

do these things in our hearts, in our budgets, and in our prayers which are with the family of Nathan Bruckenthal, the police department of Northport Village, the United States Coast Guard and Bates Neck Station, today and all days.

God bless the Bruckenthal family and God bless America.

COMBATING CARGO THEFT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about a little known crime that has an enormous impact on all of our congressional districts.

Every day our country loses millions of dollars to interstate cargo theft, a crime that is occurring on highways across our country. Any crime that threatens this flow of goods should be dealt with quickly.

The fact that cargo theft is now being tied to the funding of terror makes it critical that we address this crime on the Federal level. I have introduced a bill, the Cargo Theft Prevention Act, which seeks to bring this crime out of the shadows and to finally hold criminals accountable.

With stricter criminal penalties and better information sharing, this bill will finally give both lawmakers and law enforcement officials the tools they need to combat this growing crime. With support from the American Trucking Association and multiple law enforcement groups, I hope all of you will join me in cosponsoring H.R. 3563, The Cargo Theft Prevention Act.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, "An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it. Without debate, without criticism no administration and no country can succeed and no republic can survive.

Today, Members of this House and this Chamber have refused and said it is not time to have hearings in this Congress over what we have seen recently in Iraq. The men and women over there serving their country, our country, our friends, our neighbors, our constituents, are making us proud. This Congress has an obligation to ask questions of how and why this occurred, no matter where the criticism leads.

Our troops should not be used as scapegoats. Our civilian leaders need to be asked the questions, the Congress, all of us who got elected, all of us who take a pledge have a requirement to

ask questions and seek the answers that our constituents sent us here.

NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. REHBERG. There is an old adage, the louder your opponents protest, the more you know you are successful with what you are doing.

That is exactly what is happening with Medicare's new prescription drug coverage. Those who voted against the new prescription drug benefit are protesting what we have done because they do not think seniors are smart enough or capable enough to choose the prescription drug plan that is best for them. They want the program to fail for preliminary reasons.

All these protests are designed to draw attention away from the fact that for the first time more than 7 million low income seniors and younger people with disabilities are now eligible for much needed assistance.

According to the National Council on Aging, a national voluntary network of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving health and independence of our seniors, low income Medicare beneficiaries should absolutely apply for a new Medicare approved drug discount card and its \$600 annual transition assistance benefit.

Despite the shrill protests of those who voted against it and want it to fail, the power to save on prescription drugs is now in the hands of the seniors, and Republicans will help.

CINCO DE MAYO

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate a day that represents the importance of freedom, liberty and determination for the people of Mexico and for Mexican Americans.

On May 5, 1862, untrained, outnumbered and out-gunned Mexican forces determined to protect their land, successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French.

Against overwhelming odds, they managed to drive back the French Army, achieving a total victory over soldiers that were deemed the best trained and equipped in the world.

For Mexico, this days represents a symbol of unity and patriotism.

In this country, Cinco de Mayo is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage Mexican-Americans and all Latinos have brought to the United States. Unfortunately, Latinos do not have much to celebrate this year.

This past month the Latino unemployment rate has remained an alarmingly high 7.4 percent. This is 28 percent higher than when President Bush took office and it is significantly higher than the national average.

This administration's misguided policies continue to create economic uncertainty for all working families.

Do not be fooled by the Marachis and pinatas at the White House today. This pomp and circumstance gives no relief to the 1.4 million unemployed Latinos.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION

(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, this weekend I had the honor of joining the nonprofit Armed Forces Foundation in Columbia, South Carolina, for Military Appreciation Day. There I met with hundreds of military and family members who gather to enjoy a day of recreation, fishing and appreciation for their service.

Led by President Patricia Driscoll, along with fundraiser Wyatt Smith and founded by Jim Gorab, the Armed Services Foundation works to support the American military community. President Driscoll knows personally the sacrifice these men and women make, as her husband is on active duty in Iraq today, fighting to protect American families in the war on terror.

Along with military appreciation events held throughout the United States, the Armed Forces Foundation coordinates care packages for troops deployed and offers travel assistance for families visiting wounded soldiers. Additionally, they give away thousands of turkeys every year for Thanksgiving and gift certificates for military children at Christmas time.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Armed Forces Foundation for their service to those who defend freedom.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MISSING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning wondering where is the Commander in Chief?

Our wartime President is missing in action. Our troops are being killed because of a lack of proper planning; and as one of the worst scandals involving our military is uncovered, George W. Bush is in Ohio flipping pancakes, and in Michigan, of all places, riding in a \$1 million bus made in Canada.

Where is our leadership from our President? It is AWOL.

As the Bush campaign smear machine continues to attack and distort JOHN KERRY's decorated Vietnam service record, which includes a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts, George Bush wants the American people to believe that he actually has a military record to be proud of. That is as believable as when the Commander in Chief landed on the deck of an aircraft carrier pretending to be a soldier.

