

would like to highlight the extraordinary efforts of an individual in the State of Nevada.

Mark Marshall, of the Carson City Sheriff's Department, was honored this week by the Carson City International Rotary Club as Law Enforcement Officer of the year because he established a proactive campaign of gang suppression for the city and the Sheriff's Department. These results have been recognized nationwide and have greatly benefited the troubled youths in the area.

As a Vietnam veteran, he courageously served his country overseas and now serves the people back home in the State of Nevada. In an era where brainstorming runs rampant on how to curb gang violence, Mark has stepped to the forefront to take on this difficult task.

His nearly 15 years of service to the people of Carson City has earned him this prestigious award. Along with his colleagues and the public he serves, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to this fine peace officer, his wife, Jennifer, and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah.

Mark, we are all proud of your accomplishments.

KOSOVO PEACE AGREEMENT IS FRAGILE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, I hope for the best, but this peace agreement seems very fragile. After rape, murder, and genocide, no simple piece of paper will stop the war in Yugoslavia.

Ethnic Albanians did not fight and die for autonomy or self-rule. Neither did George Washington, Congress. But, for sure, ethnic Albanians did not die for the right to live in a suburb of Belgrade.

Congress was warned in 1986 that without freedom for Kosovo, there will be no long-lasting peace in the region. I say, "Free Kosovo, protect a sovereign border, or there will be no long-lasting peace."

SALUTE TO CUBAN PATRIOTS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, this past Monday scores of Cuban dissidents began a hunger strike in Havana to protest the 40 years of oppression that their countrymen have been subjected to under the tyrannical rule of Fidel Castro.

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, one of the organizers of this public protest has said that the goal of the hunger strikers is to draw attention to the numerous violations of human rights in Cuba and to ask for freedom for all of the political prisoners.

Their courageous defiance of the Cuban tyrant is heroic, and once again attracts worldwide attention to Castro's deplorable human rights record.

Because we pride ourselves in being the land of the free and the home of the brave, we must applaud the efforts of these patriots who are peacefully trying to bring liberty to their enslaved homeland.

I ask my colleagues in Congress to send the opposition inside of Cuba the clear message that we stand in solidarity with them and that we will do our part to help bring freedom and democracy to the 11 million presently shackled in the island nation.

SUCCESSFUL TEST FOR THAAD

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

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, at 7:20 a.m. this morning THAAD intercepted a Hera target at the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Like a bullet hitting a bullet, the THAAD missile had a direct hit on the target.

Although there have been difficulties along the way for this program, the THAAD team has accomplished one of the most technologically challenging feats ever attempted. Significantly, this morning's test is the first time that THAAD has been able to make it to the end game, and I want to stress that it worked, the technology works.

Previous tests were plagued with low-tech failures that did not allow the THAAD missile to reach the end game to attempt the intercept. In conjunction with the PAC III that hit on March 15, this proves that hit-to-kill technology can work.

We must remain mindful, however, that THAAD and other missile defense systems are still at the R&D stage. There still could be more failures. But we must remain supportive of these systems.

I want to congratulate the United States Army, especially the soldiers at Fort Bliss in White Sands, and all of the employees at White Sands Missile Range. I also want to congratulate the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and THAAD contractors for this great success.

Madam Speaker, this is an important and momentous day for national missile defense but, ultimately, for the defense of our troops in deployed areas throughout the world.

SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF CUBAN INTERNAL OPPOSITION

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, a message to Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, Dr. Leonel Morejon Almagro, William Herrera Diaz, Marco Lazaro Torres, and Rolando Munoz, and the scores of

others who have joined throughout the island of Cuba 3 days ago in protest to reject the violation of human rights and demand democracy for the Cuban people:

We are with you. We will continue with you. You have our support, our solidarity, like all of the heroic political prisoners in Cuba; such as Vladimiro Roca, Marta Beatriz Roque, Feliz Bonne, Rene Gomez Manzano, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez, Maritza Lugo, Rafael Ybarra Roque, and the thousands of others.

And, Madam Speaker, I am still waiting to see the first time when someone in this body who advocates trade and tourism for Castro comes down here and advocates freedom for the thousands of Cuban political prisoners.

CONGRATULATIONS ON VICTORY IN KOSOVO

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, God bless our United States troops and God bless them for the victory that we have obtained in the conflict in Kosovo.

When I went to the Macedonian refugee camps just a couple of weeks ago, every man, woman and child, every elderly person pleaded with me, let us go back home.

And although we must be cautious now that Serbian troops are on their way out, now we will have, with our NATO allies, peacekeeping troops. Congratulations Mr. Clinton. There is no shame in acknowledging when the United States is unified we can do good for the world.

Congratulations to Sandy Berger. It is time now for us to stand united in an effort to make sure that peace maintains and the Kosovo refugees go back.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I will introduce today the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999, because we have 350,000 refugees in the United States who have not been able to apply for their citizenship; people from all over the world, taxpaying people who have been able to provide for this Nation. It is a shame and a travesty. I hope my colleagues will vote for the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999.

CHILD SURVIVAL

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, around the world today there are daughters and sons of many nations whose lives are at stake. Why? In large part because our Nation has sought to impose our own population control ideas on other countries whose most pressing needs are for basic nutrition and health care.

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Children in these countries are dying. Yet, an increased push for population control has come at the expense of saving the lives of little children.

