

when, despite an individual's best efforts, living is a daily struggle. Work is a benefit when enough is earned to pay for what we need.

Reward work, and pass the minimum wage increase.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIETNAM WAR MUSEUM IN CHICAGO

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

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vietnam Memorial Museum, in the heart of the Vietnamese community in Chicago, for its commitment to uniting both American and Vietnamese veterans on issues relating to Vietnam and veterans' affairs.

The museum was founded 10 years ago with the intent of honoring those who participated and served in the Vietnam war and educating future generations about personal experiences of those who performed such service. It contains a fascinating exhibit of various memorabilia, artifacts, photographs, artwork, and period publications, reminding us all of the sacrifices made by our veterans during the Vietnam war.

The Vietnam Memorial Museum of Chicago is not a war museum. It is a memorial, a place where those who survived the hardships of the Vietnam war can meet, reflect on their personal experiences and share memories and emotions.

The museum also serves the community by housing a drop-off center where American and Vietnamese veterans channel valuable goods to needy Vietnamese refugees living in the Chicago area. This museum is truly a community based and community oriented operation.

The Vietnam War Museum is a tribute to Vietnam veterans and their families and all veterans. It is a valuable resource to the Chicagoland community that honors all, veterans and civilians alike, who served our country during the Vietnam era on behalf of the cause of freedom.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about increasing the minimum wage. I would like to focus on one particular type of low-wage worker—women. Almost 60 percent of those making minimum wage are female. Many times, these are women with children to support—women whose alternative would be to go on welfare. As one who has participated in the debate on welfare reform for many years, I can tell you this: The single best way to keep people off welfare is to make work pay.

Raising the minimum wage will make an enormous difference for many

of these families. For them, it would mean an extra \$1,800 a year to put in the family bank account. This one increase equates to an average spent for 7 months of groceries, or 4 months of housing, or 9 months of utility bills. This is no time for political games—raising the minimum wage is long overdue. The wage earners struggling to support their families know it. The President has said and I agree: if you work full-time, year-round, you shouldn't be poor. Raising the minimum wage takes us toward that goal. I believe we should raise it now.

IMPROVING THE NATION

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

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, like a chain, in order to improve our Nation we must strengthen even the weakest links in our society. By doing so it would make it more likely that under known or unknown pressures, we would be able to pull together rather than fall apart as a nation.

Hope and opportunity are key elements. They go hand in hand with success. It is hard to have one without the other. However, for many in our inner cities, opportunities seem limited. Thus hopelessness often creeps into their lives, and the prospect of success becomes nothing more than a pipe dream. We as leaders owe our society much more, but, unlike the beliefs of many, we do not have to throw taxpayers' dollars at the problem. There are other solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I will soon be offering initiatives that in a meaningful way will attempt to address these grave concerns.

SOMETHING IS WRONG

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Rodney Hamrick, who is in prison for threatening the life of Ronald Reagan, threatened to blow up a Federal courthouse, a judge, the NAACP headquarters, and an airplane. Then he went beyond and he sent a bomb in the mail, that did not explode, to the U.S. attorney that had convicted him. He was naturally convicted.

But a three-judge panel at the Fourth Circuit Court overturned the decision by saying, since the bomb did not detonate, it was not deadly. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I believe that these three judges must have received a defective mail-order law degree from Sears Roebuck. Something is wrong when Gorbachev gets slapped in the face in Russia while campaigning and they call it an assassination. In America, a prisoner sends a mail bomb and it is treated like a misdemeanor. If

that does not explain it all, I do not know what does.

MORE MEDICARE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well once again heartened by the remarks of my colleague from the great State of Ohio. I just wish we could get past some of the name calling and some of the, to be frank, disinformation that has infested itself here on the banks of the Potomac; to wit, fact, yesterday the Treasury Department reports that Medicare is losing money, \$4.2 billion in the first 6 months of this year.

Yet what does the minority leader say on television? Last summer, when queried about allowing Medicare to grow at a rate less than 10 percent a year, he says, and I am quoting him, the reforms the majority tried to make amounted to this, "This is a hoax."

Mr. Speaker, it is no hoax. The hoax comes when those on the left would deliberately employ medi-scare tactics to try and get through the next election rather than to save and transform Medicare for the next generation. We are all to be held accountable. Let us deal with the truth.

ALCOHOL AND CHILDREN

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we in this country, every one of us understands what this sign says. It is three frogs saying Budweiser. The trouble is that if you ask the average fourth and fifth graders in this country, they also know what it says. They know what it says more than they know what Tony the Tiger says. They know more about Budweiser than they know about Smokey Bear or the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.

People that do not think there is a problem with young people drinking alcohol in this country do not understand the facts. Alcohol abuse kills more young people in America than all other drugs combined. Junior high school and high school students drink 1.1 billion cans of beer each year, and Anheuser Busch's market share of this number is 70 million 6-packs of Budweiser, equaling \$200 million of sales to children.

Let us put an end to trying to market to children a drug that unnecessarily kills far too many of our Nation's most vital natural resources.

