

end the massive human rights violations that are taking place across that country. No longer should we allow President Bashir to blackmail the international community by threatening humanitarian workers in Darfur if the world tries to reach the desperate people in the Nuba Mountains with food and relief supplies.

We need a comprehensive strategy and comprehensive sanctions against Khartoum if the violations continue. We need to let other countries know that if they welcome and provide comfort to President Bashir and members of his government who have been indicted for crimes against humanity, including genocide, that they, too, will face sanctions.

We need to provide the Obama administration with all the tools and all the authority it needs to seek a comprehensive peace in Sudan, end human rights violations, and bring those guilty of crimes against humanity to justice.

For decades the powers that be in Khartoum have toyed with the international community, while its own people paid the price over and over again. It has to stop, Mr. Speaker. It simply has to stop.

Let me end, Mr. Speaker, with a few other remarks.

No one can come to the House floor today and speak about Sudan and protecting the people of Sudan from their murderous government without paying tribute to our dear colleague, Donald Payne.

Congressman Payne passed away yesterday from cancer. He would have been an original cosponsor of the bill I'm introducing today. No one fought harder for human rights in Sudan. He was among the very first to call attention to the genocide taking place in Darfur. He traveled there, often alone, with just one or two aides, to talk to refugees inside Darfur and in camps along the border and to stand witness to their suffering. He was tireless in his commitment to the people of Africa and their well-being.

We all looked to him for leadership, for advice, and for help. He extended this same commitment to the people of African descent in our own hemisphere. I personally know how much he did to promote the rights of Afro-Colombians and to protect their leaders and communities. We will miss him and we will miss his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, he believed that human rights ought to matter. And he believed, as we all should believe, that if the United States of America stands for anything, it ought to stand out loud and foursquare for human rights.

PROTECT TRICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely disappointed by the Presi-

dent's fiscal year 2013 budget proposal, which would dramatically increase health care costs for our Nation's veterans and military personnel. While I applaud the Pentagon's willingness to make tough choices, these changes are simply unacceptable.

The President's plan would hike annual TRICARE premiums by up to 78 percent in the first year alone. Every 5 years, beneficiaries would face premium hikes ranging from 94 percent to 345 percent—345 percent, Mr. Speaker. This means that a retired Army soldier with a family could see his annual premiums jump from \$460 to \$2,048. This is disgraceful.

It's wrong to impose crippling rate increases on our Nation's heroes while leaving benefits for unionized civilian defense workers untouched. It is wrong to surreptitiously dismantle TRICARE in an effort to funnel beneficiaries into ObamaCare's subsidized health care exchanges. It is wrong, and it is shameful.

Mr. Speaker, I wear a pin every day that says I support veterans. Every American should be supporting veterans. It is the reason we are here and allowed to speak freely and the reason Americans are able to speak and go about their business every day doing what they do because of the sacrifices that have been made by those who have served.

In every generation, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have answered the call to service. They have sacrificed greatly, and they deserve better than this.

□ 1020

RUSH LIMBAUGH'S "APOLOGY"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Here's how sorry Rush Limbaugh is for his attacks on a law school student who dared to give her opinion about access to contraception coverage. He's so sorry that a full transcript of his tirade, including the words he "apologized" for, was available yesterday under the heading "Most Popular" on the home page of his Web site.

He's so sorry that the verbatim document of his March 1 rant, in which he repeated his name-calling of Sandra Fluke and mocked Democrats for criticizing him, is right on his Web site today under the title "Left freaks out over Fluke remarks." Also on Limbaugh's "Most Popular" list today is "Democrats Are Desperate: Obama Calls Sandra Fluke, the 30-Year-Old Victim." I don't mean was on his Web site, before he decided to apologize; I mean it's there today. Just click on the link.