A Kenyan doctor makes this point, and I quote. He says, "Our health sector is collapsed. Thousands of Kenyan people will die of malaria whose treatment costs a few cents in health facilities, whose stores are stacked to the roof with millions of dollars' worth of pills, IUDs, Norplant, Depo-provera, most of which are supplied with American tax money."

When a mother brought a child with pneumonia to this doctor, he had no penicillin to give the child. All he had were cases upon cases of contraceptives.

Madam Speaker, let us respond to the true health needs of these people, the needs of life and death. Join in transferring at least a portion of the population control funds to what we know works, child survival. Join in co-sponsoring the Save the Children Act.

MONEY TALKS ON CAPITOL HILL

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, there is no doubt about it, money talks on Capitol Hill. And for the Republican leadership, no money talks louder than gun money.

The National Rifle Association has been the largest political donor to Members of Congress throughout the decade. In fact, the NRA soft money contributions to the Republican Party grew exponentially when the Republicans took over the House in 1994.

So it should come as a surprise to absolutely no one that the Republican leadership turned to the NRA to write their so-called "gun control" legislation, a proposal that is rife with loopholes.

The truth of the matter is that big money talks louder than kids' lives on Capitol Hill. Enormous soft money contributions have blinded the Republican leadership to 13 children who die every day in America in gun-related violence.

Let us stop the madness. Let us start saving our children's lives by passing real gun control legislation, and let us pass campaign finance reform to cut the ties between gun money and Congress once and for all.

AMERICANS WANT REAL PROBLEMS ATTACKED IN CONGRESS, NOT BOGUS ISSUES

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we can hear it already. It is, bash the special interest groups, bash the grass-roots organizations out there, and avoid the real issue.

Unfortunately for the other side, and fortunately for real America out there, the American people know otherwise. The other side, in support of their gun control antics, frequently throw poll numbers around. Well, they do not tell, as usual, the rest of the story.

For example, the CNN-USA Today poll recently found that only 4 percent of Americans believe that guns were to blame for the tragic shooting at Columbine High School. By contrast, that same poll found, and these folks over here will never tell us that, that nearly 60 percent of the American people put the blame on family breakdown, mental problems, and lack of morals, not on guns.

That is what we ought to be addressing. That is what we are not addressing.

Big-city mayors are in there with them. They are saying, let us go after firearms manufacturers and put thousands of people out of jobs. That will solve the problems in our society. Wrong again. And the American people know it is wrong. They will not support that sort of big government, big litigation.

What they support are the honest proposals that will be before this House, hopefully will be before this House, to attack the real problems, not the bogus issues that we just heard from the other side.

LET US KEEP GUNS OUT OF HANDS OF CHILDREN

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I am a Democrat who believes in the Second Amendment right to bear arms, but a Democrat who believes that we need gun control to keep guns out of the hands of our children.

There are plenty of causes of the violence in Littleton and in Georgia: parental neglect, teacher neglect, those young people who fired those weapons and committed those crimes, violence, sadistic and cruel videos and movies, and video games. But the number one culprit is the guns that the kids use to kill the other kids.

Some people say we cannot do two things at once in America, we cannot enjoy the right to bear arms and go hunting and use our guns lawfully and at the same time enact laws to keep guns out of the hands of 12- and 14-year-olds.

They are wrong. They underestimate the intelligence and ability of Americans to do two important things at once, recognize our right to bear arms, but protect our children.

The Republican leadership must stop its efforts to water down and delay reasonable, common-sense gun control that keeps guns out of the hands of our children.

I urge my Republican colleagues to get their leadership to allow reasonable, common-sense gun control to be passed in this House.

FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATING ONGOING SAFETY PROGRAMS REQUIRED BY FAA

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, on May 26, 1999, the City Manager of Corona testified that the City of Corona has been forced to buy new land for the government in order to maintain and operate existing levees, flood control, streets, parks, and airport protection zones, which translated means clearing out trees in front of the runway that have been there for over 30 years and continually maintained.

That is right, Madam Speaker, Fish and Wildlife wants to mitigate for ongoing safety programs required by the FAA.

All of the mitigation required by Fish and Wildlife on this project were for existing projects, not for new ones. However, Fish and Wildlife Director Jamie Clark stated in that same hearing that requiring retroactive mitigation is not allowed.

Today I will introduce legislation that would prohibit mitigation and extraction for impacts that have occurred in the past. This is just common-sense legislation.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago the other body passed a modest gun safety package to keep guns out of the hands of kids and of criminals. They did the right thing. Now it is our turn to do the right thing.

But instead of doing the right thing, the Republican leadership in this House is playing games with gun safety. We now have a gun safety bill that has been written by the National Rifle Association. Instead of closing the gun show loophole to allow criminal background checks at gun shows, the NRA opens that loophole wider.

Background checks work. I would refer my colleagues to a study released in this morning's USA Today that says, "The instant background check might be the most effective piece of gun legislation ever."

The NRA says that we do not need new gun safety to protect kids and that the Justice Department has failed to do its job. Wrong again. This new study shows that gun laws are enforced more vigorously today than 5 years ago, prosecutions are up, and crime is down.

Gun legislation we passed in 1994 is working. We did the right thing then. Let us do the right thing now for our children and for families in this country.