

a \$1 an hour, some making less than \$1, and where the work environment is so poor? This agreement will do nothing to help improve that.

That is what is flawed about this agreement. It does not help the American worker, it does not help the workers in the five Central American countries. I just hope that we next week in a bipartisan way will do what is right, first for America, and secondly for those countries in Central America, and go back to the table and redraw an agreement that is good for us and good for them.

I will say in closing, Mr. Speaker, that I was so impressed with the attitude today at this interfaith conference, because these people want justice for American workers and workers in Central America, and if we do not as a Congress meet our responsibility and do what is right, then I do not think we are meeting our oaths as we got on this floor and raised our hand and said we will support the Constitution of the United States of America.

I think we need to do what is right. That is why I am hoping that we will next week vote and defeat this CAFTA bill that will come to the floor, if it does come to the floor, and let us go back to the drawing table and let us do what is right. We can make a really good agreement and help those in America and help those in the five countries.

Again, my State of North Carolina has lost over 200,000 manufacturing jobs. People are saying to me, "Congressman, please, please, defeat the CAFTA agreement when it comes to the floor of the House."

Mr. Speaker, I will always try to do what I think is right for this country. I want to say thank you to those men and women in uniform in Afghanistan and Iraq and their families, and God bless America.

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WHILE ONLY A FEW MAY BE GUILTY, WE ALL ARE RESPONSIBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this morning I joined my friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), to attend a prayer breakfast near the Capitol where more than 50 representatives of the Christian and Jewish faiths issued a national call for reflection on the Central American Free Trade Agreement. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) just described that prayer breakfast, that time of reflection.

Despite deep and broad opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement, House leadership has promised to bring the agreement to the floor of the House for a vote next week. As

an elected official, as a citizen of our great Nation, that disappoints me. As a Lutheran, as a person of faith, I find this trade agreement violates the tenets of my faith and the tenets of my belief in social justice.

Whether Christian or Jew or Muslim, the Abrahamic tradition is rooted in the principles of responsibility to each other as brethren, in doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

As Christians, we are given the New Testament, which shares with us Christ's teachings of social and economic justice.

As Members of Congress, as Democrats and Republicans, we see firsthand the real and tangible effects of trade policies that contradict those teachings. CAFTA does just that.

We have heard on this floor, we have heard from lobbyists, generally lobbyists that work for the drug companies, the insurance industry, the large banks, the oil companies, the big multinational corporations, we have heard from these lobbyists as they troll the House office buildings, we have heard them say, you should pass CAFTA and do this for the people of Central America. But the diversity of faith that was represented at the prayer breakfast where the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and I were today reflects so well the depth and breadth of opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement among religious leaders in the United States and among religious leaders in the Dominican Republic and in the five Central American countries.

We have seen this opposition continue to grow and grow and grow. Workers, small business owners, ranchers, family farmers, Democrats, Republicans, House and Senate Members, Central American legislators, and dozens of Republicans and Democrats on the House side, all share a common message asking not that we do not trade with Central America, not that we do not pass a trade agreement with Central America, but that we defeat this CAFTA and renegotiate a better agreement.

Of course, the faith-based community opposes an agreement that will have devastating effects on millions of worshippers in all seven CAFTA countries, the United States and the six countries in Central America. Abandoned by big corporations and too often abandoned by their own government leaders, the world's poorest people have few to speak on their behalf, with little or no voice of their own.

That is why the church, the synagogue, and the mosque are often the only sources of refuge for millions of workers, millions of poor people. In fact, these religious leaders told us today, these 50 or 60 people of faith who rallied in opposition to this trade agreement that will exploit the poor in Central America and hurt working families and communities in our country, they told us we need a different trade agreement, a trade agreement

that will lift up the poor, and a trade agreement that will respect workers in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, when the world's poorest people can buy American products and not just make them, then we will know, finally, that our trade policies are working.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GUTKNECHT. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

HONORING A TRUE AMERICAN HERO: CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER COREY JAMES GOODNATURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero.

Chief Warrant Officer Corey J. Goodnature died protecting our freedoms on June 28, 2005 in eastern Afghanistan when his helicopter was shot down by enemy fire during combat operations.

Corey was a quiet man who was dedicated to serving his country and family. He loved being outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and he enjoyed all kinds of activities with his boys. Since childhood, he lived up to the family name, carrying a gentle demeanor, yet a very strong presence. Corey was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a dedicated Night Stalker. Corey served his Nation for 14 years, spending 7 of those doing what he particularly loved: flying helicopters with his fellow Night Stalkers and supporting other Special Forces operations.

Corey graduated from the University of Minnesota with an associate's degree in aerospace engineering and joined the Army in 1991. He served as a parachute rigger at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He attended the warrant officer basic course at Fort Rucker, Alabama. In 1996, he was assigned to Camp Wheeler in Hawaii. He served in a number of regiments around the country and around the world.

Corey's awards and decorations include the Air Medal, the Senior Army Aviation Badge, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal,

the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, an Air Medal With Valor device, and the Combat Action Badge.

Corey Goodnature was survived by his wife, Lori; his sons, Shea and Brennan; and his parents, Deb and Don Goodnature of Clarks Grove, Minnesota. He had many friends and relatives throughout my district in southern Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, Corey died doing something that he deeply believed in, and he is a true hero to our Nation, to his family, and to his friends. We are all grateful for Corey's undeniable dedication and sacrifice, as well as those who he served with and died with. This dedication allows all of us to enjoy the freedoms and liberty of this great Nation. The world has suffered a great loss. We lost a great man; and his friends and relatives lost a son, a husband, a father, brother, uncle, Godfather, and loyal friend.

