

help individuals and families who are hurting and who are struggling with illness and disease. And they work long hours performing difficult tasks.

We thank our hospital professionals for their service; and as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I will always listen to their voice as Congress works to improve our health care system.

#### AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the "party of no" is at it again. Republicans have been in the majority for 273 days, and they still have no plans to create new jobs. Now the Republicans are saying "no" to the American Job Act, with the majority leader calling this bill "dead."

But what are the Republicans really saying no to? They're saying no to helping small businesses grow and hire. They're saying no to keeping teachers in the classroom. They're saying no to keeping firefighters, first responders and cops on the job. They're saying no to building our crumbling roads, bridges and schools. They're saying no to cutting taxes for hardworking American families.

The American Job Act is a bipartisan approach with ideas that have been supported by both Democrats and Republicans. We must stop this political game. The American people are suffering, and they need our help now. Let's all say yes to putting Americans back to work and pass this bipartisan agenda.

#### MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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

Mr. GARDNER. Over this past week, I was reminded that while my Jewish friends and colleagues were celebrating Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, members of the United Nations were considering a motion that would further jeopardize chances for Middle East peace. I'm very concerned, Mr. Speaker, that the willingness of the U.N. to consider Palestinian statehood, despite United States calls to halt such an action, will embolden Israel's enemies.

This must stop now. We must send a message to the United Nations that their continued support for anti-Semitic and anti-Israel resolutions is unacceptable to the United States. As members of our House leadership, Republican and Democrat, recently said in a New York Daily News op-ed: "Congress will not sit idly by." Nor will I sit idly by. We simply cannot and will not allow Israel, a beacon of hope in a volatile area of the world, to be ignored and cast aside by the U.N.

Lasting peace will only succeed if the Israelis and the Palestinians themselves come to the table for direct negotiations. Peace is not easy, as we