

stop in Brazil, stated that Helms-Burton has had a very strong psychological effect and has frustrated investments. He added that the Cuban economy has not grown as expected in large part due to this legislation.

But whether or not Castro's thugs agree that Helms-Burton has been successful or not, it is clear that this legislation has stopped in its tracks Castro's efforts to sell Cuba as an investment paradise, a paradise where workers who enjoy no rights are virtual slaves to the wicked partnership of Castro and the foreign investors who profit from American stolen property.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, has taken place despite the failure of the Clinton administration to fully implement the law. The President has ignored congressional intent and has twice waived title III of Helms-Burton. This is the provision that grants American citizens the right to sue in American courts those foreign investors who traffic in their stolen American property in Cuba.

Similarly, title IV of the legislation that denies entry to the United States of those officials of corporations that are investing in illegally confiscated American property in Cuba, has only been enforced against two corporations: Sherritt of Canada and Grupo Doms of Mexico, despite evidence that other companies like Spain's hotel builders, Sol-Melia, are doing business with United States confiscated properties.

The Castro regime's desperation to silence any support for Helms-Burton inside the island was translated a few months ago into an antidote law that virtually prohibits any positive talk of Helms-Burton on the island.

Articles 8 and 9 of this totalitarian law makes it a crime for any Cuban citizen to facilitate the implementation of Helms-Burton. The main victims but not the only victims of this new oppressive law have been the independent journalists on the island who bravely attempt to offer the people of Cuba and the outside world an objective view of the repressive situation on the island.

Raul Rivero, who presides over Cuba Press, an independent journalist association in Cuba, and many other colleagues who bravely attempt to break Castro's information monopoly, have been systematically harassed and arrested by Castro's thugs since this draconian law took effect.

These journalists are subject to so-called repudiation acts, which are government sponsored mobs, which in the middle of the night scream insults such as "traitor," and in fact they vandalize these reporters' homes.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, many of our allies have followed Castro's lead. They have mounted a campaign of their own to revoke Helms-Burton in order to be able to continue to profit and participate in Castro's slave economy.

Mr. Speaker, only by denying Castro the resources he needs to maintain

power can we help the people of Cuba in their struggle to eliminate the last dictator of our hemisphere, Fidel Castro.

BRAVERY AND VALOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAMPSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, bravery and valor are qualities we do not hear much about anymore. Recently though, Galveston County, TX, was the site for two notable displays of those qualities, and their heroes deserve our praise.

Mr. Speaker, my sister is a quadriplegic. I cannot think of anything more frightening than her being caught in a fire. That is the tragedy that befell a man in Santa Fe, TX, last week. As he slept, his home caught fire. Officers were dispatched to the scene. When Sgt. Lee Stephenson and Officers Carl Nunn and David Thomas arrived, they were told by neighbors that the occupant was wheelchair-bound. Unable to get through either door due to the flames and smoke, the officers broke through a bedroom window, located the man and carried him to safety.

Every day, men and women who have devoted their lives to protecting our communities put themselves at risk. We should honor them every day, and I am pleased to tell their story. Before this U.S. House of Representatives, I recognize and I salute the bravery and valor displayed by Santa Fe police officers Lee Stephenson, Carl Nunn, and David Thomas. I also wish to recognize the efforts of the Santa Fe Volunteer Fire Department for their hard work and dedicated public service.

An even scarier situation emerged last month in Galveston County when a man driving with his two toddler daughters in the car had a seizure while approaching the Galveston Bay Causeway on Interstate 45. The car flew off the highway and fell 15 feet into the water, landing fortunately at a shallow point.

Five young people were following a few hundred yards behind. They saw the tragedy unfold, pulled over and rushed into the water to help. They pulled the two little girls and their father to safety so they could receive medical attention. Before this House of Representatives, I recognize and I salute the bravery and valor displayed by Mark Kneip of Texas City, TX, and Shawn Cook, Katherine Holmes, Paul Holmes, and Evelyn Urban, all of Dickinson, TX.