Perhaps the President's smear machine can explain where George Bush was the year he was missing during his military service, and his clear absence of leadership as a President, instead of cooking up phoney attacks on a decorated war hero like JOHN KERRY.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Chair would remind Members to avoid personal references to the President of the United States.

**UPHOLD THE REPUTATION OF THE
GREAT AMERICAN FIGHTING MAN**

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, what happened at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad was a disgrace, and it grieved the heart of every American who saw it, grief for the families of the Iraqis incarcerated who had endured the indignities and grief for the American soldiers, not those involved. Those involved must and will be held to the strictest account.

It grieved me to hear, as someone who has traveled to Operation Iraqi Freedom twice, I have been at Camp Victory in Baghdad. I have been at Talil Air Base in southern Iraq. I have walked among our soldiers on aircraft carriers and on the ground. They are honorable men and women who each and every day put their lives on the line in a dignified and respectful way as American soldiers ever and always have.

It is for their reputation that I grieve today and why I call on this administration and our own military to put our house in order, hold those to account, uphold the great reputation of the American fighting man.

**CONGRATULATING 2004 NATIONAL
CHESS CHAMPS**

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, Edward R. Murrow High School is known for a great many things, not the least of which is producing the only two truly talented members of the Weiner family, my brothers Jason and Seth; but this year they are also known as the 2004 national chess champs, defeating over 150 schools, 300,000 student. This goes with their dynasty-building wins in 1992, 1993 and 1994, under the excellent coaching of Eliot Weiss.

We have to recognize they do belong in the pantheon of dynasties, as they defeated every school in the country and are soon going to be taking on those in this world. And as soon as NASA makes it possible, I am sure they will defeat teams from other planets.

Let me read the roll call of this great team: Salvijus Bercys, Dmitry Minevich, Olga Novikova, Alex Lidnerman, Ilya Kotlyanskiy, Oscar Santana, Willy Edgard, and Niles Smith. There is a reason they call this team the Brooklyn Kings. We offer them our congratulations.

**THOMAS FARIA: MORE THAN
THREE DECADES OF SERVICE TO
THE RIGHT TO WORK CAUSE**

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

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thomas Faria was a Connecticut businessman who contributed to the efforts of the National Right to Work Committee. In 1977, he sent a letter to committee president Reed Larson offering his services as a member of the board of directors.

He wrote: "Although I have supported the National Right to Work Committee for a number of years because of my strong belief in individual freedom, I did not really appreciate the clout of union political power until I worked on trying to close loopholes in Connecticut's unemployment compensation law. I would like the opportunity to do more in the area of right to work as I feel America's future depends upon it."

Fortunately, Reed Larson took up Mr. Faria on his offer. Mr. Faria joined the board of directors of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation shortly thereafter.

The right to work principle, the guiding concept of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation and one of the guiding principles of Thomas Faria's work, affirms the right of every American to work for a living without being compelled to belong to a union. The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation gives legal assistance to employees who have been victimized.

I rise today to applaud Mr. Faria's efforts and the National Right to Work Committee with whom he served.

CINCO DE MAYO 2004

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today is Cinco de Mayo. We celebrate the tenacity and the perseverance of the untrained and outnumbered Mexican forces that successfully fought for independence against the sophisticated French Army of Maximilian in 1862.

Across the Nation, we will be celebrating the turning points of this particular war as Mexican Americans in this country, and it is important for us to look at in this country the importance of this particular war to this country.

The writings of Harry Carr in the 1930s talk about the fact that during that particular time in 1860, during our own Civil War in this country, Maximilian had gone into Mexico with the intent of not only taking Mexico but moving on to the north. We are pleased also to indicate for those of my colleagues in this country to also know that the one who won the battle in Puebla was a Texan, was Ignacio Zaragoza Seguin who came out of Goliad, Texas, and was able to be victorious there in that battle in Puebla.

So as we celebrate the Cinco de Mayo, we are proud to have that interwoven with this country and Mexico.

**MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
DISCOUNT CARD**

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week nearly 15.4 million seniors across the Nation are eligible to apply for a Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card. This is good news for older Americans, especially for those in my home State of New Jersey.

With the new discount card, over 300,000 more seniors in my State alone will be able to receive immediate medicine assistance. Most of the beneficiaries will save an average of between 10 and 25 percent off the retail price of their prescription drugs while low-income seniors will receive an additional \$600 of Federal credit towards the purchase of their medicines.

With the passage of this new Medicare law last November, we ensured that New Jersey and other States were not penalized, especially for having a preexisting drug assistance program that, quite frankly, is one of the most comprehensive and generous in the country. As a result of our efforts, not only will seniors save on their prescription medicines as promised, but our State of New Jersey will save an estimated \$4 billion over the next 10 years.