Less than 2 weeks before he died and exactly 1 month before he was buried, Corey sent a simple prayer to his wife, a prayer that I am honored to share with my colleagues today. He wrote: "Lord, continue to bless Lori and help us to grow and strengthen our bond as a family separated by distance, whether it be me, here, Lori by herself, or Shea and Brennan, wherever life takes them. I believe You have a glorious plan for us, and we honor You as the source of our happiness and success. In Your name we pray, Amen."

May the Lord of our fathers find His mercy upon Lori and all of the friends and relatives of Corey Goodnature. May He continue to bless America and all the brave Americans who defend her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

POLITICAL SCANDAL PLAGUES OHIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as those listening might recall, the 2004 Presidential election was decided in Ohio, my home State, and the margin in the Presidential race was razor thin. But if you have been paying attention to Ohio newspapers of late, you know that there is a broad and widening major political scandal in Ohio that relates to the last election. People who have paid attention to Ohio or live in Ohio can read about it on the Web site of our local newspaper; the toledoblade.com is the site.

But what this concerns is that the highest elected officials in Ohio, starting with the Governor of Ohio, the Attorney General of Ohio, the auditor of Ohio, the Secretary of State of Ohio, were all in receipt of campaign contributions from an individual who is now charged with diverting millions of dollars from the State of Ohio's Workers' Compensation trust fund for personal use and for political use. There is a grand jury that has been empaneled in Ohio now involving the northern and southern districts of Ohio, looking at the diversion of some of these dollars to the Bush campaign. It is a broad and widening scandal, as I have said.

Then, today, the Secretary of State of Ohio is mentioned in articles that were published by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and by the Columbus Dispatch in our capital city, and I will just read a couple of the lines: The Board of Elections of our capital city, and that, of course, is Columbus, Ohio, the Franklin County Board docked its executive director a month's pay for accepting \$10,000 in his office last year from a consultant from the voting machine company Diebold, with which we have had so many fights over the last 2 years, trying to get verified, auditable paper trails in those voting machines.

Now, it appears that that company, through its consultant, actually walked into the office of the director of the Board of Elections and wrote a check for \$10,000, which the director of the board was a little reluctant to accept, but said, well, why don't you write it out to the local political party, the Republican Party of Columbus Ohio, Franklin County, which was done.

Well, now, this has been all discovered, and the investigation of what has transpired with the Secretary of State's office and Diebold and this County Board of Elections is being investigated.

One of our State senators from Ohio, Senator Teresa Fedor, has sent a letter to the Office of the United States Attorney in northern Ohio requesting a formal investigation of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell regarding possible violations of Federal law, including, but not limited to, the Hobbs Act, regarding improper dealings between the Secretary of State's office and Diebold Election Systems, or their agents.

She goes on, and I will place the full letter in the RECORD, to ask the Inspector General to look at a series of conflict of interest questions here and the gravity of pay-to-play allegations, to determine whether Mr. Blackwell, the Secretary of State, violated Federal law by accepting campaign contributions in exchange for official acts. Because, Mr. Speaker, if you look at what has been happening in Ohio, there has absolutely been a preference for the Diebold machines; there have been delays, there have been all kinds of efforts made to advantage one company over other companies.

I want to place some of these news articles in the RECORD tonight. Also, there is a huge court case pending between a company called ESS, which is another company that has voting machines, and Diebold Corporation. That is in the courts. Our Secretary of State is saying, oh, you have to pick these machines, you have to pick the Diebold machines; they are the only machines that we have certified without giving other machines an equal chance.

What is interesting about this is that Ohio has received \$136,552,794 over the last 2 years to purchase these machines, so there is Federal taxpayer dollars involved, and another \$44,616,967 for training of election officials. None of those training dollars have been spent, but \$136 million has gone out for hardware in a very narrow process where one company has been so very advantaged.

So I just wanted to draw people's attention to what is going on in the State of Ohio, to the ongoing court case, to the false deadlines set by our Secretary of State, now by the investigation that has been requested by our very high-ranking senators of the U.S. Attorney in Ohio, and I commend listeners to the toledoblade.com Web site to the developing political scandal in the State of Ohio.

[From the Blade Columbus Bureau, July 19, 2005]

ELECTIONS CHIEF PUNISHED FOR TAKING CHECK

FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICIAL ACCEPTED \$10,000
ON BEHALF OF GOP FROM DIEBOLD CONSULTANT
(By Jim Provance)

COLUMBUS.—The Franklin County Board of Elections yesterday docked its executive director a month's pay for accepting a 10,000 check in his office last year from a Diebold Inc. consultant seeking county business.

Matt Damschroder accepted the check on behalf of the county Republican Party.

He came forward after a Diebold competitor, Nebraska-based Election Systems & Software, sought to depose him as part of a lawsuit alleging special treatment for Diebold on the part of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell.

Mr. Blackwell plans to seek the GOP nomination for governor in 2006.

His office denied any connection between campaign contributions and his decisions affecting Diebold.

Diebold's device has the only computerized touch-screen machine so far to win state certification for its paper-receipt backup system.

Such a system was mandated last year by the Ohio General Assembly.