I am understandably proud to come before this body and tell the American people these stories of heroism from my district.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues and the charitable interests who organized last weekend's bipartisan retreat.

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As a new Member of this body, I appreciated the opportunity to discuss

the operation of the people's House without regard to party affiliation or seniority.

I and most of my freshmen colleagues recognize that we were elected in part as a response to the marked partisanship of the previous Congress. This weekend was a giant leap forward toward a more collegial and, therefore, more productive House of Representatives.

MARGIE JANOVICH'S SACRIFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today in Omaha, NE, we had a funeral for a young lady that has meant a lot to me over the last 2 years. Her name was Margie Janovich. Margie was an inspiration, I think, not only to Omaha, but after people hear about her story, will be an inspiration to every family in this country.

Margie was diagnosed about 2 years ago with thyroid cancer, and she was 5 months pregnant at the time she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She was a strong, committed believer of the right of the unborn child. Margie felt compelled to forego the treatments on her thyroid and to forego the chemotherapy until her baby was born 4 months later.

Margie already had 8 children: Nick, 21; Tina, 19; Terri, 17; Jim, 16; Mike, 12; Joe, 9; Dan, 7 years old; and Andy, 3. So they had a wonderful family and Margie thought that she could not bring herself to endanger her unborn child. So she forewent the chemotherapy and delivered little baby Mary safely.

During those 4 months that she decided not to go through treatments, the cancer spread. It spread to her lungs and it spread on into the rest of her body. For the last 20 months Margie has fought cancer, and it took her life Sunday night and we buried her today.

During those last 20 months, I have had an opportunity to spend a lot of time with her. I have gone over to her house several times, had pizza delivered a couple of times, and every time I was over there Margie always had the greatest attitude. She never once was concerned about her own self. It was, how are you doing, what is going on in Congress, are you going to get that partial birth abortion bill through this year. She was very, very, very sick, but she always was concerned about other people.

During the last 20 months she home schooled three of her children. Neighbors surrounded them, took a lot of food over and tried to help out however they could. Ron was always there, a tremendous husband. But this is a story about the quality of life and the respect for life for this little child, Mary Beth Janovich.

Mary Beth is only 15 months old, but someday, when she is old enough to understand the sacrifice that her mother gave, it will be quite a story that Ron will be able to sit down and tell her about.

Mr. Speaker, I think about next week or the week following when we start debating the partial birth abortion again, and 10 days ago in the hospital I told Margie that we would pass the partial birth abortion bill and that we would get it through the Senate and, with God's help, we would override a veto this year. Because I believe that probably the most important thing that we can do for Margie, for the Janovich family, is to pass a bill that respects life, that respects the unborn child, that gives hope and opportunity to every unborn child.

Mr. Speaker, as I think about the President's dilemma, as he was presented so much false evidence last time by the pro-abortion lobby, I would hope and I would pray that our President would think seriously again about this legislation; that when it comes before him this year that he would think about the Janoviches, that he think about the sacrifice that Margie Janovich gave and made for her child.

Life is precious. As he talked last week during his speech on the cloning issue, talking about that an embryo has a soul, well, Mr. Speaker, I would hearken to advise the President that, yes, an embryo has a soul and that embryo is an unborn child only 9 months later.

So Margie was a tremendous inspiration to me, Ron and the kids. I want to thank them for everything that they have done because it has been a story that has touched every life in Omaha, NE, in the Midwest, and I believe that as America finds out about Margie Janovich, we will once again turn our hearts towards the value of life and the value of the unborn child. May God bless her.

THE PERSIAN GULF WAR HELP LINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to report some good news for our Nation's Persian Gulf war veterans. The Veterans Administration has set up a help line phone number that gulf war veterans can call for health examinations. Veterans who are in need of care or who wish to take advantage of the physical examination under the Persian Gulf registry or who have general questions about their experience in the Persian Gulf war can call the VA's Persian Gulf information hot line. That number is 1-800-PGW-VETS. Or, if they need the numbers, 1-800-749-8387.