APPRECIATING BALANCE

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

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, every spring I plant natural resource trees, over the past 2 months, nearly 600: crab apples, redbuds, oaks, cherries, dogwoods, cypress, and cedar, just to name a few. I also cut down trees, mostly stunted or overgrown pine, to make room for others to grow. I was raised to appreciate that kind of balance.

This spring I will join other volunteers in Habitat for Humanity, hammering and sawing lumber to build suitable housing for poor families in Louisiana. I was raised to understand that kind of balance, too.

Unfortunately, many of our bureaucrats do not. Every week nearly 1 square mile of Louisiana washes away in coastal marsh and barrier island erosion. Private landowners are prepared to spend their own money to save those marshes and wetlands, but our wetlands permit system says no. Hundreds of such applications have been abandoned.

The Corps of Engineers in Louisiana still refuses as yet to authorize a private mitigation bank. So 30 to 50 square miles in my State washes away while bureaucrats squabble over so-called wetlands that no self-respecting duck would land on.

We need to spend less money on lawyers and bureaucrats and more money really saving wetlands in America.

SUPPORT H.R. 3244

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the Capital of the United States is in serious disrepair, and I mean a lot more than potholes. It is trying to recover by downsizing a loan as no insolvent city has ever done. There is Federal responsibility here, including the unfunded pension liability that is taking 10 percent of our budget, and that is entirely my colleagues' responsibility.

The time has come to act now. We are a hemorrhaging population. We want to revive the District the old-fashioned way, by keeping and attracting middle-income residents here. Please support my Federal tax cut bill for the District of Columbia; support H.R. 3244. My colleagues should assume their share of the responsibility for the Capital of the United States.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM SHRINKS TRADE IMBALANCE

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, did my colleagues see yesterday where the trade deficit is down by over 18 percent? Now that is something to cheer about.

But do my colleagues know why the trade deficit is down? According to the Commerce Department, it is because

the travel and tourist industry reported a temporary surge in foreign visitors to the United States. Unfortunately, this trend cannot continue unless we in Congress work right now to continue the trend by passing the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act.

Now we have 226 cosponsors. That is terrific. I want everyone to cosponsor this bill. We want to do even more, because terrific is not good enough when it comes to travel and tourism.

Travel and tourism is the largest industry in America. Travel and tourism employs one out of every nine working Americans, and it is time that we in Congress, and we are, awaken to the tremendous potential in this industry, and I ask everyone to help me.

Let us cosponsor this bill, and let us pass it so we can get our trade deficit down even further.

GIVE OUR STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK THEIR WAY THROUGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, one of the great arguments that I have heard in this debate about the minimum wage has been that there are many students who receive minimum wage. I stand here this morning as a product of the family of 13 children, parents who could not afford to send me to college, and the only way I could get through was to work.

I do not see anything wrong with trying to provide a wage that allows a student to be able to work their way through school particularly when we are cutting back in so many areas that affect and impact the lives of students who have been able to get scholarships, be able to get grants and loans. It seems to me that if we are going to be fair, we have to be fair to every American citizen, even those who are students who have a desire, a will, to work.

Mr. Speaker, my mother taught me how to cook, wash, iron, and sew. That is how I got through college. There are many other young people who could do the same thing if we were fair enough to them to give them that opportunity, give them the best wages. I have waited tables, I have bussed tables, I have shined shoes, I have done everything, and we ought to let them do it. Pay them a good enough salary so that we can indeed come to that point where maybe if we reduce the scholarships, they will know they can work their way through.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good thing. I am a product and a witness of it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PARENTAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Parental Freedom of Information Act to provide parents in America with the information they need to guide the education of their children. Teachers have told me that involved parents are the most important thing the public schools need to help students learn. Involved parents must be informed parents.

The Parental Freedom of Information Act will guarantee that parents have access to their child's curriculum, the contents and result of standardized tests and medical records, including psychiatric and/or counseling records.

Recently, parents have been denied access to instructional materials used in classes which they might find objectionable. They have been denied achievement tests that have been administered and then withheld from parental inspection, and treatments by unqualified school counselors have been administered to children contrary to the expressed objections of parents, and the records of this treatment were denied to the parents. Parents have been forced into the courtroom to find out what is going on in the classroom.

This act in no way seeks to influence curriculum or standardized tests. It simply provides the basic information which involved parents need to guide the education of their children.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, good morning. The battle about the minimum wage rages on. Some people would have our colleagues believe that the minimum wage only affects kids, so we should not worry about it. Not true—10 million Americans are affected by the minimum wage. Some 75 percent of them are adults and 58 percent of them are women.

We need to increase the minimum wage. The minimum wage has not been increased in 5 years. The purchasing power of people who earn the minimum wage has decreased by 15 percent. We are talking about people who make about \$8,400 a year operating under the current minimum wage.

I am pleased to say today, Mr. Speaker, that there is some bipartisan support for increasing the minimum wage. I am distressed, however, that there are still some Republicans who believe that we should not increase the minimum wage and want to fight it.

We do not need any convoluted bureaucratic plans to pay employers. What we need is a very simple solution: Raise the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, if we raise the minimum wage, we will bring 300,000 families out of poverty, we will bring 100,000 children out of poverty.

Raise the minimum wage.