And this Monday, Limbaugh talked at length about the discoveries his staff had made about Ms. Fluke. Apparently, in Rush Limbaugh's world, part of apologizing is researching and criti-

cizing the person you're apologizing to. I want to give you a sample of Limbaugh and his crack research team's eye-opening discoveries:

Here's Limbaugh, verbatim, on March 5:

This woman, well, we've looked her up. I mean she's a full-fledged activist for women's causes. And she has been to Berkeley, she's traveled all over the place. Cornell, she graduated from the women's studies courses there. She's a full-fledged feminist activist.

America, I join you in being shocked at the discovery of these facts. Sandra Fluke has traveled all over the place. She's even taken women's studies courses at Cornell. Women's studies? No wonder she gives her opinion in public and thinks that women should have some say over their health and reproductive choices. I mean, what would you expect from somebody who went to Cornell?

There's more. You see, I did my own research, Limbaugh. It shows that Toni Morrison, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Mae Jemison all went to Cornell, too. And what do these three troublemakers have in common? It's obvious. They're women, women who somewhere in their lives, most likely at Cornell, the same place that brainwashed Sandra Fluke, got the idea that they could accomplish anything they wanted to and speak about it in public and have their opinions respected.

Morrison—Nobel Prize. Ginsburg—the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Mae Jemison even got that great crazy idea she could be the first black woman in space. Shocking.

Mr. Speaker, here are the facts. A glance at Rush Limbaugh's Web site makes it obvious that he continues to spew nonsense and that he's not the least bit sorry for what he said. It makes plain that he deeply resents women who speak their mind. Those who do are "full-fledged feminist activists" who deserve only his scorn.

There are, however, some things to visit Mr. Limbaugh's Web site for. If you want a bumper sticker calling Obama, the President of the United States, a socialist, or a T-shirt promoting Rush Limbaugh for the Nobel Peace Prize, then his Web site is the place for you. But if you want a sincere apology from a man who is sorry that he called a decent young woman a "slut," you're looking in the wrong place.

Now, the truth is that what a radio talk show host thinks about Sandra Fluke really doesn't matter, except for one important point: the Republican Party respects and fears Rush Limbaugh. The three leading Republican contenders for President of the United States won't take him on. Three men who are so tough that they compete daily with each other to say the most disparaging things about President Barack Obama, three tough talkers who promise to keep us safe from terrorists, these tough guys are struck speechless and cowardly by a

man sitting behind a microphone in his mansion out in Palm Beach, Florida.

When a talk show host calls a decent American woman a slut and a prostitute, that's sad and wrong. But when Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's frontrunner for President, is asked about it and all he can say is "it's not the language I would have used," then it's a leadership crisis. I guess Mitt Romney would have said she was a "lady of the night." What he should have said was, "Rush Limbaugh, you're dead wrong. Stop it."

It's time for all Americans to say enough is enough. And it's time for anyone who wants to be a leader—even Republicans who are terrified of Rush Limbaugh—to stand up for treating every woman with decency and respect.

COMMEMORATING MR. LOUIS MICHOT, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LANDRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANDRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today as Louisiana mourns the loss of another member of the Greatest Generation. Yesterday evening, Mr. Louis Michot, Jr., passed away, and he passed away at the ripe old age of 89. As I visited with his son this morning on the telephone, he had a nice remark of saying, you know, my dad would constantly say that if he knew he was going to live that long, he would have taken better care of himself. Imagine that.

Mr. Michot was born in 1922 in south central Louisiana. At the age of 24, he bravely served our country during World War II in the Marine Corps. After serving his country, he came back and began living the American Dream. He became an entrepreneur. He started his own businesses. In 1958, he bought a restaurant franchise which he expanded all across south Louisiana. He ventured into other businesses, from cattle ranching to real estate to oil and gas.

Later, in 1960, Mr. Michot sought to serve his community and his State. He was elected to the State House of Representatives, where he served for 4 years before making a run for Governor. He reentered the political arena in 1968, when he won a seat on the Louisiana State Board of Education, and went on to serve the State as the State superintendent from 1972 to 1976.