Active-duty service members who were deployed to the gulf during the war may receive a health examination

through military treatment facilities by calling 1-800-796-9699. The VA encourages all gulf war veterans to participate in this important program.

I am proud to support President Clinton's action to make it easier for Persian Gulf war veterans to collect compensation benefits for undiagnosed illnesses resulting from this war. At the urging of Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown, the President agreed to extend the period during which undiagnosed illnesses, such as Persian Gulf war syndrome, will be considered related to a veteran's service in the gulf, thereby entitling that veteran to compensation benefits.

Congress had begun to address this problem prior to President Clinton's decision. My esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. LANE EVANS, the ranking member on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced a bill earlier this year that would lengthen the time that gulf war veterans can file for disability compensation. I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, the Persian Gulf War Veterans Compensation Act.

President Clinton listened to Congress, and to the thousands of veterans across the Nation who are suffering from the mysterious illness known as Persian Gulf War Syndrome. Mr. Speaker, our inability to find an exact cause of gulf war syndrome requires that we give our veterans the benefit of the doubt. We must move forward and provide care for our suffering Persian Gulf war veterans even as the search continues for a cause of this syndrome.

America and this Congress must not shirk its responsibilities to its veterans. I applaud the actions taken by President Clinton and the Veterans Administration to give our veterans the care that they need and deserve.

Remember that help line phone number. It is 1-800-749-8387. Please get the help that is now offered through the Veterans Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. SOUDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

BIPARTISAN RETREAT IN HERSHEY A SUCCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KIND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleagues in the House, both Republican and Democrat alike, who attended the bipartisan retreat in Hershey, PA, last weekend, but especially to commend the gentleman from Illinois, Republican Representative RAY LAHOOD, and the gentleman from Colorado, Democratic Representative DAVID SKAGGS, for their vision

and all the hard work they put into making the retreat last weekend, I think, an unqualified success.

I would also like to commend the political leadership of both parties, the gentleman from Georgia, Speaker GINGRICH, and the gentleman from Missouri, DICK GEPHARDT, for their presence, without whom this whole attempt to try to find greater civility in the House of Representatives will not go anywhere.

I also want to thank the Pew Charitable Trust and the Aspen Institute for investing in this retreat and making sure not one taxpayer dollar went for this retreat, and to give the Members a chance to explore civility.

The premise for this historic gathering, unprecedented in our Nation's history, was very simple, and that is for any legislature to function, its members must have a level of trust and understanding of one another. That trust can only develop when the members have an opportunity to get to know one another a little bit better, as people, and outside the partisan political arena.

When people know each other and their spouses and their children, they are less likely to let policy differences turn into personal animosity or hostility or to question one another's motives. In short, it is a lot harder to demonize someone when you know them on an individual and personal level.

Over 200 Members came together in an attempt to explore ways in which to bring greater civility to the House of Representatives. No legislative business was conducted, no political games, just Members and their families taking time to get together, to get to know one another a little better, and to examine the environment in the House of Representatives and figure out how we can do the Nation's work at a level of decorum that this great democracy deserves.

This was not a hug-fest. We continue to recognize that there will be deep, passionate policy differences between the parties. I think today's debate on the House resolution was a classic example, and we have no desire to blur those distinctions. Conflict in Congress is unavoidable, and the Nation is well served by healthy and vigorous debate. In fact, it is crucial to the functioning of this democracy.

The retreat, rather, was about handling those disagreements constructively and honoring our democracy with debates that are more civil, more respectful and, ultimately, more productive; in short, to explore ways where we can disagree without being disagreeable.

To build upon the future, we have to have knowledge of the past. History teaches us that when we unite as a country for a grand purpose there is nothing that we cannot accomplish. It was altogether fitting that during the course of the retreat some of us Members took time to tour the Gettysburg National Battlefield. That is the site