Outside the political sphere, Mr. Michot was an admirable community leader, a faithful husband, a loyal friend, and a proud father of 10 beautiful children. He passed on his belief of civic responsibility and serving his community to his children; three of them served in public office, one continuing to serve as a district judge, another as a State senator, and another on the parish council. He was a long-time member of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and he received the esteemed Lafayette Civic Cup for his many community service efforts in 1994.

As Mr. Michot is laid to rest, it is my hope that we reflect upon his life and learn from the shining examples of selfless service and civic duty that he set forth. Though I'm sure he will be missed by many, I'm confident that his legacy of hard work and determination will live on for many generations through his children and their children.

RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 47th anniversary of Bloody Sunday to recognize the courage of our colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and the many forgotten heroes of the civil rights movement.

Nearly 50 years ago in Selma, Alabama, some 600 demonstrators marched for equal voting rights for African Americans. They got only as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where State and local lawmen attacked them with clubs and tear gas and drove them back into Selma. Journalists captured the brutality of these attacks, sparking the public outrage that eventually led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

This Sunday, Congressman LEWIS returned to that very bridge that changed history. Again, he was met by a large group of police—but this time they served as his congressional escort.

Mr. Speaker, we've come a long way in the last 50 years, but we still have a long way to go in order to ensure equality and justice for all, and I ask that my colleagues join with me in that work.

□ 1030

JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CANSECO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to our economy, one thing is abundantly clear: President Obama's policies have failed.

We are experiencing the worst stretch of unemployment since the Great Depression, despite a trillion-dollar stimulus plan that the Obama administration said would hold unemployment below 8 percent and despite record low interest rates.

The unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent for 36 straight months, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the jobless rate will remain above 8 percent through 2014. Almost 13 million Americans are out of work, and the share of unemployed people looking for work for more than 6 months, or the long-term unemployment, topped 40 percent in December 2009 for the first time since 1948 and has remained above that level ever since.

Because his policies have failed, President Obama has turned to the politics of envy and division. The only solutions he can come up with involve more spending, more taxes, and more government. These are the policies that failed in the first place.

House Republicans have a plan for America's job creators. It's time for the President and Democrats in the Senate to stop blocking our jobs bills.

This week, the House will consider the JOBS Act, a legislative package designed to jump-start our economy and restore opportunities for America's primary job creators. These are our small businesses, the start-ups, and the entrepreneurs.

In his State of the Union Address, President Obama asked Congress to send him a bill that helps small businesses and entrepreneurs succeed, and the JOBS Act does exactly that.

CUTS TO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2013 cuts to the Air National Guard.

Let me preface my remarks by acknowledging that this country does have a serious debt problem that requires that everybody tighten their belt. It requires, in my view, that we have more revenues so that we can have a sustainable budget where everybody does their share, from taxpayers to every Department in the government. The Air Force has to be included.

But under the Budget Control Act, the proposal that the Air Force has made to address the cuts that would be required there is to single out and focus its knife on the Air National Guard. Now, that would affect 5,100 guardsmen who would lose their position. It would also demobilize scores of aircraft.

Now, as I mentioned, the Air Guard is not by any means entitled to be exempt from the challenge of coming in compliance with the Budget Control Act. Here's the issue: when any Agency—whether it's the Air Force, the Army, whether it is the Department of Education—makes its recommendations to comply with the Budget Control Act, it should be doing so on the basis of what makes most sense to strengthen that Agency, not to weaken it.

The studies that have been done with respect to the Air Force demonstrate that the Air Guard is extraordinarily cost effective. The Air Guard is getting the job done for less money than any other part of that Guard. Obviously, the full Air Force is extremely important. But why in the world would you focus on the Guard when the Guard is doing the job in a highly professional and successful way—widely acknowledged by all studies that have been done—and is doing it for less money?